

International PhD Course: Regions in Transition

will be offered at Karlstad university on March 7-10 2017. The course will award 4,5 hp under the Swedish higher education point system.

The instructors for the course will be:

Dr. Martin Henning, Economic Geography, School of Business, Economics and Law
University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Dr. Hilde Ibsen, Risk and environmental studies, Centre for Regional Studies, Karlstad
University, Sweden

Dr. Frank Neffke, Center for International Development, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard
University, USA

Dr. Sharon Penderis, Institute for Social Development, University of the Western Cape, South
Africa

Course description

Regions appear as more or less stable entities located at fluctuation spatial levels or intersections of time and space in material, digital and immaterial terms. In general regions are identified, constructed and legitimized through for instance accessibility, administration, culture, heritage, economy, management, nature and natural resources, physical geography and politics. Regions are of special interest to research as space where top-down and bottom-up practices and processes meet, and different synergies and conflicts are played out. A regionalized approach for studying societal and scientific challenges is thus of importance for the staging of competing systems of governance and transition to sustainable development. The goal with the course is (1) to investigate forms of governing in relation to politicization, de-politicization, people-driven processes and local knowledge, especially in the context of regional governance; (2) to explore how economic processes are, or may be, played out in different regions in the past and present.

Organisation

The course is organized around presentation of papers and work-shops. The first day is reserved to the topic governance and the second day to sustainable transition. The next two days students participate at the 6th Conference of the Nordic Section of Regional Studies Association (NoRSA) that also takes place at Karlstad University, Sweden. The conference is hosted by Karlstad University in collaboration with Gothenburg University (for conference programme see: <https://www.kau.se/crs/konferenser/organizers-and-venue/regions-transition/conference-programme>).

The course will consist of participation in two work-shops each related to one of the two themes, presentation of papers in paper discussions and as an acting discussant on another student paper. In relation to the two work-shops all students are expected to read four scientific articles related to the two themes (articles to be announced later) and prepare for discussions.

Examination will occur by a final paper of approximately 5000 words based on one of the two topics, which will be handed in before the course starts (at February 23), thus being presented

and discussed during the paper discussions. After that the students will be able to hand in a new version, with comments from the discussant and teachers, approximately two weeks after the meeting in Karlstad.

The paper to be presented should be sent to hilde.ibsen@kau.se at February 23.

To apply

Send an email to Hilde Ibsen confirming your interest in taking the course and including an explanation of how the course might relate to your research interests. Due to the format of the course there is a limited number of places and we cannot guarantee everyone admission. Applications will be accepted, and the organizers will inform all applicants whether or not they are admitted shortly after the conference application deadline of February 6th. Don't forget to register at the conference!

Articles

Recommended literature

Preliminary schedule (subject to change):

Monday 6th March

18.00 Informal get together

Tuesday 7th March

Governance
10.00 Opening of PhD course
10.30 Paper presentations
12.00 Lunch
13.00 Work-shop with Sharon Penderis and Hilde Ibsen
15.00 Coffe break
15.30 Paper presentations
17.00 Closing of day one

Wednesday 8th March

Sustainable transition
09.00 Paper presentations
10.30 Coffe break
11.00 Paper presentations
12.00 Lunch
13.00 Work-shop with Frank Neffke and Martin Henning
15.00 Coffee
15.30 Closing of day two