

Course description

Social Work as a Research Discipline

General information

7.5 ECTS

Entry requirements: Same as entry requirements for PhD program in social work, see the [curriculum for doctoral studies](#).

Grading system: Fail (U), Pass (G)

Responsible department: CESAR/Department of sociology

Course content

This course is intended to be an introductory course in the graduate program in Social work. Research into social work will be positioned in terms of philosophy and sociology of science. Furthermore, the domestic practice and research in social work within Sweden will be considered in relation to international developments. Major theoretical orientations will be discussed as well as topical areas of empirical research. The course will also address the complex relations between social work research, service providers, practitioners and the recipients/users of services. Here, a key theme will revolve around the dual roles of social work scholars to assist in developing and improving services and to provide critical and independent scrutiny of policies and services.

Learning outcomes

Students will attain knowledge about, and develop abilities to analyze and discuss the following topics:

- The history of social work as an academic discipline
- The current organizational contexts for social work research
- Social work research in an international perspective
- The epistemological foundations for social work as an academic discipline
- Typical topics for social work research
- Typical theoretical approaches in social work research
- The relations between scholarly social work and social work policy and practice.

Examination

Examination is based on active participation in seminars (specified in the course schedule) and a few written assignments.

Written assignments:

- Review of a PhD thesis in Social work.
- Case study of an expression of social work as a research discipline.
- Analysis of one scholarly journal in social work.
- Preparatory PMs prior to seminars (specified in course schedule)

See course schedule for specification

Literature

BRANTE, T. 1987. Om konstitueringen av nya vetenskapliga fält—exemplet forskning om socialt arbete. *Sociologisk forskning*, 24, 30-60.

BOHLIN, I. 2011. Evidensens många ansikten: evidensbaserad praktik i praktiken, Arkiv förlag.

DELLGRAN, P. & HÖJER, S. 2012. The politics of social work research—Ph.D. theses in Sweden. *European Journal of Social Work*, 15, 581-597.

HODGE, D. R., LACASSE, J. R. & BENSON, O. 2011. Influential Publications in Social Work Discourse: The 100 Most Highly Cited Articles in Disciplinary Journals: 2000–09. *British Journal of Social Work*.

HÖGSKOLEVERKET 2003. Socialt arbete. En nationell genomlysning av ämnet. Högskoleverkets rapportserie 2003:16 R. Stockholm.

MAYNARD, B. R., VAUGHN, M. G. & SARTESCHI, C. M. 2014. The Empirical Status of Social Work Dissertation Research: Characteristics, Trends and Implications for the Field. *The British Journal of Social Work*, 44, 267-289.

SHAW, I. 2009. *The SAGE handbook of social work research*, Sage Publications.

SHAW, I. F. 2007. Is Social Work Research Distinctive? *Social Work Education*, 26, 659-669.

SOHLBERG, P. 2013. Teorier och kunskapsbildning i socialt arbete. In: BLOM, B., MORÉN, S. & NYGREN, L. (eds.) *Kunskap i socialt arbete. Om villkor, processer och användning*. Stockholm: Natur & Kultur.

THYER, B. A., SMITH, T. E., OSTEEEN, P. & CARTER, T. 2019. The 100 Most Influential Contemporary Social Work Faculty as Assessed by the H-Index. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 45, 696-700.

PhD thesis in Social work

Additional literature can be added.