

The Study Board at Sociology

DRAFT



## MINUTES

4. MARCH 2025

**Forum** Study Board of Sociology

**Meeting held** 4.03.2025

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 2A  
KØBENHAVN K

**Location** Room 16.1.62

**Minutes taker** Troels Baagland

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### Present

**Board members:** Lasse Suonperä Liebst, Jonas Toubøl, Mengni Chen, Pia Cecilie Enevoldsen, Rebekka Eltang Lynbech, Christian Fischer Krarup, Halfdan Temple (Alternate),

### Guests

Thea Lytsen, Merlin Schaeffer and Troels Baagland

### Absent,

Hanne Kraak and Signe Staun Kelly

### Welcome

Before the meeting started Jeannette Sporon-Fiedler was warmly welcomed as “partner” for Sociology.

#### 1) Approval of agenda + minutes

The agenda and minutes 4. February 2025 were approved

**2) Constitution of the new Study Board – Election of Chairperson of the Study Board/Lasse**

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Lasse was elected for the next 3 years as head of the Study Board.

**3) BA Reform – New BA Curriculum to start in Autumn 2026**

Merlin oriented about the revised BA-programme. He said that course Descriptions had been added for two courses and there were also suggestions to change the exam forms for some of the courses.

He mentioned that currently, there is only “Active participation” as exam form, at the first semester. This was originally introduced to lower the dropout rate by lowering the pressure on the students. The teachers could focus on developing on how to be a student, good studying manners, learning students how to work in groups etc.

The introduction of Active participation at the 1. Semester at alle exams, hasn't have had any influence on the dropout rates.

It was suggested to swap the exam form between “Societal Problems” and “Basic Statics” (2. Semester), so the students would have a portfolio exam at the first semster. And then Active participation in “Basic Statics”.

It was suggested to have active participation in ”Sociologiske teori og faghistorie”, but the Study Board couldn't agree on this.

The Study Board decided to have a portfolio exan in “Societal Problems” and keep the exam form in “Basic Statistics” (Portfoli with Pass/failed). The Portfolio exams are seen as valueable because of the feedback that the students get from the Teaching Assistants.

Lasse and Merlin suggested to continue with the discuss about exam forms at the next study board meeting. Espceially for the courses “Multiple OLS and causal inference” and “Welfare, inequality and social mobility”. They also suggested to use the Exam Catalogue to use the possiblities given there. In specific Lasse recommended to consider introducing on-site written exams also.

The possibility of swapping the courses "Science and Society" (2nd semester) and "Welfare, Inequality, and Social Mobility" (4th semester) was discussed. The students did not favor this suggestion. They believed it would be beneficial for students still to gain knowledge about theories such

as social constructivism or positivism early in the program. The study board acknowledged that there are pros and cons to the swap but ultimately decided not to proceed with it. SIDE 3 AF 7

The Course Description were discussed. Generally they were found good, but a bit too specific. It was therefore recommended to have them a little more generic and and that way flexible and modular for other teachers to fill out.

Lasse will revise the description for “*Basic Computational Methods*” and Merlin the description for “*Digital Qualitative Methods*”.

The Study Board decided to “preagree” on the program structure. At the next meeting the Study Board will vote on the full material incl. exam forms.

*Draft: New BA-Program as presented and discussed at the Study Board Meeting 4. March 2025.*

<b>First semester</b>	<b>Second semester</b>
Societal Problems	Sociological Theory in a Historical Perspective <i>Written Exam</i>
Sociology in Danish Society <i>Porteføljeopgave (Pass/fail?)</i>	Science and Society <i>Oral Exam med Synopsis</i>
Survey Design	Basic Statistics <i>Portfolio Exam</i>
Elementary Qualitative Methods	Gender, ethnicity, og post-colonialism <i>Written Exam</i>
<b>Third semester</b>	<b>Fourth semester</b>
Advanced Quantitative Methods. <i>Portfolio Exam integrated with CLE</i>	Knowledge, Organisation and Politics <i>Portfolio Exam</i>
Multiple OLS and causal inference <i>Sit-in Exam (Pass/fail)</i>	<i>Basic Computational Methods</i> <i>Written Exam</i> Or <i>Digital qualitative methods</i> <i>Written Exam</i>
Culture, Lifestyle and Everyday Life. <i>Portfolio Exam integrated with AQM</i>	Welfare, inequality and social mobility. <i>Written Exam</i>
<i>Contemporary Sociological Theory</i> <i>Oral Exam with Synopsis</i>	Elective <i>Written Exam</i>

Fifth semester	Sixth semester	SIDE 4 AF 7
	Methodologies and Analytical Design	
	<i>Sociology of marginalized groups and and deviant behavior</i>	
	<i>Active Participation</i>	
	Bachelor project	

#### 4) Course Evaluation /Lasse & Merlin

The Study Board reviewed all courses from the 1st, 3rd, and 5th semesters of the BA program, as well as the Master's courses. Here is the summary:

##### BA 1st Semester Autumn 2024 (Mengni & Christian)

- *Samfundsmæssige problemer*
  - Minor changes made, received very good evaluations. Particularly positive feedback for Christian Borch.
- *Sociologien i det danske samfund*
  - Mixed feedback: frustration with the format, guest lecturers, and frequent changes in teachers. General course and exam structure caused frustration, but overall feedback was also positive. Suggestions for improvement include fewer topics and more coherence in lectures.
- *Survey Design*
  - Changes this semester included less focus on "R" programming, which was moved to the end of the semester. Concerns about insufficient "R" training were noted. Merlin suggested earlier and more frequent "R" sessions. TAs received praise for their good work.
- *Grundlæggende kvalitative metoder*
  - Feedback indicated chaos due to many 1-hour lectures. Suggested increasing lecture time for better structure.

##### BA 3rd Semester Autumn 2022 (Jonas & Rebekka)

- *Videregående kvalitative metoder*
  - Repetition from earlier subjects noted. Suggestions included restructuring to focus more on narrative analysis and practical applications. Time management and portfolio exams throughout the semester were also mentioned. Overall, a very good course with positive feedback for the TAs.

- *Kultur, Livsstil, Hverdagsliv*

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- Course considered too large and time-consuming, but integration between subjects was praised.

- *Multiple Regression Analysis and Fundamentals of Causal Inference*

- Criticism of quizzes not always working well. The course is demanding but rewarding. Overall positive feedback despite its difficulty.

- *Velfærd, ulighed og mobilitet*

- Feedback indicated the course was not deep enough and lacked integration with qualitative methods. New teachers will take over and address these issues.

### **Electives and MA Autumn 2022 (Mengni & Pia)**

- *Advanced Culture, Lifestyle and Everyday Life*

- Feedback indicated the mini-conference was time-consuming and online lectures were challenging. Information about lectures was unstructured.

- *Sociologiske studier af Arktis: Danmarks kolonialisme og arven derefter*

- The curriculum was demanding but overall considered a perfect course.

- *Financialization and the Sociology of Finance*

- Challenging but well-structured. Issues with OCR and readability noted. Field trip to Børsen was appreciated as an interesting element.

- *Sociology of Family and Population Studies*

- 60% of the students considered the course too easy. The course lacked diversity in family studies and some readings were skipped.

- *Protest Movements, Culture, and Social Change*

- Too many hours in a row (4 hours); suggested splitting the 4-hour sessions into two sessions of two hours each.

- *Sociological Diagnoses of Our Times*

- More information about the course and assignments needed. Overlap between lectures and readings was an issue.

- *Advanced Knowledge, Organization and Politics*

- Exam topic was introduced too early, feedback was not effective, and there were too many readings. Despite this, it was still considered a good course.

- *Advanced Welfare, Inequality and Mobility*
  - Heavy workload for the exam. Slides were good but could be more structured. Too much time on student presentations. Suggestions to make the course more engaging.
- *Sociologisk projektdesign*
  - Positive feedback overall. Masterclass was misplaced, and feedback needed to be more structured. Bente received praise.
- *Mixed Methods E24*
  - Teacher praised for pedagogical approach and structure. The workload was big, but feedback worked well. Portfolio should begin right away. Some students lacked BA background.
- *Avanceret kvalitativ dataanalyse*
  - Good and interesting course.
- *Sociologisk innovation*
  - Unstructured with information scattered in different places. Time was insufficient, and the portfolio did not work as intended. Readings were not useful for the final exam. The course has great potential but still needs significant improvements.
- *Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis*
  - All feedback was positive.
- *Master Thesis (Jonas & Pia)*
  - No comments

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The study Board approved the A, B & C grades given by the evaluation system. Worth to notice is that no courses were evaluated with an “C”.

Also worth to notice is the very high response frequency (69,4%) at Sociology well above the average for the faculty (49%) and also the faculty target (50%).

## 5) Programme Report/Merlin

Due to lack of time this item has been postponed to one of the next coming two Study Board meetings.

## 6) Info from the Study Advisory /Thea

Thea gave a general orientation of enquiries in 2024

In 2024, Student Services handled 24,394 email enquiries, 6,756 phone calls, and 1,563 drop-in enquiries. The highest volume of enquiries occurred during course registration periods and semester starts.

A total of 1,354 guidance sessions were conducted, with adjustments made based on demand for each degree program.

Student Services hosted 60 events, including study start activities, master's thesis information meetings, and academic internships. 95% of students found these events useful.

In November 2024, emails were sent to 223 students who were delayed in their studies for more than 12 months. Only 13 students were from Sociology. The delayed students were offered a guidance session, and 18 sessions were held.

Sociology students do not utilize the services offered by Student Services. Is this due to a lack of awareness about the available resources, or do they simply not need them? To investigate, Student Services has reached out to the student community "Kattens Kammerater" to connect with the students and clarify these questions.

**7) Briefing from head of studies**

Nothing

**8) Briefing from Chair of the Study Board**

Nothing

**9) Info from the Students**

Pia mentioned that the Study Council has discussed the inclusion of climate sociology in the course syllabuses. A committee has been established by the Study Council to examine the emphasis on climate sociology across different courses. The Study Board will evaluate the syllabuses at the meeting May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**10) Other Things**

New appointed Head of Department, [Bjarke Oxlund](#), popped up and said hello to the Study Board. He emphasised that the Study Board Members are always welcome to involve him if needed.