



30. SEPTEMBER 2024

## MINUTES

**Forum** Study Board of Sociology

**Meeting held** 30.09.2024

**Location** Room 16.2.55

**Minutes taker** Troels Baagland

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### Present

**Board members:** Lasse Suonperä Liebst, Jonas Toubøl, Mengni Chen, Pia Cecilie Enevoldsen, Mira Chatterji Rosen Sørensen,

### Guests

Merlin Schaeffer, Hanne Kraak and Troels Baagland

### Absent,

Signe Staun Kelly, Anemone Frederikke de M Dalsgaard, Askil Brandt Broegaard Ryan, Jens Roesdahl Lange, Nina Stenvang Holmsgaard, Asmus Oliver Lewis

### Agenda – open meeting

**1) Approval of minutes/agenda /Lasse**

The agenda and the minutes from the 2. September was approved.

**2) Course Evaluation/Merlin**

The following courses were talked about:

- Sociological Project Design. Many positive comments and generally well evaluated. SIDE 2 AF 6
- BA-project – generally the students appreciate the cluster-supervision and the full-plan for the semester it is good to know the deadlines. They feel under pressure for having Applied Case Analysis in the same semester – it is too much with these two activities at the same time.
- Jonas asked if it would be possible to have a supervisor’s weighted average across the clusters. Instead of a rating for each cluster. Troels think it is possible to have these result automatically.
- Academic internship - only two out of eight responded to the evaluation request. And no specified comments.
- Summer courses – also too few responses to make any conclusions or follow-ups.
- A technical problem had happened at Claire summer course, which was not evaluated at all (NB! Troels has looked further into this, the reason behind this is that Claires course was decided at a late stage, and therefore was not automatically enrolled in the evaluation system).
- Too few responses make it relevant to look into the incitement structure to raise the response-rate.

### 3) Default period for evaluation

The Study Board thinks that the current periods are fine:

*Evaluation of the teaching in the Autumn*

Set Up period	15. November – 30. November
Evaluation Period	1. December – 15. December
Access to Evaluation results	15. December

*Evaluation of the teaching in the Spring*

Set Up period	15. April – 30. April
Evaluation Period	1. May - 15. May
Access to Evaluation results	15. May

### 4) Methods Courses at the first semester

Jonas explained that he considered the problem as solved. He saw the high number of students taking “Mixed Methods” this semester as a sign, that they are ”Catching up”. The solution was to reduce the number of portfolios from 5 to 3. Jonas thinks that the only remaining part is get this better communicated to the students. SIDE 3 AF 6

The student representatives were still doubtful if everything was solved. Especially they think that it is problematic, that alle the three activities at the 1. semester have portfolio-exams, therefore it could be helpful to change exam form in “Fagpakke” or “Advanced Data Analysis”.

Pia pointed out that the SU is reduced to 5 years next year, which also encourages the students to stop postponing activities.

It was discussed if it is appropriate to have a 15 ECTS activity at the 1 semester at the MA “Fagpakke”, is it too heavy?

Jonas said that the postponing is also a result of the students putting their efforts into study jobs.

Thereafter it was discussed if 8 portfolio assignments are too much, and also if 10-20 pages is too much, and if it is an advantage to reduce number of pages the students most deliver. On the other hand, if shorter papers, then then the students don’t have the space to develop an argument. Lasse said if there only is an upper limit, then the students don’t have to use all the space.

Then followed a discussion about which courses are best suited to change exam form. It was mentioned that it is inappropriate to change exam for one of the fagpakkefag, since they should follow the same structure.

Then Merlin presented a suggestion to swap the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, move Mixed Methods to the second semester, and one elective from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> semester. This was supposed to ease the workload, and, more important, this would ensure the students a useable mobility window. As it is now, the students don’t have good possibilities to use the mobility-window, since they have to make decisions before even being admitted to the master, this could be solved by the alternative structure presented by Merlin:

1. år	1. semester		2. semester	
	Fagpakkefag	15 ECTS	Sociologisk innovation	15 ECTS
	Frie valgfag eller sociologisk valgfag	7,5 ECTS	Mixed Methods	7,5 ECTS
	Avanceret dataanalysefag	7,5 ECTS	Sociologisk projektdesign	7.5 ECTS

2. år	3. semester		4. semester	
	Mobilitetssemester: Frie valgfag, sociologiske valgfag, projektorienteret forløb eller udveksling	30 ECTS	Speciale	30 ECTS

Then followed a discussion about if this is a big or a small reform. Hanne and Troels will find out before the next study board meeting.

#### 5) Exam Form – Written paper/Merlin (11.15-11.25 /10 min.)

There is a need to inform VIP colleagues about the rules for written paper. It was suggested that Merlin reminds them in November.

#### 6) Electives

It was discussed if there should be a summer course in “Sociology of Globalisation”? Nicole has two Course suggestions with a global focus (“Migration” and “Globalisation and the global South”), Merlin will talk to her about what she prefers. The exam form is with “active participation”

Christian Borg take over Critical Rereading in the coming semester. Also, it is considered to change the course from compulsory to elective. Troels will look into the STADS-Aspects of this suggestion.

A short discussion arose about the need for students to have better presentation skills (What people say they miss after they have graduated).

It was considered if giving presentations should become a part of the “active participation” in the electives. I was decided to have this on the agenda at the next Study Board meeting. SIDE 5 AF 6

**7) Comparison of the dropout rate – Quota 1 vs Quota 2 /Merlin (11.30-11.35 /5 min.)**

Merlin expressed overall satisfaction with the dropout rate, that had fallen dramatically for both the quota 1 and 2 intake.

The dilemma with the loss of students to other SAMF programs (Psychology and Political Science) was mentioned. If the students stay “inhouse” (at SAMF), why should this be a disadvantage for Sociology.

Also, it was mentioned that the Key Figures (Nøgletal) are made continuously stricter. When we meet the target, then we (the Faculty) make them harder.

**8) Program Report/Merlin (11:35-11:45 min.)**

The Program Report has already been approved by the associate dean for education. The Study Board think it was a good report.

**9) Study Environment Survey 2023 – The Faculty’s Action Plan**

In the Action plan four focus areas have been identified as being of particular relevance for Faculty of Social Sciences: 1. Feedback 2. Well-being and a balanced student life 3. Inclusive and diverse student communities 4. Students with special needs.

The Study Board found the initiatives good, but also pointed out, that there are many things that the university can’t solve, such as stress because of external pressure (e.g. student jobs) “there are other actors in the world than the university”.

Then it was mentioned by one VIP Member, that the discourse is sometimes problematic. There is a push the everyone to be able to take any education. If a student in Sociology is feeling discomfort with interacting with other human beings, this is problem since this is an important skill for sociologist.

In general, the Study Board Good after all saw the action plan as good concrete actions. Also, this reminded the members of the responsibility of reaching out for the disabled students, and to inform them about the available resources. There are also “different things” that the lectures can

do to include the student mores. Regarding that, it was (again) mentioned that the office hours are not being used sufficiently by the students. SIDE 6 AF 6

**10) Study Start /Merlin (11.45-11.50 /5 min.)**

Item postponed to the next study board meeting

**11) News from head of studies**

Merlin mentioned that Law had taken the “Lions share” in the cutback in student intake. Originally Sociology stood to a cutback of 15 students, but it came down to 8 students.

**12) News from Chair of the Study Board? /Lasse**

Nothing new.

**13) News from the Student Services /Nina**

Troels informed, that Thea Lytsen will take over from Nina as Study advisor for Sociology

**14) News from the student representatives**

The student representatives informed about a meeting with the students, where Melin informed about the Reform work and what the Sociology Programs should be in the future.

The students expressed s need for more focus on Post-colonialism, but could live with a compromise on this item (a more global focus diverse focus) .

**15) Any other – business**

It was agreed that the next Study Board meeting will be 28 October 10-12