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

Fall 2023

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

**Date Time Venue**

**Tuesday 29 August 09.00-10.00 Venue: A 241, Biocentrum**

**Introduction**

**10.15-12.00 Venue: A 241, Biocentrum**

**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

**Wednesday 30 August 10.15-12 Venue: A 241, Biocentrum**

**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

Martínez, Maria, Laura. 2009. Ian Hacking’s Proposal for the Distinction between Natural and Social Sciences. In *Philosophy of the Social Science*s. Vol. 39: 212-234

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

**Thursday 31 August 10.15-12 Venue: C212, Biocentrum**

**13.15-15 Venue: C212, Biocentrum**

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

**Monday 4 September Venue: A 241, Biocentrum**

**10.15-12.00  
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

**13.15-15.00**  **Venue:** **N, the teaching 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

**Tuesday 5 September 10.15-12 Venue: Loftets bankettsal, Loftet**

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

Lecturer: Cristian Alarcon Ferrari

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

Scoones, I. (2009), Livelihoods perspectives and rural development. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, *36*(1), 171–196.

**Thursday 7 September 10.15-12.00 Venue: C212, Biocentrum**

**13.15-15.00 Venue: C212, Biocentrum**

**Monday 11 September 10.15-12 Venue. Loftets bankettsal, Loftet**

**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

**13.15-15.00 Venue: Loftets bankettsal, Loftet**

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

Lecturer: Cristian Alarcon Ferrari

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

**Tuesday 12 September 10.15-12.00 Venue: A241, Biocentrum**

**Identifying and theorizing the social in Pajala**

Lecturer: Katarina Landström

Required Reading

Landström, Katarina. 2023. Chapter of the following book; soon to be announced. *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.

**Thursday 14 September 10.15-12 Venue: C212, Biocentrum**

**13.15-15 Venue: C212, Biocentrum**

**Monday 18 September 10.15-12 Venue: A241, Biocentrum**

**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

**Monday 18 September 13.15-15 Venue: Särimner. VHC, house 5**

**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.

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*.

**Tuesday 19 September 10.15-12.00 Venue: S, Ulls Hus**

**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)

**Thursday 21 September 10.15-12 Venue: C212, Biocentrum   
13.15-15 Venue: C212, Biocentrum**

**Seminar on phenomenology and hermeneutics**

**Monday 25 September 10.15 – 12.00 Venue: A241, Biocentrum**

**The interplay between structure and agency  
(Bourdieu and Giddens)**

Lecturer: Örjan Bartholdson

Required Reading

Bourdieu, Pierre; Wacquant, Lois. 1992. *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. Pages: 94-135, 167-173. Cambridge. University of Chicago.

Giddens, Anthony. 1986. Agency, Structure. *Central Problems in Social Theory. Action, Structure and Contradiction in Social Analysis.* Hong Kong. MacMillan. Pages 49-73

Inglis, David. 2012. Structurationist Paradigms. In *An Invitation to Social Theory*. Cambridge. Polity Press. Pages 208-234

**Monday 25 September 13.15-15 Venue: S, Ull’s building**

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

Lecturer: Cristian Alarcon

Required Reading

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

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

Recommended Reading

Scott, James. 1985. Hegemony and Consciousness (Chapter 8) in the Weapons of the Weak. Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance.

Laclau, E., andMouffe, C. 1985. Beyond the Positivity of the Social: Antagonisms and Hegemony. In: Hegemony and socialist strategy: Towards a radical democratic politics. Verso. Pages 93-148

**Tuesday 26 September 10.15 – 12.00 Venue: A241, Biocentrum**

**Agency, social fields and ideology**

Lecturer: Örjan Bartholdson

Required Reading

Bartholdson, Örjan, Abdallah, Jummane, Marquardt, Kristina, Salomonsson, Lennart. 2019. Is REDD+ More of an Institutional Affair than a Market Process? The Concealed Social and Cultural Consequences of an Ongoing REDD+ Project in Kolo Hills, Tanzania. In *Forests*. Vol. 10(618): 1-18  
https://doi.org/10.3390/f10080618

Swartz, David L. Chapter 2 and Chapter 3. *Symbolic Power, Politics and Intellectuals. The political sociology of Pierre Bourdieu*. Chicago. The Chicago University Press. Pages 30-78

Graeber, David. 2006. Beyond Power/Knowledge- an exploration of the relation of power, ignorance and stupidity. The Malinowski Memorial Lecture, 2006. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*. Pages 105 – 128

**Exam**

**Deadline Wednesday 27 September 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:

Bourdieu, Pierre; Wacquant, Lois. 1992. *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. Pages: 94-135, 167-173. Cambridge. University of Chicago.

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.

Giddens, Anthony. 1986. Agency, Structure. Central Problems in Social Theory.Action, Structure and Contradiction in Social Analysis. Hong Kong. MacMillan. Pages 49-73.

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

Swartz, David L. Chapter 2 and Chapter 3. *Symbolic Power, Politics and Intellectuals. The political sociology of Pierre Bourdieu*. Chicago. The Chicago University Press. Pages

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:

Bartholdson, Örjan, Abdallah, Jummane, Marquardt, Kristina, Salomonsson, Lennart. 2019. Is REDD+ More of an Institutional Affair than a Market Process? The Concealed Social and Cultural Consequences of an Ongoing REDD+ Project in Kolo Hills, Tanzania. In *Forests*. Vol. 10(618): 1-18  
https://doi.org/10.3390/f10080618

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.

Graeber, David. 2006. Beyond Power/Knowledge- an exploration of the relation of power, ignorance and stupidity. The Malinowski Memorial Lecture, 2006. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*. Pages 105 – 128

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.

Martínez, Maria, Laura. 2009. Ian Hacking’s Proposal for the Distinction between Natural and Social Sciences. In *Philosophy of the Social Science*s. Vol. 39: 212-234

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 each Thursday, 10.15-12 or 13.15-15. 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.

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 Wednesday 27 September, 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.