Theory of science in development and planning studies

Ph.D. course organized by the Norwegian University of Life Science (UMB), Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning, November 2014

Venue: Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning, NMBU, Aas, Norway

Time: November 17-20, 2014

Responsible person: Professor Petter Naess

Lecturers:
Associate professor Terje Kvilhaug, NMBU/Business School
Professor Anne Katrine Geelmuyden, UMB/ Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning
Professor Petter Naess, UMB/ Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning
Professor Tim Richardson, Swedish University of Agriculture
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, land management and public health policy, and for research within these areas. The course will also develop the participants’ skills in ethical judgments relevant to research within these fields

Requirements:
All participants write and present a paper – approx. 5000 to 8000 words – which must be submitted electronically no later than November 1, 2014 to petter.nass@nmbu . Each participant will be given the role of opponent for one other participant’s paper. Papers will be distributed to the opponents shortly after November 1. It is therefore crucial that the deadline for paper submission is kept.

Deadline for application: October 20, 2014

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 www.ruter.no. 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, land management and public health policy. 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, land management and public health policy.

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, or ethical dilemmas related to their research, but papers focusing on other topics relevant to the content of the course may also be accepted.

**Program:**

**Monday, November 17**

0930 – 0945
Opening of the course and presentation of participants

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

1045 – 1130
Terje Kvilhaug: 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, land management and public health policy? 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, November 18**

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, land management and public health policy? What are the implications of using this position as a general approach for research within these fields?

1100 – 1145  
Tim Richardson: (Critical) pragmatism.

1200 – 1245  
Discussion: How can a pragmatist approach be useful in research within spatial planning, landscape architecture, land management and public health policy? 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, land management and public health policy

1445 - 1530  
Discussion: How well do the traditional positions within theory of science fit with the conditions for spatial planning, landscape design, land management and public health policy 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, November 19**

0900 – 0945  
Petter Næss: Critical realism

1000 – 1045
Discussion: How can a critical realist approach be useful in research within spatial planning, landscape architecture, land management and public health policy? 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, November 20**

0900–1200
Workshop on ethical dilemmas in research within spatial planning, landscape architecture, land management and public health policy, conducted by Petter Næss and Tim Richardson

1200 - 1245: Lunch

1245 – 1445
Workshop on ethical dilemmas in research within spatial planning, landscape architecture, land management and public health policy, conducted by Petter Næss and Tim Richardson (continued)

1500 – 1530
Short evaluation and feedback on the content of the course, and closing session

**Required and recommended reading**


http://books.google.se/books/about/Planning_in_Ten_Words_Or_Less.html?id=ov-NKtgH58C&redir_esc=y.


