



Department of Sociology

### **A. PhD Course in Relational Sociology (Modern Theory 7,5 p)**

This course was reviewed by the Board of the Department of Sociology on June 8, 2017.

### **B. Course Details, Assessment, Grades**

This course is offered upon demand as a campus course on the readings listed under D, below. The course is examined on the basis of individual reflection papers (in English) and seminar individual participation.

The grades for the course are awarded as Pass or Fail. To receive a Pass, the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course and demonstrate an independent, reflective, well-informed and critical relationship to the issues presented in the course.

### **C. Learning Outcomes**

The importance of social relations is widely acknowledged in sociology. While some key proto-sociologists of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries “heard relational voices” (to borrow a phrase by Charles Tilly), it was not until the maturation of sociology in the second half of the twentieth century that conceptualizations of social relations were brought to the fore. Since then, many sociologists have built their intellectual edifices on social-relational foundations. Together these edifices cover a wide range of topics, philosophical presuppositions, and theoretical intends. Some of them offer general theories or epistemologies, others limit their scope within established fields of inquiry.

This course aims at distinguishing, comparing and discussing some key conceptualizations of social relations and their corresponding enveloping theories. It aims to cover both general theories and theories of more specialized intend. Among the latter, particular attention will be given to works in the fields of organizational sociology, political sociology, and the sociology of identity/social boundaries. By the end of the course the student should be able to:

- 1) summarize the various intellectual lineages covered in the reading material,
- 2) discern the various conceptualizations of social relations according to ontological, epistemological, and other orientational theoretical principles (power, agency, structure, culture, etc.),
- 3) critically examine crucial contributions to the field of today’s sociology, and
- 4) apply some of the ideas in the literature to a research problem.

### **D. Admission Requirements**

Applicants must be admitted to the Ph.D. program at the Department of Sociology, Lund University, or be accepted as a visiting student to that program.

### **H. Course Literature**

*Mandatory readings*

- Archer, Margaret. 2013. "Collective Reflexivity: A Relational Case for it." In C. Powell and F. Depelteau (eds.), *Conceptualizing Relational Sociology: Ontological and Theoretical Issues*. Palgrave.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 2014. *On the State: Lectures at the College de France, 1989-1992*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.
- Cook, K.S. and J.M. Whitemeyer. 1992. "Two Approaches to Social Structure: Exchange Theory and Network Analysis," *Annual Review of Sociology* 18: 109-127.
- Crossley, Nick. 2013. "Interactions, Juxtapositions, and Tastes: Conceptualizing 'Relations' in Relational Sociology." In C. Powell and F. Depelteau (eds.), *Conceptualizing Relational Sociology: Ontological and Theoretical Issues*. Palgrave.
- Depelteau, Francois. 2013. "What is the Direction of the 'Relational Turn'?" In C. Powell and F. Depelteau (eds.), *Conceptualizing Relational Sociology: Ontological and Theoretical Issues*. Palgrave.
- Donati, Pierpaolo. 2013. "Relational Sociology and the Globalized Society." In F. Depelteau and C. Powell (eds.), *Applying Relational Sociology: Relations, Networks, and Society*. Palgrave.
- Elias, Norbert. 2012. "Chapter Four: Universals of Human Society," in *What is Sociology?* Dublin: University College Dublin Press.
- Emirbayer, Mustafa. 1997. "Manifesto of a Relational Sociology," *American Journal of Sociology* 103(2): 281-317.
- Emirbayer, Mustafa. 2013. "Relational Sociology as Fighting Words." In C. Powell and F. Depelteau (eds.), *Conceptualizing Relational Sociology: Ontological and Theoretical Issues*. Palgrave.
- Erikson, Emily. 2013. "Formalist and Relational Theory in Social Network Analysis," *Sociological Theory* 31(3)
- Granovetter, Mark. 1973. "The Strength of the Weak Ties." *American Journal of Sociology* 78(6): 1360-1380.
- Fontdevila, Jorge and Harrison White. 2013. "Relational Power from Switching across Netdoms through Reflexive and Indexical Language." In Depeltau, F. and C. Powell (eds), *Applying Relational Sociology: Relations, Networks, and Society*. Palgrave.
- Fligstein, Neil and Doug McAdam. 2015. *A Theory of Fields*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Latour, Bruno. 2005. *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory*. Oxford University Press.
- Mische, Ann. 2011. "Relational Sociology, Culture, and Agency." In J. Scott and P. Carrington (eds.), *Sage Handbook of Social Networks Analysis*. London: Sage.
- Scott, John and Peter Carrington. 2011. *The Sage Handbook of Social Network Analysis*. Sage Research Handbooks.
- Tilly, Charles. 2005. *Identities, Boundaries, and Social Ties*. Paradigm Publishers.