Regional development – Nordic perspectives (7,5 ETCS)

Course convenors:

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Course description:
The purpose of this course is to introduce contemporary discussions and debates on regional development from a Nordic perspective. It will provide both theoretical conceptualizations and empirical research perspectives with a special focus on the Nordic countries. Regional development is a broad concept, and will be elaborated on and discussed taking into account the complexities and multi-dimensional features of uneven development, decline and economic recovery, population development, green transition and regionalization. The Nordic countries share several geographical caractheristics that impacts regional development: the organization of the welfare state, many vast sparsely populated areas, and big regional differences within each country. Nordic perspectives on regional development are not well resperesented in the mainstream literature in regional development, wherefor this course will provice useful perspectices that complements such literature. Through a Nordic focus we will offer opportunities for comparative perspectives as well as discuss common challenges and specificities of the Nordics, with emphasis on non-metropolitan regions.

The course participants will familiarize with and be challenged to problematize conceptualizations relating to regional development such as the rural-urban divide, pheriphery, sustainable development, regional policy, tourism and entreprenuship. The literature and lectures will cover a range of topics targeting the potentials and challenges faced by different public and private actors working in regional development in the Nordic countries. This includes issues of restructuring of industries and places, opportunities and challenges facing people working and living in Nordic non-metropolitan regions. All these topics are partly overlapping and will be tied together in the course through discussing and analyzing local and regional examples from the Nordic countries, aiming to understand how social and economic processes shape regional differences and specific local practices, and over time. As an example: Tourism development is the most frequently used policy in the Nordic countries for regional development in sparsely populated areas, what consequences does that generate for sustainable development or the development of other sectors through out the Nordics? The course will offer a general overview of concepts and current research as well as the opportunity to discuss specific cases and practical development implications of general processes for Nordic regions and municipalities.

The course will take place during three separate meetings in Dalarna and Örebro (see below). During these meetings, lectures given by invited leading researchers on regional development from the Nordic countries will be held (preferably physically, however we plan for on-line lectures as an option). In the course program, lectures will be mixed with seminar discussions, paper sessions and an excursion (destination TBA).

Invited lecturers:
International guests doing research in human geography and other disciplines with relevance for regional development from a Nordic perspective will contribute with lectures during the course.

Suggested literature (more titles will be added):

Books
Pike A, Rodriguez-Pose A, Tomaney J. (2017) *Local and Regional Development (2ⁿᵈ Edition).* Routledge

Lundmark, L., Carson, D. B., Eimermann, M., & SpringerLink (Online service). (2020). *Dipping in to the north: Living, working and traveling in sparsely populated areas* (1st 2020. ed.). Springer Singapore.

Koster R. L., Carson D. A.(Eds.)(2019) *Perspectives on rural tourism geographies: Case studies from developed nations on the exotic, the fringe and the boring bits in between* (1st ed.). Springer International Publishing.

Articles
Andersson, I. & Grundel, I. (2021). Regional policy mobilities: Shaping and reshaping bioeconomy policies in Värmland and Västerbotten, Sweden. *Geoforum*, 121, 142-151.

Eriksson, M. (2017). Narratives of Mobility and Modernity: Representations of Places and People Among Young Adults in Sweden *Population, Space and Place*, 23(2). https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.2002

James, L., & Halkier, H. (2016). Regional development platforms and related variety: Exploring the changing practices of food tourism in north Jutland, Denmark. *European Urban and Regional Studies, 23*(4), 831-847. https://doi.org/10.1177/0969776414557293

Jóhannesson, G. T. & Lund, K. A. (2018) Creative connections? Tourists, entrepreneurs and destination dynamics, Scandinavian Journal of Hospitality and Tourism, 18:1, S60-S74, DOI: 10.1080/15022250.2017.1340549

Herva, V. P., Varnajot, A. & Pashkevich, A. (2020) Bad Santa: cultural heritage, mystification of the Arctic, and tourism as an extractive industry, The Polar Journal, 10:2, 375-396, DOI: 10.1080/2154896X.2020.1783775

Mattsson, K. T., & Cassel, S. H. (2020). Immigrant entrepreneurs and potentials for path creating tourism development in rural Sweden. *Tourism Planning & Development, 17*(4), 384-403. https://doi.org/10.1080/21568316.2019.1607543

Makkonen, T, Kahila, P. (2020) Vitality policy as a tool for rural development in peripheral Finland. *Growth and Change*.: 1– 21. https://doi.org/10.1111/grow.12364

Morales, Diana & Sariego-Kluge, Laura (2021). Regional state innovation in peripheral regions: enabling Lapland's green policies, in *Regional Studies, Regional Science*, Vol 8, No 1.

Paasi, Anssi (2013) Regional Planning and the Mobilization of 'Regional Identity': From Bounded Spaces to Relational Complexity, *Regional Studies,* 47, https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2012.661410

Webster, N. A. (2017). Rural-to-rural translocal practices: Thai women entrepreneurs in the Swedish countryside. Journal of Rural Studies*, 56*, 219-228.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2017.09.016

Reference literature
Sagan, I., & Halkier, H. (2016;2005;). In Sagan I. (Ed.), Regionalism contested: Institution, society and governance. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315244907

Stenbacka, S. & Heldt Cassel, S. (2020). Periferi som process. YMER, Årsbok, Svenska Sällskapet för Antropologi och Geografi, SSAG. Stockholm.

Haarstad, H. & Rusten, G. (2018) Gronn omstilling. Norske veivalg. Universitetsforlaget, Oslo.

Planned form of examination:
Individual course papers marked pass/failed. Active participation in discussions and seminars required in addition to paper.

Dates and organization:
The course is planned to be organized fall semester 2022 and consist of three meetings, each three days long (starting noon day 1, ending noon day 3):

1st meeting: 26-28 September, Campus Örebro, Örebro University
2nd meeting: 26-28 October, Campus Borlänge/Falun, Dalarna University
3rd meeting: 30 November – 2 December, location TBA

Deadline for submitting course paper: 23 December 2022

Number of students:
Approximately 20 students. The course organizers aim to recruit partipants from all of the Nordic countries, however priority will be given to PhD students enrolled at departments participating in the national PhD programme in Human Geography.

Course fee:
There is no course fee, but participants will have to cover travel, accommodation etc. by own arrangements. PhD candidates from Departments of Human geography in Sweden make arrangements with their home institution.

Application
Deadline for applications: ***15th of April 2022***
Send application to: Ida Andersson (ida.andersson@oru.se). The application should include: name and contact information, number of years in PhD Program, name of supervisor(s), short description of thesis topic.