Reflexive and Creative Methods PhD course, May 13–17, 2019
(All start times are sharp, rather than quarter-time).

Lecturers
Mats Alvesson, Yiannis Gabriel, Susann Gjerde, Iva Josefsson, Dan Kärreman, Monika Müller, Roland Paulsen, Jörgen Sandberg, Stephan Schaefer

Overall aim
The course emphasizes the creative and reflexive side of research and aims to support less boring and more interesting and imaginative studies. We try to emphasize three key themes during the course, general reflexivity (critical exploring and perspectivating one’s own position, framework and vocabulary), challenging dominant assumptions (also within one’s own home area/received wisdoms) and creating something unexpected (mysteries) based on empirical material.

Expectations
Participants in this course are expected to be well prepared, to have read the course materials in advance and to engage in discussions. Day 4 require your active participation and engagement in your classmate’s projects. Participants are also expected to have some basic familiarity with intellectual traditions such as hermeneutics (interpretivism), critical theory and poststructuralism. A possible reading is here Alvesson & Sköldberg: Reflexive Methodology, 3rd ed. Sage 2018.

Monday May 13 – Day 1
Room: Rhenman room/Alfa 2:4022

10:15–11:15 Welcome/coffee, Introductions
Lecturer: Mats Alvesson

11:30–13:00 Reflexivity
Lecturer: Mats Alvesson

Lunch on your own

14:00–17:00 Doing interesting research/challenging assumptions
Lecturer: Mats Alvesson

Buffet Dinner for Group on campus (course funded) 17:30–20:00

Tuesday, May 14 – Day 2
Room: Karlssalsalen/EC3:108

9:15–12:30 Creating mysteries in research
Lecturer: Dan Kärreman

12:30–13:30 Lunch on your own
13:30–16:30 **Ethnography, tales of the field**  
Room: Rhenman room/Alfa2:4022  
Lecturer: Dan Kärreman  
Readings: Geertz (1973), Rosen (1985)

**Wednesday, May 15 – Day 3**  
Room: Rhenman room/Alfa2:4022

9:15–11:00 **Research practice: the reflexive interview**  
Lecturer: Mats Alvesson  
Reading: Alvesson (2003)

11:15–13:00 **Source critique**  
Lecturer: Stephan Schaefer  
Reading: Schaefer & Alvesson (2019)

13:00–14:00 Lunch on your own

14:00–16:30 **Reflexivity in research**  
Lecturer: Susann Gjerde  

**Thursday, May 16 – Day 4**  
Rooms: TBC

9:15–12:30 **Breakout Session: Discussion of PhD projects**  
Tutors: Yiannis Gabriel, Iva Josefsson, Monika Müller, Roland Paulsen

12:30–13:15 Lunch on your own

13:15–14:15 **Breakout Session: Continued**

14:45–16:30 **Narratives**  
Room: Rhenman room/Alfa2:4022  
Lecturer: Yiannis Gabriel  

**Friday, May 17 – Day 5**  
Room: EC3:207

9:00–10:30 **Writing**  
Lecturer: Yiannis Gabriel  
Reading: Grey & Sinclair (2006)

10:45–12:30 **The research process**  
Lecturer: Mats Alvesson & Jörgen Sandberg  
Reading: Alvesson & Sandberg (2018)
Final paper/Assignment

For participants wanting course points a max 3,000 word paper linking the key points of the course with one’s individual project must be sent to your break-out session leader by August 16, 2019. This paper must go beyond summarizing the course to pass. Please do not send your papers in advance. The idea is that you take time to reflect and write.

Literature

Books

Alvesson & Kärreman: Qualitative Research and Theory Development. Sage 2011
Additional reference text: Alvesson & Sköldberg: Reflexive Methodology, Sage 2017

Articles

Davis, M (1971). That’s interesting. Philosophy of the Social Sciences, 1,
Information & Management (in press)


Break Out Session Groups

The breakout sessions are designed to facilitate discussions that draw forth the links between your projects and the aims of the course.

Instructions: By May 8 please send a paper (max 2,000 words) to the individuals in your group (cc the faculty advisor leading your group) containing a description of your research project/interest (brief) and a discussion of your (or the field's) assumptions, ideas for a mystery and/or some ideas on reflexivity in relation to your field and your own work. Papers will form the basis for discussions and allow others to offer advice and feedback on your work.

It will be important to familiarize yourself with the course readings in advance of this assignment.

Each student will receive approximately 45 minutes to discuss his or her project and to receive feedback from the group. The breakout sessions are designed to be informal and low-tech and to maximize discussion. You must read each of your group members’ papers in advance.