

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

February - April 2022

Organizers

Johan Jansson (course leader), Uppsala University
Martin Henning, University of Gothenburg
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 a broad introduction to contemporary research perspectives and approaches in economic geography.

While the course primarily targets PhD students working on a thesis within economic geography, the course is designed to be accessible also to PhD students in human geography generally, as well as to students in related economic and social science disciplines. The course is 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, uneven regional economic development, industrial, innovation and regional policy, trade, gender and labour.

The course is primarily organized around lectures, seminars and reading of key 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. There is a core curriculum of texts connected to the themes dealt with during the course, read by all participants. In addition, the course invites the participant to a poster session presentation and walking-tours.

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 write a paper (about 5000 words), related to the course literature.

Deadline for submitting first draft of course paper: April 1st (one week prior to last meeting in Lund)

Deadline for final course paper: April 21

A course evaluation will be made after the course

Meetings and lectures

First meeting (two days), February 3-4, 2022 in Uppsala

During the initial meeting the course will be introduced with information on the syllabus (course structure, aim and examination). We will give examples of the various themes of economic geography at Uppsala University. The main focus at the meeting will be will labour, creativity, financialization, structural change, regional development and inequality, and urban and feminist economic geography. The first day involves with a number of lectures. The second day includes lectures and introduction to the written course assignment.

Programme: welcome address, introduction to the course and instruction to course assignment, poster presentation of PhD student's thesis topic and lectures.

Lectures by Brett Christophers, John Östh, Anders Malmberg, Don Mitchell and Johan Jansson and more, as well as invited international lecturer (tbc).

Second Meeting (two days), March 3-4, 2022, in Göteborg

The meeting in Göteborg 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 will also discuss drafts of the course papers.

Programme: lectures by, amongst others, Claes Alvstam, Sara Brorström, Martin Henning, Hanna Martin, Roman Martin, Rikard Eriksson (tbc).

Third meeting (two days), April 7-8, 2022 in Lund

During the Lund meeting we 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. Main focus will be on evolutionary economic geography including topics such as technology shift and structural change, regional development and the interplay between structure and agency; core and periphery relations; labour market dynamics; and socio-technical transitions and geography. Particular emphasis will be on how to operationalize theoretical concepts into empirical analysis.

Programme: Paper discussion session (discussion/feedback on first draft of course paper) and course evaluation.

Lectures by Karl-Johan Lundquist, Josephine Rekers, Markus Grillitsch and Mikhail Martynovich from the Lund department as well as from invited international guests (tbc).

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. PhD candidates from Departments of Human geography in Sweden make the arrangements with their home institutions.

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 (preliminary)

Clark, G.L., Feldman, M.P., Gertler, M.S. and Wojcik, D (eds, 2018) *The New Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Reading instructions course meeting 1, Uppsala: (Chapters: 9, 14, 16, 24, 25, 32, 35, 42)

Reading instructions course meeting 2, Göteborg: (Chapters: 12, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 45)

Reading instructions course meeting 3, Lund: (Chapters: 2, 7, 10, 11, 15, 18, 19, 41)

Literature related to the lectures in each course meeting (approximately one-two papers/articles 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 Johan Jansson (johan.jansson@kultgeog.uu.se), Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University by December 1, 2021 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.