**The Process of Research I: Theories and Methods:  
Schedule and reading instructions**

Fall 2024

**Örjan Bartholdson**  
orjan.bartholdson@slu.se

**Cristian Alarcón Ferrari**Cristian-Alarcon.Ferrari@slu.se

**Date Time Venue**

**Tuesday 3 September 09.00-10.00 Venue: Lecture room N**

**Introduction**

**10.15-12.00 Venue: Lecture room N**

**Why do we need theory: the act of theorizing  
Linking research problems, methodology and theory**

Lecturer: Örjan Bartholdson

Required Reading

Hacking, Ian. 2000. Why Ask What? The Social Construction of What? Cambridge. Harvard University Press. Pages 1-35

Inglis, David. 2012. An Invitation to Social Theory. Cambridge. Polity Press. Pages 1-37

Swedberg, Rickard. 2012. Theorizing in sociology and social science: turning to the context of discovery. In *Theory and Society*. Vol. 41: 1-40

**Tuesday 3 September 13.15-15.00 Venue: Lecture room ‘the Aula’**

**Philosophy of science and the development of theorizing**

Lecturer: Örjan Bartholdson

Required Reading

Bratton, John, Denham, David. 2014. Emile Durkheim: The rules of sociological method and on Suicide. The division of labour in society. *Capitalism and classical social theory*. University of Toronto Press. Pages 183-204

Parsons, Keith. 2014. *It started with Copernicus. Vital Questions about Science.* New York. Prometheus Books. Pages 19-45

**Thursday 5 September 10.15-12 Venue: Seminar room O1**

**13.15-15 Venue: Seminar room O1**

**Discussion seminar: How to sketch a research problem**

**Monday 9 September 10.15-12.00 Venue: Lecture room N**

**Marxist inspired social theory**Lecturer: Örjan Bartholdson

Required Reading

Inglis, David. 2012. Marxist and Critical Theory Paradigms. In *An Invitation to Social Theory*. Cambridge. Polity Press. Pages 62-85

Wolf, Eric. 1982. Modes of Production. The Fur Trade. In *Europe and the People Without History*. Berkely. University of California Press. Pages 73-100, 158-194

**Monday 9 September 13.15-15.00 Venue:** **Ratatosk, the VHC building**

With Marx in Colombia: An example of an ethnographic Marxist fieldwork

Lecturer: Oscar Jansson

Required reading:Same as in the morning

**Tuesday 10 September 10.15-12 Venue: Lecture room N**

**13.15-15 Venue: Lecture room P**

**Discussion seminar: Marxist inspired social theory**

**Thursday 12 September 13.15-15.00 Venue: Ratatosk, VHC building**

**The birth of social theory and the problems it addressed:**

**Social disintegration, class hierarchy, urbanism, rural change, and colonialism**

Lecturer: Cristian Alarcon

Required Reading:

Bratton, John, Denham, David. 2014. Capitalism and classical social theory. Introduction: Why classical social theory? Pages 1-22. University of Toronto Press.

Inglis, David. 2012. An Invitation to Social Theory. Cambridge. Polity Press. Pages 38-61

**Monday 16 September 10.15-12 Venue: Lecture room S**

**How people organize themselves and how they perceive the world:  
Social organization, social structure, culture and institutions**

Lecturer: Örjan Bartholdson

Required reading

Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. Chapter 3, 4, 5. *Small Places, Large Issues. An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*. Pages 30-81

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1992. *Death Without Weeping. The violence of everyday life in Brazil*. University of California Press. Part of chapter 1, chapter 3. Pages 31-36, 49-64, 98-127

**Monday 16 September 13.15-15.00 Venue: Lecture room Z**

**Identifying and theorizing the social in Pajala**

Lecturer: Katarina Landström

Required Reading

Landström, Katarina. 2023. Chapter 7. Final Trembling moments. *The Specter of Community: An Ethnographic Exploration of the Local Support for the Kaunisvaara Mine*. Doctoral Thesis No. 2023:61. Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences. SLU. Uppsala. Pages 101-116.

Meiksins Wood, Ellen. 2012.The Ellen Meiksins Wood Reader, edited by Larry Patriquin. Brill. Pages 18-61

**Tuesday 17 September 10.15-12 Venue: Seminar room ‘Hebbe’**

**13.15-15 Venue: Seminar room ‘Hebbe’**

**Discussion seminar: How to theorize and analyze social and cultural aspects**

**Thursday 19 September 10.15-12 Venue: Lecture room K**

**Concepts in historical materialism (means of subsistence and production, modes of production and social classes) and livelihood analysis**

Lecturer: Cristian Alarcon

Required Reading:

Wolf, Eric. 1982, Europe and the people without history, pages 73-100 (chapter 3, modes of production)

Cohen, G.A. 2000. Karl Marx's Theory of History. A defense. Pages 63- 87 (chapter 3)

Recommended reading

Bennholdt‐Thomsen, Veronika. 1982. Subsistence production and extended reproduction. A contribution to the discussion about modes of production, The Journal of Peasant Studies, 9:4, 241-254

Scoones, I. 2016, Livelihoods, Land and Political Economy: Reflections on Sam Moyo’s Research Methodology, Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy 5(2&3) 221–239

**Thursday 19 September 13.15-15.00 Venue: Lecture room S**

**Marx, Weber and some key questions in the theorizing of power, conflicts and transitions**

Lecturer: Cristian Alarcon

Required reading:

Weber, Max. 1978. Economy and society: An outline of interpretive sociology. Vol. 1. University of California press. Pages 3-62 (Chapter 1), 302-307 (chapter 4)

Marx, Karl. 1973. Grundrisse. Pages 100-108 (the method of political economy)

Recommended reading:

Marx, Karl. 1990. Capital, Volume I. Pages 873-940 (Part 8, So-called primitive accumulation)

Meiksins Wood, Ellen. 2012.The Ellen Meiksins Wood Reader, edited by Larry Patriquin. Brill. Pages 18-61

**Monday 23 September 10.15-12.00 Venue: Lecture room S  
Conceptual frameworks and theories of the middle range**

Lecturer: Cristian Alarcon

Required Reading

K. Merton. 1949. *Social Theory and Social Structure.*The FreePress. Pages 39-53

Jonathan H. Turner. 2012. Theoretical Principles of Sociology, Volume 3, Mesodynamics. Springer. Pages 1-28 (Chapter 1)

Imenda, S. (2014). Is there a conceptual difference between theoretical and conceptual frameworks?. *Journal of social sciences*, *38*(2), 185-195.

**Monday 23 September 13.15-15.00 Venue: Ratatosk, VHC building**

**Political ecology, ideology and hegemony: A focus on legitimacy, legality and policy**

Lecturer: Cristian Alarcon

Recommended reading

Ong, Aihwa. 1983. “Global industries and Malay peasants in peninsular Malaysia.” In Women, men, and the interna- tional division of labor, edited by June Nash and Maria Fernandez-Kelley, 426–39. Albany: SUNY Press.

Collier, S. J. (2020). Global anthropology and the art of the middle range. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, *10*(3), 1052-1054.

Kaidesoja, T. J. (2019). Building middle-range theories from case studies. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A*.

**Thursday 26 September 10.15-12 Venue: Lecture room U**

**13.15-15 Venue: Lecture room U**

**Discussion seminar: What is political ecology and how is the concept used as a theoretical tool?**

**Monday 30 September 10.15-12 Venue: Lecture room N**

**How people make sense of their own life worlds: Phenomenology**

Lecturer: Örjan Bartholdson

Required Reading

Inglis, David. 2012. Phenomenological paradigms. The symbolic interactionist paradigm. In *An Invitation to Social Theory*. Cambridge. Polity Press. Pages 86-128

Jackson, Michael. Introduction. In *Things as They Are. New directions in phenomenological anthropology*. Indiana University Press. Page 1-50

**Tuesday 1 October 10.15-12 Venue: Lecture room N**

**How people interpret and act within their own life worlds**

**Hermeneutics and ethnomethodology**

Lecturer: Örjan Bartholdson

Required Reading

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight. *The Interpretation of Culture*. New York. Basic Books. Pages 412-454.

Sharrock, Wes & Button, Graham 1991: The social actor: social action in real time. In: Button, Graham (ed.): *Ethnomethodology and the human sciences.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (p 137 - 171)

**Exam**

**Deadline Wednesday 1 October 23.59**

**Literature**

**You will only have to purchase the books marked with a \*, that is, the first book mentioned on the list below.**

**Please note that some literature might be added to the list and some may be changed or omitted.**

Books:

\*Inglis, David. 2012. *An Invitation to Social Theory*. Cambridge. Polity Press.

Excerpts of Books:

Bratton, John, Denham, David. 2014. Emile Durkheim: The rules of sociological method and on Suicide. The division of labour in society. *Capitalism and classical social theory*. University of Toronto Press. Pages 183-204

Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. *Small Places, Large Issues. An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*. Pluto Press. Pages 30

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight. *The Interpretation of Culture*. New York. Basic Books. Pages 412-454.

Hacking, Ian. 2000. Why Ask What? *The Social Construction of What?* Cambridge. Harvard University Press. Pages 1-35.

Jackson, Michael. Introduction. In *Things as They Are. New directions in phenomenological anthropology*. Indiana University Press.

Kaidesoja, T. J. (2019). Building middle-range theories from case studies. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A*.

Marx, Karl. 1973. *Grundrisse*. Pages 100-108 (the method of political economy)

Meiksins Wood, Ellen. 2012.*The Ellen Meiksins Wood Reader*, edited by Larry Patriquin. Brill. Pages 18-61

Ong, Aihwa. 1983. “Global industries and Malay peasants in peninsular Malaysia.” In *Women, men, and the international division of labor* (ed. June Nash and Maria Fernandez-Kelley). 426–39. Albany: SUNY Press.

Rehmann, J. (2013). *Theories of ideology: The powers of alienation and subjection*. Brill. Pages 21-60

Robert K. Merton. 1949. *Social Theory and Social Structure.* The FreePress. Pages 39-53

Parsons, Keith. 2014. *It started with Copernicus. Vital Questions about Science.* New York. Prometheus Books.

Sharrock, Wes & Button, Graham 1991: The social actor: social action in real time. In: Button, Graham (ed.): *Ethnomethodology and the human sciences.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (p 137 - 171)

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1992. *Death Without Weeping. The violence of everyday life in Brazil*. University of California Press. Part of chapter 1, chapter 3. Pages 31-36, 49-64, 98-127

Turner, Jonathan H.. 2012. *Theoretical Principles of Sociology, Volume 3*, Mesodynamics. Springer. Pages 1-28 (Chapter 1)

Weber, Max. 1978. *Economy and society: An outline of interpretive sociology*. Vol. 1. University of California press. Pages 3-62 (Chapter 1), 302-307 (chapter 4)

Wolf, Eric. 1982. Modes of Production. The Fur Trade. In *Europe and the People Without History*. Berkely. University of California Press. Pages 73-100, 158-194

Articles:

Collier, S. J. (2020). Global anthropology and the art of the middle range. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, *10*(3), 1052-1054.

Ekers, M., Loftus, A., & Mann, G. 2009. Gramsci lives!. *Geoforum*, 40(3), 287-291.

Imenda, S. (2014). Is there a conceptual difference between theoretical and conceptual frameworks?. *Journal of social sciences*, *38*(2), 185-195.

Hughes, S., Davis, T. E., & Imenda, S. N. (2019). Demystifying theoretical and conceptual frameworks: A guide for students and advisors of educational research. *J Soc Sci*, *58*(1-3), 24-35.

Meyfroidt, Patrick, R. Roy Chowdhury, Ariane de Bremond, Erle C. Ellis, K-H. Erb, Tatiana Filatova, R. D. Garrett et al. "Middle-range theories of land system change." *Global environmental change* 53 (2018): 52-67.

Swedberg, Rickard. 2012. Theorizing in sociology and social science: turning to the context of discovery. In *Theory and Society*. Vol. 41: 1-40.

**Discussion and exercise seminars**

Discussion seminars will be held on Thursdays, 10.15-12 or 13.15-15, or at times on Tuesdays. The students will be divided into two main groups, which will be permanent throughout the course.

The seminars will mostly consist of practical exercises, focused on the act of theorizing and critical assessment.

Most Mondays, a text will be uploaded by the teachers on Canvas, which you shall first analyze on an individual basis, and then discuss jointly on the discussion seminar on Thursdays. When a seminar is held on a Tuesday, the text to be analyzed will be uploaded no later than the Thursday before the seminar.

A joint group paper shall be uploaded on Fridays, at the latest at 16.00. The discussion papers shall amount to approximately 1-2 pages. The text shall be in 12 pt. Times New Roman.

On Wednesdays I will be available on Zoom 10.00-12.00, for those who wish to discuss aspects of the course. We can discuss whatever you want to bring up, for example, aspects of the texts.

**Exam**

In order to pass the course, you have to upload your weekly discussion paper on Canvas before 16.00 on Fridays, together with the rest of your group, and be active during the discussion seminars.

Those students who wish to obtain grade 4 or 5 will also have to write a short exam and hand it in at the latest on Tuesday 1 October, 23.59. Submission of the exam does not guarantee a grade higher than 3 for the course. The exam will take approximately one week to accomplish. The students are requested to theorize around a specific research problem, either handed out by the teachers of the course or a problem that the student has come up with. If the latter is the case the problem must first have been approved by one of the teachers. The exam shall consist of approximately 4-5 pages and be around 2,000 words. The text must be double-spaced, and in 12 pt. Times New Roman.