

Study Board of Sociology



NOVEMBER 2023

MINUTES

Forum Study Board of Sociology

Meeting held 30 October 2023

Place Room 16.2.55

Minutes taker Troels Claus Baagland

Present

Jonas Toubøl, Mengni Chen, Lasse Suonperä Liebst, Asmus Oliver Lewis, and Dagmar Engelbrecht Henriksen and Freja Kromann Schiøler, Dagmar Engelbrecht Henriksen

Guests

Merlin Schaeffer, Hanne Kraak, Signe Staun Kelly, Nina Stenvang Holmsgaard & Troels Baagland

Absent

None

Closed meeting

Removed from agenda due to illness – no exemption cases at this meeting. The cases will be sent into written hearings.

Open Meeting

1) Approval of the agenda and Minutes from 12. September 2023.

A mix-up off participants was corrected, Dagmar should be added to minutes.

The students asked for a discussion of a larger change of the course “Re-reading course” Lasse said this is not on the agenda right now, since this would require a major curriculum change and this wouldn’t make sense because of the larger Master Reform, which are expected to come in 2024.

2) Info from the Study Advisory/Nina

Nina informed about the activities offered by the Study Advisory:

- a workshop for students about writing their Master Thesis. Sign up I December. How to get a good process, how to get a supervisor,
- a workshop for BA-students about writing the BA-project. How to get a good process, how to get a supervisor.

Nina informed about the problems faced by newly admitted master students from other universities. The exchange deadline is very early, that is 8. September. UCPH Students from Sociology already apply for exchange on their 5th semester. Merlin considered to move exchange to the third semester, but again emphasized that we will have to wait for the MA-reform.

Nina pointed out that it is a problem, that according to the BA-curriculum the BA-project should be the last activity to pass. This rule leads to delayed study progress for some students.

The board decided this dilemma should be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

3) New Course MSc Elective Course – Sociology of Gender and Sexuality/Merlin

The course was approved by the Study Board,

4) New Course BA Elective Course: Experimental Sociology/Merlin

The course was approved by the Study Board.

5) Curriculum Revision – Change of Exam forms/Merlin & Lasse

Decision: *The following Curriculum changes are suggested:*

- a. *Change “Sociological Theory og History of ideas” to written exam and Change “Basic Statistics” from portfolio to the same logic as “Multiple Regression”, that is obligatory 10 weekly quizzes. How long the formal*

The Study Board discussed if the number of portfolio exams should be reduced due to the heavy administrative load, and to reduce the student’s workload. On the other hand, the students see continuous feedback as a good thing.

It was decided to introduce quizzes as a prerequisite to pass the course in Basic Statistics. The curriculum will be revised so it appears that it is a prerequisite to upload several quizzes to get qualified for the exam in Basic Statistics.

b. Change in exam form for “Developments in modern Sociological Theory

The Study Board approved allowing students to write synopsis in groups.

c. Written on-site exam.

Lasse introduced the on-site written exam form (1 to 6 hours) and explained why this would be a good idea to have it as an option in the exam catalogue. First, this was one way to deal with the dilemmas caused by Chat-GPT and Open AI.

It was mentioned that this was a cheap exam form, but it could be a problem to have exams rooms, since there is limited space in the Exam House at Southern Campus.

The students didn't necessarily appreciate the initiative, since the exam form was considered as stressful, and also, they saw the lack in believe in the student's eagerness to learn

Lasse had identified 3 options how to handle Open AI:

- Written on-site exams.
- Oral on-site exams
- Revision of learning goals to discuss, develop, and comparing with the help of AI, but the last option is a constant race, and often behind the development in AI.

No decision was taken, and the item will come on the agenda on the next Study Board meeting.

6) Curriculum Revision: Change of Titles/Merlin

The title of the course “ESM 1” was suggested to have the title changed to “ESM 1: Survey Design” and the title for “ESM 2” was suggested to have the new title “ESM 2: Grundlæggende kvalitative metoder”. Both new titles were approved by the Study board.

7) Celebration excellent Teaching

Different kinds of celebration were discussed. It was considered to make diplomas or one-time bonuses (via recommendation to the Head of Department). It was also considered if celebrations should take place at Department meetings and/or teaching awards should be given.

The Study Board decided that The Study Council (Fagrådet) should find the 4 best performing teachers on the background of the teaching evaluation results and other student responses and then send the names to the study Board to take the final decision.

It was also decided that the teaching evaluation response frequency should also play a role in decision-making. It was furthermore mentioned that it should only be possible to win the award every second year.

The Head of Studies finally inform the Head of department, who then decides if a bonus is paid to the “winner”.

8) New Strategy for the University of Copenhagen Merlin & Troels

The study Board has formulated the following comment to the new UCPH Strategy draft:

- We suggest that not only should UCPH deliver world class education, UCPH must also offer world class educational facilities.
- The strategy has a strong focus on sustainability, and we suggest that adding strategic goals and criteria for successfully working towards sustainability would strengthen the credibility of these claims as well as make more transparent how the strategy envision this.
- The strategy has a timely focus on the need for educating students to be able solve problems and innovate society. We suggest adding that a core goal of education of immense value to society is our graduate’s ability to contribute knowledge on technology, society, nature, and culture to local as well as public deliberations and debates, which qualifies and educates to the benefit of all society’s members.

9) Initiative to ensure alignment and progression between courses.

Lasse informed about the current situation, where there is “fairly little content coordination between courses coordinators.”

Merlin suggested asking Benedikte to set up groups of teachers according to academic subjects, which should then meet at least once a year to coordinate. He would prefer a low-key model, and not necessarily study board involvement.

The study board agreed that good coordination and alignment is wanted and before the semester starts (e.g. 2 weeks before semester start). It is also important to share course plans.

10) Digital mapping and advances in the programs/Lasse

Lasse informed about the survey and to consider and introduce technology and technological topics in the teaching. The Study board decided to encourage teachers to take it into account.

11) Re-approval of policy for use of Open AI/Troels

The formulation used for the Winther 23/24 exam was re-approved for the coming exams also, and until a revision of the formulation is wished/needed.

12) Information from students

Group formation process - how to streamline the group forming process, was brought up by the students. This will come on the agenda for the next Study Board meeting.

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

Nothing

14) Any Other Business

TCB mentioned that the next Study Board Meeting will take place on 5 December from 13:30 to 16:00.

Merlin mentioned that, because of the Master Reform it would be necessary to meet more often in the spring. He suggested making a working group consisting of 2 students and 2 teachers, with mandate to come up with a reform suggestion, which could then be discussed in the Study Board.