



MARCH 2023

MINUTES

Forum Study Board of Sociology

Meeting held 20 March 2023

Place Room 16.1.62

Minutes taker Troels Claus Baagland

Present

Mengni Chen, Jonas Toubøl, Asmus Oliver Lewis, Mira Chatterji Rosen Sørensen and Dagmar Engelbrecht Henriksen

Guests

Merlin Schaeffer, Sofie Trappaud Scholl, Freja Kromann Schiøler, Hanne Kraak and Freja Kromann Schiøler

Absent

Lasse Suonperä Liebst due to sabbatical leave (until April)

1) Approval of the agenda and Minutes from 20. February 2023.

Approved

2) Program Evaluation

Merlin said that an external panel would come on visit the 28th of March. A program has been prepared, where the external panel will meet with both Academic staff, students, and the management team. He said the academic staff would be:

Ghita Dragsdahl Lauritzen, Kasten strøby Jensen, Friedolin Merhout, Jakob Johan Demant

Merlin asked for student representatives for students to participate in the part of the program, where the students should meet with the panel.

The student representatives would try to find 2 BA and 2 MA students.

TCB emphasized that if no students could be found, then it would be fine, if the students from the Study Board, could participate inclusive the alternates.

3) Student for the Credit Transfer/Exemption Committee

Merlin asked for a student representative for the Credit transfer and exemption committee. The student representatives said that they would find a new representant before the next meeting in the Study board.

4) Draft for updated Basic Statistics Course Description

The students asked what the differences are. Merlin said the course description is updated according to what actually is taught at the course. That means more focus on applied and regression-based statistics.

Jonas will update the Danish version of the description.

5) Discussion of the Course Evaluations and decision about follow-up actions.

Merlin course evaluation asked the study board to comment on the evaluation results.

Mengni and Mira commented on the evaluation of the courses at the 1st semester. Some of the main points were:

- Wish for better planning of deadlines in the courses *Elementary Societal Methods 1 + 2*. Better and more use of Teaching assistants (TAs) f.x. to “lektiecaféer”, but that is not easy because TAs are not super flexible since they have themselves exams.
- More time for the students to work with “R”, and more help from TAs.
- Merlin mentioned that TAs will be hired for one month more, so they can help students with questions in the exam month – January. J
- The workload students put into the course seems to be too low. He therefore also sees this as a course where the students realize that university studies demand more of them and more effort should be put into the courses.
- In the course Sociology in the Danish Society, the evaluations showed that many students think that the 30 minutes lectures are too short.
- The learning outcome of the student presentations are considered too low.
- Learning outcome and student’s experiences can be to different things.

Jonas and Dagmar commented on the evaluation of the courses at the 3rd semester. Some of the main points were:

- Jonas and Dagmar the portfolio exams in Qualitative Method and quantitative Method should be better coordinated in terms and expectations. The Quantitative Method course is considered as very challenging, and this is also affecting the students participate.
- In Welfare, Inequality and Mobility some students (above average) noted that the level is not challenging enough. Again, is coordination of the workload between courses mentioned. It was suggested to take this up at the Department seminar in the autumn.
- Jonas mentioned that weekly quizzes, instead of portfolio, could be introduced to qualify for the exam in quantitative Method.
- Too few students do the necessary readings to get the best out of the teaching.

Megni & Asmus commented on the evaluation of the MA courses + electives. Some of the main points were:

- Better coordination of the portfolios is the main issue at MA in the autumn semester.
- Exchange students are not always suited for the MA courses, especially regarding method-skills. This will change next semester because exchange students will have more BA-courses to choose between.
- Consider changing the exam form for one of the 1. Semester courses at the MA.
- Consider integrating exams e.g., Mixed Method (15 ECTS) + another course 7.5 ECTS. But this has the disadvantage, that such huge exams will be seen as too overwhelming and then more students cannot fulfill the ECTS requirements (Minimum 50 ECTS per semester).

The evaluation of BA-project, MA and internship are postponed to the next Board meeting in April.

Response Rate

Response rates are generally good at Sociology. This is a direct result of the procedure, where teachers ask students to evaluate, and takes 10 minutes off to make sure that the students evaluate.

The Study Boards Evaluation questions

It was decided to keep the evaluation questions added by the Study Boards last year and add another two evaluation questions:

How much do you agree to the following statement? The topics covered in this course are relevant for an education in sociology.

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What percentage (%) of the suggested weekly readings did you actually read?

6) Ideas to meet the Challenges at Sociology

The discussion of the incoming suggestions by Jonatan Mizrahi-Werner is postponed to the next study board meeting.

7) Information from students

The students raised the dilemma that students get different levels of feedback from the different lecturers. Jonas emphasized that this was a misunderstanding, since the lecturers are not required to give feedback, since there are no resources set aside for this. Despite this, he himself gave feedback to the students, and in that way maybe raised the expectations among the students. He said that he would discuss this dilemma with his colleagues.

8) Information from Head of Studies/Head of Study Board

The governments' proposal to cut the Master by one year was discussed. UCPH completely opposes it. It is guessed that Sociology can't avoid getting changed to a 1-year master.

9) Any Other Business

Next meeting will take place 2. May 13:15-15:00