Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 2018-06-12 and is valid from the autumn semester of 2018 at Karlstad University.

Doctoral study subject

Political Science

Course name

Kvantitativa metoder för kvalitativa forskare (Quantitative methods for qualitative researchers)

Credit points

7,5

Degree Level

Doctor

Language of Instruction

English or Swedish. Contact the course coordinator for information about the current language.

Target group and prerequisites

PhD-Students from social science disciplines. There are no requirements in terms of mathematical skills or previous experience with quantitative methods and computer software.

Aims

After completing the course, the doctoral student should be able to
– Theorize important concepts for quantitative analysis such as variables, population, sample, (statistical) significance, measurement, operationalization etc.
– Apply some of the most common techniques for quantitative analysis such as correlation, regression (OLS and Logistic) and principal component analysis
– Exemplify the usefulness of non-parametric statistical analysis with respect to social science data
– Compare and contrast different ontological and epistemological positions in quantitative and qualitative research traditions
– Describe new and emerging trends in quantitative research methods

Course Content

This course is designed for researchers who work mainly with qualitative methods but still want to develop versatile skills in terms of quantitative methods. As such, the course starts from the very beginning with basic quantitative reasoning as well as basic orientation in

software designed for quantitative analysis. While no previous knowledge of quantitative methods is assumed, the course moves fast, with a requirement of reading and working with practical cases and tasks in between scheduled workshops and seminars. Thus, in the course, we aim to facilitate a learning environment where students can develop comprehensive skills and knowledge with respect to some of the most commonly used quantitative techniques within the social sciences with little to no previous experience. In addition, we also exemplify the role of non-parametric statistics and introduce ways for analysing nominal and ordinal level data. Moreover, we devote some time to what may be called more recent advancements within quantitative analysis as we illustrate emerging trends in this regard. An important part throughout the course work is also to reflect upon questions of methodology. Therefore, we run a number of reading seminars where we address commonalities and differences between quantitative and qualitative reasoning as well as the effects of various epistemological and/or ontological positions.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

The assessment tasks are comprised of a series of formative assignments such as writing shorter papers and lab-reports as well as partaking in seminar discussions. In addition, a summative assignment is to author a "methods report" where students demonstrate their knowledge in relation to the intended learning outcomes.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course. The results will be used as a basis when developing and planning future courses.

Additional Information