



MINUTES

25.06 JUNE 2024

Forum Study Board of Sociology

Meeting held 25.06.2024

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 2A
KØBENHAVN K

Location Room 16.2.55

Minutes taker Troels Baagland

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Present

Board members: Lasse Suonperä Liebst, Mira Chatterji Rosen Sørensen, Asmus and Jonas Toubøl

Guests

Merlin Schaeffer, Jens Roesdahl Lange and Troels Baagland

Absent,

Anemone Frederikke de M Dalsgaard, Pia Cecilie Enevoldsen and Mengni Chen

Agenda – open meeting

1) Approval of agenda /Lasse

The agenda was approved.

2) Status on the Master Reform/Merlin

Merlin gave a presentation of the work with the Master Reform. He emphasized that it is still a draft, and work will continue in the coming months. The most important proposals are as follows:

Remove the large 15 ECTS courses to have only 7.5 ECTS courses. The motivation SIDE 2 AF 5 behind this is to get a more flexible program structure, which is supposed to reduce the dropping-out rate.

The students should take one elective per semester and An elective in Postcolonial Sociology should be offered once a year.

Introduction of 6 Core Sociology courses (7.5 ECTS per course)

1. Semester (Autumn)

- Stratification and Inequality & social Policy
- Behavior and Social Interaction
- Comparative Sociology: Institutions, culture, populations & Public Opinion

2. Semester (spring)

- Digital (& Computational) sociology
- Network & Organizational Sociology: Diversity and inclusion
- Sociology of Sustainability & the Green Transition.

The two last mentioned core courses are within applied Sociology, which is in line with the recommendations from the employee's panel.

The students are required to take two core courses, and it is considered if it should be possible to take more than two core courses, instead of the two electives, this depends on the number of sign-ups.

It is suggested to have a thesis colloquium, where students can work on Thesis ideas. Also, the course gives the students the opportunity to start up with their Master Thesis 7 months before the deadline instead of 3 months before.

It is suggested to have Mixed Method (7.5 ECTS) and advanced Data Analysis (7.5 ECTS) on two different semesters (currently they are placed in the same semester).

Merlin stated that the course binding is an obstacle, since it can slow down the students' study program progress.

The study board agreed that the suggested program is an improvement regarding flexibility and more exciting for the students.

Jonas praised the good work in the reform group and suggested also to ask the research groups for inputs to give ownership of the new core courses in same way, as they have for the fagpakker.

Merlin said the research groups are already represented in the reform group through SIDE 3 AF 5 representatives, maybe with political sociology as the only exception.

The colloquium should be offered every semester to prevent students getting delayed, but it continues to be a problem to identify when the Thesis writing period should be in the Winter: January-March? or February-April? Nobody can give an answer.

The study board discussed the dilemma that the ongoing negotiations make predictions difficult – e.g. the scope of the reform and when it should be implemented. This poses a huge problem, but the study board agreed that it is important to address the “smaller” problems with the current program.

3) Orientation on the annual report of the external examiners' chairmanship

Merlin gave an orientation. Overall, the external examiners express satisfaction, but two comments are noted.

- A recommendation to look at the exam requirements/exam criteria for “Critical Reading and Analysis”,
- A recommendation to look at the length of the oral defense for the Master thesis (should be twice as long).

4) Curriculum change: First-year exam

UCPH has decided to reduce the first-year exam from 45 ECTS to 15 ECTS and the board discussed which courses should be included in the first-year exam. The following two courses were selected:

- Sociologien i det danske samfund (7,5 ECTS, 1. semester)
- Sociologisk teori og faghistorie (7,5 ECTS, 2. semester)

It was emphasized the courses that constitute the first-year exam cannot contain exam requirements, since the right to 2 exam attempts must be unconditional according to the rules of order.

This decision will be applied 1 September 2024.

5) Length of the Master Thesis Exam, oral defense

The study agreed that current defined exam lengths for Master Thesis are inappropriate.

It was suggested to have a more flexible system with approximately 45 minutes (including assessment) for one student and then add 15 minutes for a group of 2 students, 10 minutes more for a group of 3 students, and 5 minutes more for a group

of 4 students. That means that the length of the defense should be $45+15+10+5 =$ SIDE 4 AF 5 65 minutes.

The board decided that instead the new rule should be “*approximately 50 minutes (incl. assessment) plus 10 minutes per extra student*”.

This decision will be applied 1 September 2025.

6) Curriculum change: Formal integration of literature search in the BA culture course

It was suggested to add the following sentence in the course description for

”Dette indebærer endvidere, at den studerende er i stand til at gennemføre egne analyser med afsæt i en litteraturgennemgang af eksisterende forskning.” (This also implies that the student can carry out own analyzes based on a literature review)

Lasse said that the motivation behind this is to give the assessors the opportunity also to assess the students on their ability to conduct literature searching.

7) News from head of studies

Merlin thanked the Study board for a productive semester, where a lot of problems have been “tackled”.

8) News from Chair of the Study Board

Lasse informed about a slight but necessary change in the formulation of the Departments AI-policy. It is necessary to explicitly state that a missing AI declaration will lead to administrative rejection of an exam assignment. Lasse will pass around this addition for written approval of the revised formulation.

9) News from the Student Services

On behalf of the study advisory Troels asked the student representatives to find a few graduates to ask them if they could come for the introduction days to tell the new students about their experiences with Sociology.

Troels said that 93 Quota 2 Applications have been assessed. The process was efficient and effective. While 20% will be admitted in Quota 2 (the highest percentage at faculty), we don't yet know how many of the 93 applicants will receive admission offers through quota 1. Responses to these applications will be sent by the end of July, coinciding with Quota 1 notifications. All management is handled within FA Admission, and we are not directly involved in the process.

Merlin said that one of the reasons for the good experiences were the improved exam questions. The students had 1½ hour and 500 words to describe why more babies die at Lolland compared to Frederiksberg. SIDE 5 AF 5

Merlin is interested in the dropout rate for Quota two and asked Troels to get them for the next board meeting.

From July 1st to August 2nd the Study Advisory is available via phone and drop-in visits, but with reduced hours. Booked appointments are suspended during this period.

In August and September, due to shortage of staff, the Study Advisory will open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for inquiries.

Anemone has dropped out of the Study Board. Eskild and Asmus will decide who will step-in as full students' representative.

10) News from the student representatives

Feedback and opening hours were briefly discussed. The students asked for more written feedback. Jonas and Lasse answered that written feedback will take too many resources and encouraged the students to use the office hours instead.

11) Any other – business

It was agreed that the next Study Board meeting will be held 2nd September 2024 10-12.