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

February - April 2020

Organizers
Martin Henning, University of Gothenburg
Johan Jansson, Uppsala University
Karl-Johan Lundquist (course leader), 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 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.

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.

Meetings and lectures
First Meeting (two days), February 6-7 2020, in Lund

During the Lund meeting the course will be introduced (with information about examination), and 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: welcome address, introduction to the course, poster presentation of PhD students thesis topic and instruction to course assignment. Lectures by Karl-Johan Lundquist, Josephine Rekers, Teis Hansen, Markus Grillitsch and Mikhail Martynovich form the Lund department as well as from invited international guests.

Second meeting (two days), March 12-13 2020, in Uppsala

During the Uppsala meeting 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: lectures by Brett Christophers, John Öst, Rhiannon Pugh, Anders Malmberg, and Johan Jansson, as well as invited international lecturers.

Third Meeting (two days), April 2-3 2020, 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 will also discuss drafts of the course papers.

Programme: lectures by Claes Alvstam, Sara Brorström, Martin Henning, Inge Ivarsson, Roman Martin, Jerker Moodysson, Anet Wetterings and other exciting people (tbc). Paper discussion session (discussion/feedback on first draft of course paper and course evaluation.

Deadline for submitting first draft of course paper: March 27

Deadline for final course paper: April 15

A course evaluation will be made after the course

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

Reading instructions course meeting 1, Lund: (Chapters: Introduction, 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 15, 18, 19, 40, 41)

Reading instructions course meeting 2, Uppsala: (Chapters: 6, 9, 14, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 32, 35, 38)

Reading instructions course meeting 3, Göteborg: (Chapters: 1, 4, 12, 17, 15, 19, 20, 21, 26, 45)

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 Karl-Johan Lundquist karl-johan.lundquist@keg.lu.se, Department of Human Geography, Lund University by December 1, 2019 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.