



Gender in the research process

Genus i forskningsprocessen

Credit points: 7,5 CTS credits

Responsible department: Umeå Centre for Gender Studies

Main field of study: Gender Studies

Level: PhD Studies

Subject area: Gender Studies

Grading scale: Fail/Pass

Course approval

The course syllabus has been confirmed by the director of Umeå Center for Gender Studies on June 7 and is valid from Autumn 2023.

Aim and Content

The aim of the course is to discuss and problematize how gender perspectives can be used analytically in different parts of the research process in an interdisciplinary context. The course is therefore recommended for doctoral students about halfway into their PhD work. The content deals with issues such as: How can gender and/or feminist perspectives be integrated with the different parts of the doctoral thesis? Significant focus is placed on generic skills and critical examinations of the PhD-student's own discipline and the scrutinization of their own research approach. What roles do aim, theory and methodology play in the thesis process? How can a research overview/previous research relate to the individual research contribution? We discuss how different theoretical and methodological approaches, ethical choices and positioning in the research field affect the research contribution. The course covers the following themes: aim, theoretical points of departure, positioning within the field, choice of method, ethical issues, and presentation of the thesis' contribution/research results.

Expected learning outcome

After completing the course, the doctoral student is expected to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Understand how the doctoral thesis project relates to gender research.

Judgement and approach

- Evaluate options and problematize choice of aim, method, research ethics, theory and previous research.

- Problematize their own dissertation project in relation to gender and/ or feminist theory.

- Problematize and argue for the choice of purpose, method, theory and previous research.

Skills and abilities

- Demonstrate an ability to constructively reflect and comment on research from different disciplines.

- Demonstrate an ability to reflect on their own dissertation project in written text.



Form of instruction and examination modes

In addition to lectures, the course predominantly consists of seminars where the various parts of the doctoral thesis are discussed. Before each meeting, the doctoral student writes 1-2 pages about the current topic based on their own research problems and upload it on the course's Canvas site. All students prepare for the seminars by reading the specified course literature and the uploaded texts. At each meeting, the current topic is introduced by a lecturer before a group discussion, followed by a joint summary discussion. The course is based on the doctoral students' active participation in seminars, where they individually write, process, and present text. The course is given in English.

The course is examined through active participation in seminars, written assignments, and a final individual paper. The individual examination consists of a reflective paper, where the previous texts and the feedback received during the course is taken in account. The final assignment must relate to the course literature and relevant selected literature from the student's research field.

Literature

Avelino, Flor (2021) Theories of power and social change. Power contestations and their implications for research on social change and innovation, *Journal of Political Power*, 14:3, 425-448.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/2158379X.2021.1875307>

Rogg Korsvik, Trine & Rustad, Linda M. (2018) What is the gender dimension in research? Case studies in interdisciplinary research, eds), Kilden

https://kjonnsforskning.no/sites/default/files/what_is_the_gender_dimension_roggkorsvik_kilden_genderresearch.no_.pdf

Additional literature may be added (max. 100 pages)

Reference literature

Hesse-Biber, Sharlene Nagy (2014, 2nd ed), *Feminist research practice. A primer*. Sage. (Selected texts, around 250p).

https://books.google.se/books?id=Ujd1AwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=sv&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false