



## SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

### **Ethical and Methodological Dilemmas in Peace and Development Research, 7,5 higher education credits**

Etiska och metodologiska dilemman i freds- och utvecklingsforskning, 7,5 högskolepoäng,  
*Third Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

The course syllabus was confirmed by the School of Global Studies on 2017-01-11 to be valid from 2017-01-11.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* School of Global Studies

#### **Position in the Educational System**

The course is a compulsory course in the PhD Programme in Peace and Development Research. It is also offered to students from other third cycle programmes as a single subject course.

#### **Entry Requirements**

General entrance requirements for studies in the third cycle. Applicants must also prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS, or alternatively a bachelor's degree from an education held in English.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

- identify and discuss central methodological and ethical dilemmas in peace and development research;

##### *Skills and abilities*

- discuss and problematize the ways in which other researchers/students address methodological and ethical dilemmas in their research;
- independently describe and argue for the methodological design of the thesis – with a focus on data-collection and access to research contacts and interviewees;

### *Judgement and approach*

- independently and in a reflexive manner discuss the main ethical dilemmas attached to the methodological choices in the student's own PhD project, from feminist, post-colonial and/or other relevant critical perspectives.

### **Course Content**

The course addresses ethical and methodological dilemmas encountered by researchers in peace and development and related fields. Drawing on post-colonial, feminist and other critical perspectives it reflects on a range of problems a researcher encounters through the research process – from planning to data collection/production and analysis. These include the challenge of navigating unequal power relations between researcher and “researched”, the role and position of research assistants, interpreters and gatekeepers, conducting research in insecure and difficult environments and engaging in necessary but not excessive self-reflection. Ethical dilemmas are discussed in relation to concrete methods of collecting/producing data – mainly through interviews and ethnographic methods. The students will develop and argue for the methodological design of their thesis project – focusing on data-collection and access to research contacts and interviewees – and discuss the main ethical dilemmas attached to the methodological choices.

### **Form of Teaching**

The course is taught with a mix of lectures, readings, seminars, and the writing of papers.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

To pass the course, the student must:

- actively participate in seminars, including a final seminar where they present and comment on texts (if a student misses a seminar, a written reflection should be submitted instead);
- submit papers where they use the course literature to reflect on ethical and methodological dilemmas of access to research contacts and interviewees, data collection/production and presentation in relation to their own research.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary.

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises Pass (G) and Fail (U).

### **Course Evaluation**

Student evaluation of the course occurs through group discussion with the conveners in the final session and through a written evaluation on GUL. Students are also encouraged to offer feedback at any time during the course.