Reflexive and Creative Methodology (7.5 ects credits)

Supervised by: Mats Alvesson and Dan Kärreman
Course assistant: Iva Kostova
15-19 May, 2017
30 hours of lectures and seminars
Cost: The course fee is 5000 Swedish Krona. VAT (25%) will also be charged to students from outside Sweden and Swedish students paying for the course personally.

In principle, there are two major routes to producing credible research texts. One, indicating rationality, is to follow rules and procedures. The other is to journey competently and innovatively with the interpretive, political, linguistic, theory-data fused nature of the research process. This course posits that an awareness of the various elements that influence the research process and results is crucial. Students are encouraged to develop reflexivity both as a way to avoid traps and pitfalls and as a necessary measure for knowing how to engage creatively with the various elements in the research process. The ambition is to produce more interesting and unexpected research results through re-thinking conventions and opening up for more varied and challenging uses of research questions, fieldwork practices, modes of interpretations and styles of writing.

The course aims to develop the participants’ skills in conducting qualitative research through exploring how various ideas on reflexivity can increase the quality and creativity of investigations. In particular, the course emphasizes how the process of research can lead to new ideas and theoretical results. The course is intended for PhD students that have good knowledge of the basics of qualitative research (i.e., participated at introductory PhD courses in qualitative methodology) and junior faculty members in management and other social sciences.

Content
- The art and technicalities of qualitative research
- Differing viewpoints: Reflexivity, pluralism and conflict
- Combining research perspectives
- Constructing (innovative) research questions
- Doing reflexive interviews
- Representations in research
- Interpretations and re-interpretations: perspective-seeing as an ideal
- Theory development in empirical work: the mystery metaphor
- Writing
- Workshop: Discussion of participant’s research interests and projects
Examination
A final course paper critically discussing and applying the course literature (max 3000 words).
Due August 11th 2017.

Literature
Alvesson & Kärreman: Qualitative Research and Theory Development. Sage 2011
(Reference text: Alvesson & Sköldberg: Reflexive Methodology, Sage 2009)

A set of articles, incl. Davis: That’s interesting. Philosophy of the Social Sciences, 1,1971

Teachers
Mats Alvesson and Dan Kärreman (Lund University) will supervise the course. Guests
include Yiannis Gabriel (University of Bath) and Andrè Spicer (Cass Business School) - more
guests will be announced.

Applications for Reflexive and Creative Methodology
Applicants should submit a short bio on their motivation for joining the course as well as a
short description of their own research project. Please send this document along with the
completed application form (attached as appendix) to Iva Kostova (iva.kostova@fek.lu.se) by
March 31st 2017. (We can give earlier notification of provisional acceptance if needed).
Students who are provisionally accepted will be forwarded details of a Reflexive Methodology
bank account number held by the host department. The course fee will need to be paid into
this account by April 14th 2017 to ensure a spot in the course. In certain cases, such as when
students come from partner universities, course fees may be waived.
Course application for external PhD students

All our compulsory courses are free of charge.

Our optional courses are free of charge for PhD students belonging to Lund University School of Economics and Management, the department of Business Administration at a U6 university (i.e. the universities of Gothenburg, Linköping, Stockholm, Umeå and Uppsala) and the Doctoral School of Organization and Management Studies (OMS), CBS, Denmark.

If nothing else is stated in the course information, the course fee for PhD students not belonging to any of the above departments is SEK 5.000 (+ 25% VAT).

For more information, please see http://www.fek.lu.se/en/phd-studies/courses

Course:

Name:

Personal ID number (personnr) / Date of birth:

Telephone and mail:

Admitted to PhD studies at (please state department, university, address)

Invoice address and contact person (if applicable):

Director of PhD studies (or equivalent):

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Signature of director of PhD studies (or equivalent) Date
at the applicant's home department

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Clarification of signature (readable)