

## Research Frontiers in Economic Geography (7.5 ECTS credits)

February - April 2024

### Organizers

Karl-Johan Lundquist (course leader), Lund University

Rikard Eriksson, Umeå University

Martin Henning, University of Gothenburg

Johan Jansson, Uppsala University

### Course description

The course is jointly arranged by economic geographers at the universities of Göteborg, Uppsala, Umeå and Lund. 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. In addition, the course aims to provide space for discussion and critical reflections from students and teacher on if, and in what respect, economic geographical perspective can enrich other subfields of human geography and vice versa. 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. Themes dealt with in the course may include: economic geography as a (sub)discipline; the rise and dynamics of regional specializations, clusters and regional innovation systems; recent trends of uneven regional economic development; the economic geography of labour and regional economic policy.

The course is primarily organized around lectures, seminars and key readings. In addition, the course invites the participants to a poster session presentation as well as more interactive activities such as study visits and walking-tours. 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.

*First meeting:* introduction to the course and instruction to the assignments, poster presentation of PhD student's thesis topic, lectures/seminars and field trip. Preparations for the first assignment.

*Second meeting:* Lectures/seminars and field trip. Also, seminar discussion the first assignment as well as preparations for second assignment.

*Third meeting:* Lectures/seminars and field trip. Seminar discussion the second assignment as well as preparing for the final course assignment. Course evaluation.

#### *Examination*

The course examination consists of three parts:

First assignment – reflecting on the course literature and lectures/seminars at the first meeting of the course (about 2000 words). Deadline Friday March 1:st

Second assignment – reflecting on the course literature and lectures/seminars at the first meeting of the course (about 2000 words). Deadline Friday March 31:st

Final assignment – a final reflection connecting the first two course meetings with the material (literature/lectures/seminars) given at the third meeting. The final reflection should be about 3000 words. Deadline final paper is Friday April 28.

In order to pass, the participating student is expected to take active part in the sessions arranged, read the literature, and follow the instructions for the three assignments including a final reflection (a total of about 7000 words) related to the course literature and lectures/seminars. Grades given are pass or fail.

## Meetings and lectures

*First meeting (two days), February 8-9, 2024, in Umeå*

The meeting in Umeå will circle around rapid regional dynamics associated to large disinvestments and investments in both a historic and contemporary perspective. Focussing particularly on non-core areas, we will discuss themes like uneven development, the changing geography of jobs, labour migration, sustainability transitions, entrepreneurship, the relation between discourses and policy, and the interrelation between socio-economic change and processes of peripheralization. We will also discuss the first assignment and plan to make a field-trip.

Lectures by, amongst others, Madeleine Eriksson, Rikard Eriksson, Emelie Hane-Weijman, Diana Morales, Marcin Rataj, Aina Tollefsen.

*Second meeting (two days), March 7-8, 2024 in Uppsala*

During the meeting in Uppsala 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.

Lectures by Brett Christophers, Anders Malmberg, Don Mitchell and Johan Jansson and more, as well as invited international lecturer (tbc).

*Third meeting (three days), April 10-12, 2024 in Lund/Göteborg*

The meeting in Lund/Göteborg will focus on the close integration between economic geography on the one hand, and innovation studies and business/strategy on the other. During the Lund meeting 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; and the geography of innovation. We will then on the afternoon of the second day take the train to Göteborg, and discover the interchange between economic geography and business/strategy studies, for example within the field of International Business. The Göteborg visit will also include a field trip to one of the MNCs located in the city.

Programme: lectures by, amongst others, Karl-Johan Lundquist, Josephine Rekers, Markus Grillitsch and Mikhail Martynovich, Martin Henning, Hanna Martin, Roman Martin and Sarah Franz.

Detailed schedules for each meeting will be circulated to the students about a month before the meeting takes place.

### **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 (preliminary)**

Clark, G.L., Feldman, M.P., Gertler, M.S. and Wojcik, D (eds, 2018) *The New Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography*. Oxford University Press, Oxford (more detailed reading instructions will be given in connection with the invitation to the course).

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 course leader Karl-Johan Lundquist ([karl-johan.lundquist@keg.lu.se](mailto:karl-johan.lundquist@keg.lu.se)) Lund University by December 1, 2023 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.