The Nuts and Bolts of Writing a Swedish Political Science Dissertation/Avhandlingsbyggarkurs

PhD course held at Stockholm University, Dept. of Political Science, spring 2015, 7,5 ECT

Starts Tuesday 28th of April; ends Friday 12th of June

Objectives

PhD students should:

- get an overview of Swedish dissertations in different fields of political science, and how they are composed as either monographs or as compilation theses.
- get an understanding of what is required of a dissertation in political science.
- learn how to combine the necessary parts of a dissertation into a readable book of good academic quality.
- improve their skills in the genre of academic writing within the social sciences.
- improve their skills as constructive discussants/opponents.

Course Language

The discussions will be held in Swedish or English, depending on the language skills of the participants. All participants might be expected to read theses in both English and Swedish.

Format of the Course

The course includes a number of seminars. Each seminar starts with a presentation of a Swedish political science dissertation, usually by the person who acted as the opponent at the thesis defense. The course participants are expected to have read the thesis and come prepared to discuss different aspects of it. The first seminar is scheduled for the 28th of April between 10:00 and 12:00. It will be followed by five to six more seminars, usually on Tuesdays and Fridays, during May. At a final seminar on the 12th of June participants’ discuss and get feedback on a longer written assignment.
Participants

This course is first and foremost meant for PhD students who have chosen their research topic, started writing and started the work of getting a book together. The course is meant for authors of both monographs and compilation theses.

Schedule

Seminar 1. Tuesday, April 28
Kristina Boréus/Ulf Mörkenstam
10-13, F702
Readings: TBA

Seminar 2. Tuesday, May 5
Kristina Boréus
13-16, F702

Seminar 3. Tuesday, May 12
Jonas Tallberg
14-17, F702

Seminar 4. Tuesday, May 19
Eva Erman
10-13, F702

Seminar 5. Friday, May 22
Jonas Hinnfors
13-16, F702

Seminar 6. Tuesday, May 26
Ulf Mörkenstam
13-16, F702

Seminar 7. Tuesday, June 2
Karin Bäckstrand
13-16,
Readings: Johansson, Johanna (2013) Constructing and Contesting the Legitimacy of Private Forest Governance. The Case of Forest Certification in Sweden, Umeå universitet

Seminar 8. Tuesday, June 9
Kristina Boréus/Ulf Mörkenstam
10-13, F702
Readings: TBA

Seminar 9. Friday, June 12
Kristina Boréus/Ulf Mörkenstam
13-16, F702
Examination

Course Readings

Some more literature might be added to the list below.


Johansson, Johanna (2013) *Constructing and Contesting the Legitimacy of Private Forest Governance. The Case of Forest Certification in Sweden*, Umeå : Statsvetenskapliga institutionen, Umeå universitet


**Examination**

Course requirements include:

1. Attendance at the seminars.
2. The preparation of shorter assignments for each seminar and a longer paper towards the end of the course.

**Registration**

Please register by sending an e-mail to ulf.morkenstam@statsvet.su.se.

**The teaching staff**

- **Kristina Boréus** is professor in political science at Stockholm University and former Director of the PhD-program in political science. She has taught several Master’s and PhD courses on research design and is an experienced supervisor of PhD students.

- **Ulf Mörkenstam** is associate professor in political science at Stockholm University and former Director of the PhD-program in political science. He has taught several PhD courses on research problems in political science and is an experienced supervisor of PhD students.
Apart from Kristina and Ulf, who are the main teachers, the following political scientists who have acted as opponents at dissertation defenses will lead the seminars:

- **Jonas Hinnfors**, professor in political science, Gothenburg University
- **Karin Bäckstrand**, professor in political science, Stockholm University
- **Eva Erman**, professor in political science, Stockholm University
- **Jonas Tallberg**, professor in political science, Stockholm University