Please send an email to PhD Coordinator Cecilie Thorsted Flo at thorsted@ruc.dk no later than October 12th.

The course will be five days in length spread over the first two weeks of June:

- Monday, November 2nd (9.00 - 16.00)
- Tuesday, November 3rd (9.00 - 16.00)
- Wednesday, November 4th (9.00 - 16.00)
- Monday, November 9th (9.00 - 16.00)
- Tuesday, November 10th (9.00 - 13.00)

Below is a detailed description of the contents by session:

**Monday, November 2nd (Roskilde University, House 23 room 23.2-067 - see [link](#) for directions)**

01. Introduction/ Social Science (LAR/PT) from 09.00 - 12.00

*Introduction to Social science, methods and theory: A pragmatic Approach*

**Literature:**

- Booth, Colomb and Williams (2008), section 1, pp. 1-29 and Chapter 16 pp. 232-248
Exercise:

Using the material from Chapter 16 in BCW, write a 2 page draft plan for your PhD introduction and bring along to discuss in this session

02. Research Strategy (LH) from 13.00 - 16.00

When a research question has been formulated there are numerous considerations involved in designing the research process. Some considerations are ontological and epistemological in kind and are relevant for choice of theory and empirical data. Other questions relate to the research process. What are the first steps in the research process, and what comes next? The view on these issues vary between research traditions.

Literature:


Optional reading:


Exercise:

1. Before the session: Using your PhD outline, write a half page reflection on the analytical paradigm your work is drawing on. Can you clearly position your ontological and epistemological starting point? Do you consider it necessary to do so at this stage?

2. In session: In groups of two students, re-read the overview table on practical issues in Guba and Lincoln (1994: 112) and discuss the implications for your respective research strategy. Write down the most important consequences for your research in a paragraph each.

Tuesday, November 3rd (Roskilde University, House 23 room 23.2-067 - see link for directions)

03. Research Questions and Hypotheses (PT) from 09.00 - 12.00

This session examines the importance of the research question for the design of the research work. It will discuss various ways of developing a relevant and workable research question. Finally, it will discuss the use and testing of hypotheses.

Literature:

- Booth, Colomb and Williams (2008), section 2, pp. 20-66

Exercise:

In groups of two students, revisit and discuss the Draft of your PhD Research Design text you submitted for the course. Write a single page assessment of whether this text clearly defines and describes a good research problem. Note any revisions that might be needed to clarify the research problem in this project.

04. Theory (LS) from 13.00 - 16.00

This session discusses how to select and develop a useful theoretical framework. It will underline the linkages between your theory choice on the one hand, and your research question and literature review on the other. We will look into how the role of theory is understood within different scientific traditions and what that means for your project.

Readings:


Exercise:

Before the session: Using the two figures in Jackson’s chapter, think through what kind of scholar you are and which philosophical wagers you make. Then consider the ‘work’ theory is doing in your thesis.

The second part of this session examines how you can “operationalize” your theoretical framework and concepts. It will discuss key challenges in putting your theory to work in concrete empirical analyses, such as translation of general concepts to particular empirical situations, mixing of different theoretical approaches, etc.

Reading:

Exercise:

Before the session: Using the central figure in Adcock and Collier’s article, consider how you move from general concepts to concrete observations/analytical moves in the substantive chapters in your thesis.

**Wednesday, November 4th (Roskilde University, House 23 room 23.2-067 - see link for directions)**

05. Situating your work in the literature/s Literature Review (PT) from 09.00 - 12.00

This session accounts for the importance of the literature review, in particular for the making and justification of the research question. It discusses various ways of undertaking and focusing the review.

**Literature:**


**Exercise:**

In session: Reflect on your strategy for undertaking the literature review (in groups of two students). The reflections may include thoughts about the relationship between your RQ and the literature you look for, and the types of literature you include (and exclude). Sum up your reflections on around half a page.

06. Data collection – empirical material (BG) from 13.00 - 16.00

This session first presents an overview of the various types of data available when undertaking research. This includes the many Danish citizen data registers. The session then moves on to discuss the potentials and the challenges involved in mixed methods studies. It also provides and discusses some examples of how to different types of methods may actually be combined in empirical research. There will furthermore in the presentation be information on different international databases with different kinds of data.

**Literature:**

- Nancy Leech and Anthony Onwuegbuzie, 'A typology of mixed methods research designs', Quality and Quantity, 43, pp. 265-275;
- Bent Flyvbjerg, 'Five Misunderstandings About Case-Study Research', Qualitative Inquiry, 12:2, pp. 219-245;

**Exercise:**

Students are expected to shortly present their choice of data and argue why this has been chosen.

Be prepared to participate in a panel discussion on the pros and cons of qualitative and quantitative methods and research strategies. Write down beforehand three 'pros'-statements and three 'cons'-statements of qualitative and quantitative approaches to your research topic respectively.

**Monday, November 9th (Roskilde University, House 23 room 23.2-067 - see link for directions)**

07. Answering Your Questions on Research Design and Peer-to-Peer Feedback Session (LAR and PT) from 09.00 - 12.00

**Exercise:**

Before Session: Read the PhD Research Design text written by your course colleague. Reflecting specifically on the material in the course readings, write a 2-4 page text identifying the existing strengths and points for improvement in the PhD Research Design. This text should aim at providing specific suggestions for revision.

Both the texts and the reflection documents will be discussed in class.

08. Research Ethics (YM) from 13.00 - 16.00

This session accounts for the many ethical challenges that are part and parcel of research. It highlights the ethical challenges most salient to social science research and discuss some possible guidelines for how to address the issues.

**Literature:**

**Exercise:**

Please write 1/2 - 1 page about ethical challenges that you assume that you will confront during your project. Reflect upon ethical challenges in the different phases of the project (defining the research problem, questions and (hypo)theses, producing data, analysing and interpreting data, writing and publishing your findings).

Send your text to ym@ruc.dk no later than November 6th

Based on the ethical challenges that you have reflected upon in the paper you have prepared and sent to Yvonne, we will discuss different relevant issues and themes

**Tuesday, November 10th (Roskilde University, House 23 room 23.2-067 - see link for directions)**

09. Researcher in Society (LAR) from 09.00 - 12.00

This session will present and discuss some of the key challenges facing social science researchers who by default are part of what they are studying, i.e. society. More precisely, this session will relate to classic issues of normativity and validity as well as more recent one’s e.g. the loss of authority and the transfer of knowledge.

**Literature:**

- Calhoun, Craig ‘Social Science for Public Knowledge’ essay download at http://publicsphere.ssrc.org/calhoun-social-science-for-public-knowledge/

**Exercise:**

Before Session: Reflect on the position of your current PhD project in society at multiple levels and on your ideal role as a future researcher. Write a page on each, documenting these reflections.

In order to obtain the full 5 ECTS points it is a requirement that you prepare all texts and exercises and participate actively all 5 days.
Two main text books are used:


Pris

DKK: 500 for all participants - this fee covers coffee/tea and lunch

or

DKK: 5.500 (740 EUR) for students from non-Danish universities and students from Copenhagen Business School.

Maksimum antal deltagere

15

Litteratur

Two main text books are used:


Undervisningsansvarlig

Peter Triantafillou (triant@ruc.dk)
Lisa Ann Richey (richey@ruc.dk)

Underviser

Bent Greve (bgr@ruc.dk)
Peter Triantafillou (triant@ruc.dk)
Yvonne Morek (ym@ruc.dk)
Lisa Ann Richey (richey@ruc.dk)
Laust Schouenborg (lausts@ruc.dk)
Laura Horn (lhorn@ruc.dk)