Philosophy of science, 2 ECTS

Schedule Spring 2019

Monday, 25 February, 09.15-12.00, HC108 Humanisthuset, PM
Lecture 1: Scientific method
the distinction between formal and empirical sciences, scientific method in formal sciences: the traditional view on proof in mathematics and an alternative view, scientific method in empirical sciences: hypothetico-deductive method, statistical hypothesis testing, and inference to the best explanation

Readings:


Huygens, C. (1690). Treatise on Light. (Excerpt from the preface.)


Monday, 25 February, 13.15-15.00, HC108 Humanisthuset, PM
Lecture 2: Karl Popper’s falsificationism
the problem of induction and Karl Popper’s solution, falsifiability as a criterion of demarcation between science and non-science, objections to Popper’s views

Reading:

Tuesday, 26 February, 15.15-17.00, HC108 Humanisthuset, PM
Lecture 3: Thomas Kuhn and paradigms
Thomas Kuhn’s theory of the development of sciences, paradigms, anomalies and scientific revolutions, Kuhn’s thesis of incommensurability, puzzle-solving capability as a criterion of demarcation between science and non-science, developments after Kuhn

Reading:

Wednesday, 27 February, 13.15-15.00, HE109 Humanisthuset, PM
Seminar 1: Scientific method – a case study
A scientific research article will be discussed with regard to what hypotheses and evidence are presented, what methods are used, which background assumptions are made, what paradigms are used, what results are achieved, etc.
Reading:

Thursday, 28 February, 10.15-12.00, HE109 Humanisthuset, IBT
Seminar 2. The exact content of this seminar will be announced later.

Monday, 4 March, 10.15-12.00, HC108 Humanisthuset, PM
Seminar 3: Science and gender
The role of gender in science will be discussed. Each student is expected to reflect on the role of gender in his or her field or research project and give a short presentation to the seminar and hand in a written summary as a part of the examination of the course. (For detailed instructions, see the document “Instructions for seminar 3” on the course’s Cambro site.)
Seminar 3 is part of the examination of the course; students who do not attend actively must submit a make-up assignment (restuppgift).

Readings:


All the readings will be available as pdf:s on the course’s Cambro site.

Instructors

Peter Melander (PM), universitetslektor
Institutionen för idé- och samhällsstudier
Umeå University
peter.melander@umu.se

Inge-Bert Täljedal (IBT), professor emeritus
Institutionen för integrativ medicinsk biolog (IMB)
former Vice-Chancellor (rektor) of Umeå University
inge-bert.taljedal@umu.se