



24. FEBRUARY 2025

## MINUTES

**Forum** Study Board of Sociology

**Meeting held** 04.02.2025

**Location** Room 16.1.62

**Minutes taker** Troels Baagland

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 2A  
KØBENHAVN K

DIR 35 32 33 68

tcb@samf.ku.dk

### Present

**Board members:** Lasse Suonperä Liebst, Jonas Toubøl, Mengni Chen, Pia Cecilie Enevoldsen, Mira Chatterji Rosen Sørensen, Rebekka Eltang Lynbech, Christian Fischer Krarup, Mira Chatterji Rosen Sørensen (alternate), Halfdan Temple (Alternate),

### Guests

Thea Lytsen, Merlin Schaeffer and Troels Baagland

### Absent,

Hanne Kraak, Signe Staun Kelly

### Agenda – open meeting

#### 1) Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved

#### 2) Constitution of the new Study Board /Lasse

There was a short introduction to the members of the Study Board.

The rules of procedure and the Joint delegation letter for the study boards at the Faculty of Social Sciences were approved without revisions.

The Study Board re-elected Pia Cecilie Enevoldsen as Vice Chairperson of the board.

Merlin Schaeffer has agreed to continue as Head of Studies until May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Study Board decided to recommend Merlin for this period (March and April).

The Study Board elected students Christian Fischer Krarup and Jakob Demant (VIP) for the sub-committee for credit transfer and exemptions.

### 3) Approval of course catalogue of the upcoming academic year

Merlin gave a presentation of the courses catalogue.

First, he mentioned that there will be two Summer Courses (Summer 2025).

- Discrimination: Conceptualization, Causes, Measurement and Counteraction, by Diana-Roxana Galos (Summer 2025)
- Social networks, by Andrew Christopher Herman (Summer 2025)

Merlin said that the electives offered in Autumn (2025) would be the same as were offered in the Autumn 2024:

- Sociology of family and population studies by Mengni Chen and Claire Maxwell,
- Protest movements, Culture, and Social Change by Noicole Doerr
- Financialization and the Sociology of Finance by Christian Borch
- Sociologiske studier af Arktis: Danmarks kolonialisme og arven derefter, by Benedikte Brincker

The spring semester (2026) will also be a repetition of the earlier offered courses (spring 2025). Merlin mentioned the following electives.

- Experimental Sociology by Fridolin Merhout
- Critical theory: Capitalism, Democracy and Inter-Sectionality, by Mikael Carleheden
- Sociology of Gender and Sexuality by Sidsle Harder  
consumption, Lifestyle, and the Climate

The study board approved the list of courses mentioned at the meeting.

#### **4) Plan of the work of the Study Board, spring 25 /Lasse**

SIDE 3 AF 7

The study board Scheduled 4 meetings for the spring semester:

- 4th March: 10:00 - 12:00
- 1st April: 10:00 - 12:00
- 6th May: 10:00 - 12:00
- 10th June: 10:00 - 12:00

Lasse provided a brief overview of the main tasks for the Study Board in the coming year. He mentioned that the Study Board will need to work on both the MA and BA programs. Initially, the focus will be on the BA, with the MA to be reformed later. It is still unknown if Sociology will be converted to a 75 ECTS MA (see item 6). However, if that happens, the Study Board has already prepared a new model that could work.

Merlin emphasized that the Study Board needs to be mindful of the available resources, as there are limited teaching resources. To avoid excessive double teaching, he recommended implementing the curriculum reforms step by step. Additionally, the university is implementing a major administrative reform starting on March 1st, 2025.

Pia mentioned that the Study Board must not forget to include evaluations during the implementation. How does it work for the teachers? How does it work for the students? Evaluations should preferably be done before the autumn semester when the new cohorts start.

The Study Board also needs to implement the new exam forms mentioned in the exam catalogue. It is important to review and ensure consistency in the new exam forms and specific decisions.

There was a discussion about the length of the BA and Master theses, where a maximum number of pages is set. This is often misunderstood by students as if they should always write up to the limit. Should a lower limit also be set in the curriculum?

#### **5) New BA curriculum to start in Autumn 2026/Merlin**

Merlin explained the content and structure of the proposed new BA-curriculum:

**Proposal: New 2023-BA-Curriculum**

<b>1. Semester</b>	<b>2. Semester</b>
Samundsmæssige problemer (7,5 ECTS) Sociologien i det danske samfund (7,5 ECTS) Survey Design (7,5 ECTS) Grundlæggende kvalitative metoder (7,5 ECTS)	Sociologisk teori og faghistorie (7,5 ECTS) Videnskab og samfund (7,5 ECTS) Basic Statistics (7,5 ECTS) Gender, Ethnicity, og Post-Colonialism (7,5 ECTS)
<b>3. Semester</b>	<b>4. Semester</b>
Videregående kvalitative metoder (7,5 ECTS) Multiple Regression OLS and Causal inference (7,5 ECTS) Kultur, livstil og hverdagsliv (7,5 ECTS) Contemporary Sociological Theory (7,5 ECTS)	Viden, Organisation og politik (7,5 ECTS) Computational Methods (7,5 ECTS) Or Digital Qualitative Methods (7,5 ECTS) Velfærd, ulighed of mobilitet (7,5 ECTS) Fri valgfag (Anvendt) (7,5 ECTS)
<b>5. Semester</b>	<b>6. Semester</b>
Mobilitetssemester (30 ECTS)	Metodologi og undersøgelsesdesign (7,5 ECTS) Sociology of Marginalized Groups and Deviant Behaviour (7,5 ECTS) Bachelor Project (15 ECTS)

The Activities marked with green are the new activities.

Merlin believes the BA program in Sociology is strong overall, with solid methods and theory foundations. However, there are concerns about the lack of choices and the need to change a few courses, such as "Critical Reading and Re-analysis" and "Applied Case-Study Analysis."

Suggestions include introducing more freedom by offering two statistics courses in the 4th semester instead of a third method course to provide more choices and increasing the number of electives in the BA program.

The new curriculum aims to improve coherence by having "Contemporary Sociological Theory" in the 3rd semester as a direct continuation of the 2nd semester course "Sociological Theory in a Historical Perspective."

Lasse mentioned that the courses "Digital Qualitative Methods (Qualitative 3)" and "Computational Methods" are also meant as preparation courses for courses at the Master's program.

Some board members noted that existing courses might be repeated in the Master's program if the course descriptions are not updated. The connection between the BA and MA courses must be clear.

The Study Board considered integrating more exams to reduce the number of exams and manage the workload better, especially in the third semester.

Merlin will present these concerns at the next staff meeting in March, with a vote in the Study Board planned for April.

Mengni questioned why "Sociology of Marginalised Groups and Deviant Behaviour" is a compulsory course and suggested offering it as an elective instead.

Jonas also suggested placing electives in the 6th semester, preferring this over "Sociology of Marginalized Groups and Deviant Behaviour" (exam form: active participation), as the latter might be deprioritized by students.

Merlin mentioned that the department does not have the staff to introduce more electives in the BA program, and also the rules regarding sufficient external censorship must be met (electives are without external censorship).

Pia expressed concern that four exams in the fourth semester are too many and suggested integrating some of them. Merlin noted that integration demands coordination, which is difficult with so many courses.

Lasse added that integrating exams also reduces choices and concluded that it is necessary to review the exam forms.

Pia noted that there is only one integrated exam left, for "Culture, Lifestyle and Everyday Life" and "Advanced Qualitative Methods," which Merlin confirmed.

Pia suggested considering the possibility of a block structure in the 4th semester, where students would have 3 hours of teaching per week to spread the workload at the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.

It was mentioned by some to have more active participation and student peer feedback groups on papers turned in by the students.

Lasse mentioned that place-based examination is also a possibility and feared that active participation might lower student dedication.

Lasse suggested renaming the course "Gender, Ethnicity, and Post-Colonialism" to "Gender, Ethnicity, and Global Perspectives," a title he thought was more inclusive and nuanced.

SIDE 6 AF 7

Merlin preferred to keep this discussion separate from the overall BA Reform.

The Study Board concluded to leave the 1st and 2nd semesters as they are.

Overall, the Study Board agreed that the BA Reform looks very promising.

Merlin mentioned that the next step is to present the Reform at the staff meeting in March and with a vote planned for April in the Study Board.

Lasse emphasized that, thanks to Merlin and the reform group, Sociology is now at a brilliant point of departure for the Study Board. Many thoughts have been put into this.

#### **6) Status on the master Reform/Merlin**

During the autumn the Study Board has been presented for various suggestions for 1-year and 2-year Master Programs. It remains uncertain whether Sociology will ultimately offer a 1-year or 2-year Master program.

Starting in 2028, SODA, GD, and SRM programs will all be converted to 75 ECTS programs due to the Master Reform.

The next steps in the Reform will be implemented in 2030 and 2035. Sociology is highly dependent on Aalborg and Aarhus, and on whether the Faculty can successfully provide 135 places for the professional Master (erhvervskandidater).

Sociology has earlier suggested offering a Professional Master in cooperation with Economics and Political Science, but this has been declined.

#### **7) Briefing from head of studies**

Nothing further

#### **8) Briefing from Chair of the Study Board**

Nothing

#### **9) Info from the Study Advisory**

Thea mentioned that the administration reform has meant that the Students Services across the university will have the same phone number for all. The

Drop in service now offered at SAMF will be phased out. Will be still be possible to have appointments with the Study Advisory. SIDE 7 AF 7

**10) Info from the Study Administration**

Nothing

**11) Other Things**

Nothing further – next Study Board Meeting will take place 4<sup>th</sup> March 10-12.