**Theory of science in spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management**

Ph.D. course organized by the Norwegian University of Life Science (UMB), Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning, October 2013

**Venue:** Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning, Syverudveien 3, Aas, Norway

**Time:** October 28-31, 2013

**Responsible persons:** Professor Petter Næss and Professor Inger-Lise Saglie

**Lecturers:**
- Professor Erling Berge, UMB/Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning
- Professor Anne Katrine Geelmuyden, UMB/ Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning
- Professor Raine Mäntysalo, Aalto University, Finland
- Professor Petter Næss, UMB/ Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning
- Professor Inger-Lise Saglie, UMB/ Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning
- Professor Tim Richardson, Swedish National Road and Transport Institute
- Postdoc Beata Sirowy, UMB/ Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning

**ECTS:** 5

**Main learning objective:**

After having completed the course, the Ph.D. students will possess good knowledge of the most important positions within contemporary discourses in philosophy of science. The course will enable the Ph.D. students to reflect on the implications of each of the main positions within philosophy of science for spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management, and for research within these areas.

**Requirements:**

All participants write and present a paper – approx. 5000 to 8000 words – which must be submitted electronically no later than October 11, 2013 to petter.nass@umb.no. Each participant will be given the role of opponent for one other participant’s paper. Papers will be distributed to the opponents shortly after October 18. It is therefore crucial that the deadline for paper submission is kept.

**Deadline for application:** October 1, 2013

**Application:** By email to Sheena Gilchrist Lisland, e-mail sheena.gilchrist.lisland@umb.no

**Economy and traveling:**

Participation is free of any economical charge. Participants cover their own travel and subsistence costs. Information about how to reach the course venue by public transport can be found at
Further information about Oslo and its surroundings, including cultural events in the days before, during and after the course, can be found at http://www.visitoslo.com/en/

Description: The aim of this PhD course is to provide opportunity for doctoral students to develop their meta-theoretical reflections. The course will present different strands within philosophy of science and involve the course participants in discussions about the implications of each of these meta-theoretical positions for research and professional practice within spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management. The lectures include a session providing a general overview of the main traditional positions within philosophy of science, as well as sessions where some influential contemporary strands (phenomenology, poststructuralism, critical pragmatism and critical realism) will be presented and discussed more in depth. The possibilities and limitations of ‘research by design’ will also be addressed, and at the end of the course there will be a presentation and discussion of main ethical challenges and dilemmas in research within the fields of spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management.

A considerable part of the course will be devoted to discussion of papers written by the participants and submitted to the organizers prior to the course. These papers should normally focus on the ontological, epistemological and methodological assumptions on which the participants’ PhD projects are based, but papers focusing on other topics relevant to the content of the course may also be accepted.

Program:

Monday, October 28

0930 – 0945
Opening of the course and presentation of participants

0945 – 1030
Erling Berge: Main positions within philosophy of science – an overview (Part 1)

1045 – 1130
Erling Berge: Main positions within philosophy of science – an overview (Part 2)

1145 – 1230
Discussion: What are the implications of the various positions to our fields of research?

1230 – 1330: Lunch

1330 – 1415: Beata Sirowy: Phenomenology. Main features, and what distinguishes it from other positions

1430 – 1515: Discussion: How can a phenomenological approach be useful in research within spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management? What are the implications of using this position as a general approach for research within these fields?
1530 – approx. 1700: Presentations and discussion of Ph.D. students’ papers submitted for the course. The presentations should last max. 10 minutes each, and the comments by the appointed opponents should last no more than 5 minutes, thus leaving time for at least 15 minutes of general discussion about each paper within a total time slot of approx. 30 minutes per paper. (If the number of participants turns out to be high, the paper presentation sessions will be divided into parallel tracks.)

**Tuesday, October 29**

0900 – 0945
Tim Richardson: Poststructuralism, power, knowledge and relativism

1000 – 1045
Discussion: How can a poststructuralist approach be useful in research within spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management? What are the implications of using this position as a general approach for research within these fields?

1100 – 1145
Raine Mäntysalo: (Critical) pragmatism.

1200 – 1245
Discussion: How can a pragmatist approach be useful in research within spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management? What are the implications of using this position as a general approach for research within these fields?

1245 – 1345: Lunch

1345 - 1430
Petter Næss: Some key ontological conditions for the possibility and meaningfulness of spatial planning, landscape design and land management

1445 - 1530
Discussion: How well do the traditional positions within theory of science fit with the conditions for spatial planning, landscape design and land management to be possible and meaningful?

1545 – approx. 1715: Presentations and discussion of Ph.D. students’ papers submitted for the course. (For details: see the similar part of Monday’s program)

**Wednesday, October 30**

0900 – 0945
Petter Næss: Critical realism

1000 – 1045
Discussion: How can a critical realist approach be useful in research within spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management? What are the implications of using this position as a general approach for research within these fields?

1100 - approx. 1230: Presentations and discussion of Ph.D. students’ papers submitted for the course. (For details: see the similar part of Monday’s program)

1230 – 1330: Lunch

1330 – 1415
Anne Kathrine Geelmuyden: Research by design

1430 – 1515
Discussion: Is research by design real research? What requirements must be met in order to justify the classification of research by design as a scientific method?

1530 – approx. 1700: Presentations and discussion of Ph.D. students’ papers submitted for the course. (For details: see the similar part of Tuesday’s program)

Thursday, October 31

0900 – 0945
Erling Berge: Ethical researchers: On the researchers’ relations to other researchers, students and colleagues, funding agencies, and on issues like plagiarism, publishing, etc.

1000 – 1100
Discussion: What are the main responsibilities and dilemmas as to being an ethical researcher within the fields of spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management?

1115 – 1200
Erling Berge: Ethics in research: On the researchers’ relations to people and organizations who are subject to research

1200 - 1245: Lunch

1245 – 1345
Discussion: What are the main ethical challenges and dilemmas regarding the conduct of research within the fields of spatial planning, landscape architecture and land management?

1400 – 1445
Erling Berge: Institutions to safeguard ethics in research and ethical researchers: On society’s regulations regarding ethical conduct within the researcher community and in relation to the objectives of research

1500 – 1600
Discussion: Are our research environments sufficiently aware of the ethical regulations? Is our practice in line with the regulations? Are the regulations themselves reasonable, or should they be changed?
Short evaluation and feedback on the content of the course, and closing session

**Required and recommended reading (not complete)**


