

Course Name:

Engaging with Normativity:

Normative Embodiment and Normativity in Medical/Technological Knowledge Practices and Policy-Work (6 hp, half-time course)

How can norms and values be expressed or enacted in/by/through bodies and technologies, and how can this be studied? How can norms come to be embodied and what does that mean for subjectivity and perception? How can norms be transformed and acquire different meanings when becoming part of different practices or networks? What are the implications of different stances on normativity within medical and technological knowledge practices or in policy-work? These are some of the questions that this course addresses.

Course language: English

Credits: 6,0 university credits

Course Objectives

On completion of the course, the PhD candidate will be able to:

- describe key theoretical positions on how to engage with normativity from within STS and feminist STS, feminist and other critical phenomenology, post-phenomenology, medical sociology, and philosophy of medicine;
- describe similarities and differences between these theoretical positions, and critically engage with strengths and weaknesses of them;
- form a basis for personal opinion on the relevance of these theoretical positions in relation to the PhD candidate's areas of research interest.

Course Content

The course gives an introduction to approaches that are central for researching normativity within STS and feminist STS, feminist and other critical phenomenology, post-phenomenology, medical sociology, and philosophy of medicine. It also engages with questions of how to address and engage with normativity in policy-work, for example on ethically pertinent questions. It presents key theoretical positions on how to conceptualize and analyze embodied normativity and normativity in perception; enacted normativity in different scientific, medical and other technological knowledge production practices, and normative dimensions of policy-making. The term normativity is understood broadly as including normative dimensions, norms and values, including ethical norms and values.

The course participants will be constantly challenged to discuss, critically examine, and compare various perspectives, approaches and concepts. They will read and discuss key texts and be familiarized with the debates on embodied normativity and normativity in perception, enacted normativity in different scientific, medical and other technological knowledge production practices, and normative dimensions of policy-making, from within the fields of STS and feminist STS, feminist and other critical phenomenology, post-phenomenology, medical sociology, and philosophy of medicine. They will also be given ample opportunities for reflection and discussion of perspectives, theories and concepts in past research on normativity, and relate this to their own research.

Course Organization

The course consists of a lectures, seminars, and conversations with authors of articles.

The course is designed to be participant-oriented in the sense that it maximizes active interactions as learning activities. This means not only that course participants are expected to have read the literature and prepared questions or reflections in advance, but also that the course is designed to give many opportunities for discussion with lecturers and with fellow course participants.

Requirements

Participation in the course requires that the student has a completed undergraduate degree and is currently accepted in a PhD programme that is relevant for the course.

Examination

The examination consists of the following components:

- Active participation in seminars.
- Preparation and presentation of questions for seminars and moderate one seminar.
- Write a course essay.

Those students who do not receive a passing grade two times for the course or for part of the course have the right to request a new examiner for a third examination.

Grades

Assessment will be pass or fail.