National PhD Course: Economic Geography (7.5 ECTS credits recommended) in Uppsala, Lund and Göteborg, Sweden.

September–October 2017

Organizers
Patrik Ström & Martin Henning, University of Gothenburg (coordinators)
Johan Jansson, Uppsala University
Karl-Johan Lundquist, Lund University

Course description
The course is jointly arranged by economic geographers at the universities of Göteborg, Uppsala and Lund. It builds on a format developed during previous courses on the same theme, held every second year since 1997. The course offers an introduction to contemporary research perspectives and approaches in economic geography.

While the course primarily targets PhD students working on theses within economic geography, the course is designed to be accessible also to PhD students in human geography generally, as well as in related economic and social science disciplines. PhD students affiliated with Swedish geography departments taking part in the national collaboration on PhD courses in human geography are given priority, but also students from other universities in Sweden and beyond will be accepted if there are slots available. The course will be taught in English.

Course content and organization
The course introduces research questions, concepts and theories in contemporary economic geography, as well as examples of ongoing empirical research. The core questions of economic geography – related to the role of place and space in processes of economic development – have in recent years attracted interest not just from geographers but also from economists and others who study industrial and technological development, firm innovation processes, effects of economic integration and globalization, economic history, etc. Themes dealt with in the course include: economic geography as a (sub)discipline, regional specialization, agglomeration, industrial systems, networks, clusters and regional innovation systems, the geography of creativity, uneven regional economic development, industrial, innovation and regional policy, trade, gender, entrepreneurship, labour, evolutionary processes, branding, environmental issues etc.

The course is literature and discussion based. The participants will read a selection of 15-20 papers/chapters from one of several handbooks or companions of economic geography that have been published in recent years. In addition, there is a core curriculum of texts connected to the themes dealt with during the course, which will be read by every participant (approximately one article/paper per lecture). The lectures and seminars during the course will cover some but not all aspects of this literature.

There will be a mix of lectures and seminars held by the organizers and other teachers in the organizing departments, alongside guest lectures held by invited colleagues.

In the course, the student will a) develop an general understanding of questions, concepts and theories used in contemporary economic geography research, b) develop experience in discussing economic geography issues, using the concepts and theories developed during the course, and c)
develop a thorough understanding about the concepts and theories used in a selected sub-field of economic geography.

Grading
Grades given are pass or fail. In order to pass, the participating student is expected to take active part in the sessions arranged, read the literature, and by the time of the third and final course meeting have written a paper (4000-5000 words), related to the course literature.

Meetings and lectures (lecturers TBC)

First Meeting (two days), September 13-14 2017, in Uppsala (please note date)
During the Uppsala meeting the course will be introduced (with information about examination), and we will give examples of the various themes of economic geography at Uppsala University. The main focus at the meeting will be creativity, entrepreneurship, cultural industries, branding, clusters and urban and feminist economic geography. The first day involves a number of lectures. However, to initiate the important activity of networking, the day will start with an informal academic speed dating. The second day includes lectures and introduction to the written course assignment.

Programme: welcome address, introduction to the course, academic speed dating, lectures by Dominic Power, Brett Christophers, Rhiannon Pugh, Hang Kei Ho, Anders Malmberg, Alison Gerber, and Johan Jansson.

Second meeting (two days), October 5-6 2017, in Lund
The Lund meeting will provide examples of how economic geography is being practiced at Lund University but also how it increasingly is being merged with other sub disciplines in Human Geography, for example development geography and GIS. Main focus will be on evolutionary economic geography including topics such as technology shift and structural change, regional development and regional branching; core and periphery relations; labour market dynamics; and socio-technical transitions and geography.


Third Meeting (two days), October 26-27, in Göteborg
The meeting will focus on the close integration between economic geography on the one hand, and international business studies, innovation studies and labor market studies on the other. We also aim also to demonstrate the broadening of economic geography to micro-level studies, by the illustration of cases of the interface between formal and informal economies in the retail distribution sector in Southeast Asia.

Deadline for the course paper: October 22nd.

Course Fee
There is no course fee, but participants will have to cover all other costs (travel, accommodation, food, course literature etc.) by own arrangements.

The students are expected to take care of all practical arrangements concerning travels and accommodation themselves (the local organizers will however supply many good ideas).

Course Literature

Boschma, R. and Martin, R. (eds, 2011) The Handbook of Evolutionary Economic Geography, Cheltenham, Edward Elgar, (Ch:1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22)


Literature related to the lectures in each course meeting (approximately one paper/article per lecture) will be added to the final programme about two months prior to the start of the course.

Application
Applications are to be submitted to Martin Henning, martin.henning@handels.gu.se, by May 1, 2017 the latest. Notification on acceptance will be sent within two weeks of this date.

Application must include 1) name and academic affiliation 2) name of supervisor(s), year of enrolment in the PhD studies, and expected year of defense 3) discipline of PhD (formal) and a short description of the topic of the PhD research project.