

PhD Course - Nordic Geography Doctoral Network

Thinking Spatially: Cities, Nature and Society

Location: Lund University, Sweden

Dates: 3-7 December 2018

Credits: 7.5 ECTS

Maximum number of participants: 25

Keynote lecturers:

Cindi Katz (Graduate Centre, City University of New York)

Gunhild Setten (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

Erik Swyngedouw (Manchester University)

Organisers and lecturers:

Guy Baeten (Malmö University)

Louise Fabian (Aarhus University)

Anders Lund Hansen (Lund University)

David Pinder (Roskilde University)

Kirsten Simonsen (Roskilde University)

Course outline:

Questions of space, place and environment have become increasingly central to social research. The aim of this course is to consider the theoretical, methodological and political significance and consequences of thinking spatially, and to explore different approaches and concepts for so doing. Lecturers and participants will reflect together on the theories and theoretical perspectives that have informed their work, and on some of the challenges and debates involved in developing critical spatial imaginations. In the process they will engage with a range of substantive and contested issues concerning the relationships between urbanisation, nature and society.

The course is open to PhD researchers in human geography and other disciplines interested in the significance of space, place and environment for social life. Participants will be encouraged to consider how their theoretical approaches are situated within wider developments and controversies in social and spatial theory, both within and beyond the discipline of geography, and to explore the stakes involved in taking different positions within these debates. Among the questions to be addressed include: What is the significance of space for your research project? How might different theoretical approaches and concepts inform your work? How can you navigate the debates involved? Why is it important to consider the contextuality of spatial thought, in terms of how it has emerged and developed through specific historical and geographical settings? How do you understand the relationships between theory and method? What are the politics of geographical knowledge and research?

The course will involve lectures, panel debates, interactive workshops, presentations by participants and more informal discussions. A range of critical spatial approaches will be considered (including those associated with Marxism, feminism, post-

structuralism, phenomenology, practice theory, urban political ecology, forms of 'minor theory' and other philosophical approaches), with an emphasis on their implications for research practice. Throughout the course, participants will reflect on and discuss the uses of theory with each other and the course lecturers, with the aim of developing their understandings of the theoretical grounds for their own projects.

The course is funded by the Norwegian Geography Doctoral Network and will run for a week between 3 to 7 December 2018. It will be hosted by the Department of Human Geography at Lund University, with organisers drawn also from the Universities of Aarhus, Malmö, Roskilde and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Assessment is by a 5000-word essay that combines the course themes with your own research project. There is no registration fee and lunches will be provided during the course but you will need to cover your own travel, accommodation and further subsistence.

Registration deadline: 15 June 2018 (please send an abstract of maximum 500 words outlining your research project plus a short biographical statement to Mads Barbesgaard at mads.barbesgaard.2321@keg.lu.se). Those applying by that date will be notified about their participation by 30 June.

Further details about the event will be posted at: <http://geodoctoralnetwork.com>.