

# **The Nuts and Bolts of Writing a Swedish Political Science**

## **Dissertation/*Avhandlingsbyggarkurs***

*a joint PhD course held at Stockholm and Uppsala University, Dept. of Political Science/Dept. of Government, autumn 2017, 7,5 ECT*

*Starts Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>; ends Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>*

### **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.

### **Format of the Course**

The course includes several 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. One seminar, however, is held by a scholar who recently defended her thesis. 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 16<sup>th</sup> of October between 10:00 and 13:00. It will be followed by six more seminars, usually on Wednesdays, over the course of seven weeks. At two final seminars on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December the participants present and are given 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 putting a book together. The course is meant for authors of both monographs and compilation theses.

## Examination

Course requirements include:

1. Attendance at the seminars.
2. The preparation of shorter assignments for each seminar, 1-2 pages.
3. A longer paper towards the end of the course: a written opposition to a dissertation, at a length of 3,000-5,000 words.
4. Presentation of the course paper as an oral opposition, 20-25 minutes.

## Course literature

Some more literature might be added to the list below.

Andersson, Eva-Lotta (2014) *Kön och ansvar i sjukförsäkringen: en studie av utredningstexter 1944-2006*, Umeå universitet.

<http://umu.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A608661&dswid=-9401>

Boréus, Kristina (2015) Anmälan av Eva-Lotta Anderssons avhandling:  
<http://journals.lub.lu.se/index.php/st/article/view/11979/10649>

Dahlström, Carl (2004) *Nästan välkomna. Invandrapolitikens retorik och praktik*, Göteborgs universitet.

[http://www.ipd.gu.se/digitalAssets/1314/1314621\\_n--stan-v--lkomna.pdf](http://www.ipd.gu.se/digitalAssets/1314/1314621_n--stan-v--lkomna.pdf)

Fägersten, Björn (2010) *Sharing Secrets. Explaining International Intelligence Cooperation*, Lund University.

Johannesson, Livia (2017) *In Courts We Trust. Administrative Justice in Swedish Migration Courts*, Stockholm University.

Persson, Monika (2014) *The Dynamics of Policy Formation – Making Sense of Public Unsafety*, Örebro University.

<https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:718148/FULLTEXT02.pdf>

Reimerson, Elsa (2015) *Nature, Culture, Rights: Exploring Space for Indigenous Agency in Protected Area Discourses*, Umeå University.

<http://umu.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:865188/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

Tallberg, Jonas (2011) Anmälan av Björn Fägerstens avhandling:  
<http://journals.lub.lu.se/index.php/st/article/view/8341/7479>

Wihlborg, Elin (2015) Anmälan av Monika Perssons avhandling:  
<http://journals.lub.lu.se/index.php/st/article/view/15586>

In addition, each participant should read one dissertation of their choice for the examination.

## ‘Mini Course’

It is possible to enroll in a ‘mini course’ that does not offer course credit, but instead, a certificate of attendance. Those who choose this variety should attend Seminar 1 and at least three of the Seminars 2-7 and are expected to prepare for the seminars in the same way as those enrolled in the full course.

## Course Language

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

## Schedule

Seminar 1. Monday, October 16	Kristina Boréus Ulf Mörkenstam	10-13, UU/SU
<i>Readings: TBA</i>		
Seminar 2. Wednesday, October 25	Kristina Boréus	13-16, UU
<i>Readings: Andersson (2014)</i> <i>Optional extra material to read AFTER the seminar: Boréus (2015)</i>		
Seminar 3. Wednesday, November 1	Shirin Ahlbäck Öberg	13-16, UU
<i>Readings: Dahlström (2004)</i>		
Seminar 4. Wednesday, November 8	Elin Wihlborg	13-16, SU F702
<i>Readings: Persson (2014)</i> <i>Optional extra material to read AFTER the seminar: Wihlborg (2015)</i>		
Seminar 5. Wednesday, November 15	Ulf Mörkenstam	13-16, SU F702
<i>Readings: Reimerson (2015)</i>		
Seminar 6. Wednesday, November 22	Jonas Tallberg	13-16, SU F702
<i>Readings: Fägersten (2010)</i> <i>Optional extra material to read AFTER the seminar: Tallberg (2011)</i>		
Seminar 7. Wednesday, November 29	Livia Johannesson	13-16, SU F702
<i>Readings: Johannesson (2017)</i>		
Seminar 8. Wednesday, December 13	Kristina Boréus Ulf Mörkenstam	10-13, UU/SU
<i>Examination</i>		
Seminar 9. Friday, December 15	Kristina Boréus Ulf Mörkenstam	13-16, UU/SU
<i>Examination</i>		

## Registration

Please register by sending an e-mail to [ulf.morkenstam@statsvet.su.se](mailto:ulf.morkenstam@statsvet.su.se).

## The teaching staff

- **Kristina Boréus** is professor of political science at the Institute for Housing and Urban Research, Uppsala University and former Director of the PhD programme in political

science at Stockholm University. 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 programme 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 – alongside a political scientist that recently defended her thesis – lead the seminars:

- **Shirin Ahlbäck Öberg**, associate professor in political science, Uppsala University
- **Livia Johannesson**, PhD in political science, Stockholm University
- **Jonas Tallberg**, professor in political science, Stockholm University
- **Elin Wihlborg**, professor in political science, Linköping University