

Nordic PhD Course
Trends and Challenges in Nordic Disability Policy

November 17-18, 2008 and February 17-18, 2009
Venue, November: Soria Moria, Oslo, Norway
February: Trondheim, Norway
5 credit points

Organised by the Nordic Centre of Excellence in Welfare Research 'Reassessing the Nordic Welfare Model' in collaboration with the Nordic Network on Disability Research (NNDR) and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Department of Social Work and Health Science.

The aim of this course is to address trends and challenges in Nordic disability policy and research. This includes the state of art related to policy ideals like participation and equality, recent welfare reforms, and the new measures promoting universal design and combating discrimination. The lectures will address the issues from different perspectives, such as a European perspective, implementation of policies and lessons from other discrimination grounds. The course is also an opportunity for PhD-students to meet and present their work within the setting of a PhD-course focusing Nordic disability research.

The NNDR has for a long time wanted to organise Nordic PhD courses in disability research, and this event has been made possible through the collaboration with the Nordic Centre of Excellence in Welfare Research: Reassessing the Nordic Welfare Model (funded by NordForsk and headed by NOVA, Oslo, www.reassess.no). The course is formally a part of the PhD-programme at NTNU, Trondheim. We wish to welcome PhD-students from all Nordic countries and hopefully also from other countries. The language will be English, but there will be the opportunity to present papers in Scandinavian languages.

Course lay-out:

The course will be organised in two “steps” or parts. The first part is a seminar that takes place in Oslo, Norway, November 17-18, 2008. The seminar will consist of four lectures and also brief presentations of the PhD-projects of the participants, see programme below. During the weeks between the two parts, participants are expected to draft a paper linked to their PhD project and also to the course theme(s). The second part will be a seminar taking place in Trondheim, Norway, February 17-18, 2009. This will mainly consist of presentations and discussion of the participants’ papers. After the second seminar, participants are expected to finalise their paper and submit it to the course organisers (the Norwegian University for Science and Technology, NTNU) for acceptance. Participation will give 5 credit points, provided the organisers accept the final paper.

Programme, first seminar:

Venue: Soria Moria, Oslo (<http://uk.soriamoria.no/>)

November 17, 2008

- 11.00 Opening, practical questions, outline of seminar content and purpose,
paper requirements, presentation of participants
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Nordic disability policy and research as seen from Europe
Professor Mark Priestley, University of Leeds
Discussion, brief break
- 14.30 Local implementation of national policy; trends, challenges, and dilemmas
Professor Rafael Lindqvist, Gothenburg University
Discussion, coffee
- 16.15 Presentations by participants
Brief (5-10 min.) presentations of the PhD projects
- 18.30 End of day
- 20.00 Dinner

November 18, 2008

- 09.00 Combating discrimination – lessons from research on ethnic discrimination
Dr. John Wrench, Head of Research and Analysis,
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights,
Discussion, brief break
- 10.30 Presentations by participants (continued)
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Presentations by participants (continued)
- 13.30 Trends in Nordic Disability Policy
Professor Jan Tøssebro, NTNU, Trondheim (course leader)
Discussion
- 14.30 Planning of the February 2009 seminar
- 15.00 Closing

Programme, second seminar:

Trondheim, February 17-18, 2009 (venue not decided yet)

The second seminar will mainly consist of presentations and discussion of the papers of the participants. Details will be sorted out when the list of participants is ready, and adjusted on November the 18th (first seminar). There is the possibility of one or two invited lectures to this event as well.

Practical issues and applications for participation

There is no course fee and the Nordic Centre of Excellence in Welfare Research will cover accommodation and meals for both seminars. There is also the possibility to apply for travel grants.

The deadline for applications is **15 October 2008**. Applications should include a short CV and a brief presentation of the PhD-project (max half page) in addition to standard information such as name, age, university affiliation, when the PhD studies started and are expected to be finished. Send your application as well as other questions concerning the course to Marianne Garvik, NTNU (Marianne.garvik@svt.ntnu.no).

The selection of participants will be completed by 25 October. If the number of applications exceeds the number we are able to welcome, priority will be given to PhD-students writing dissertations within the thematic field of the Centre's disability strand (www.reassess.no – follow the links to Strand 6, combating exclusion: the case of people with disabilities). We will also consider the participants' country in order to make sure that the group has a balanced country representation.

Researchers not formally PhD-students may apply, but priority is given to PhD-students.

Course requirements

Before the course, participants will be asked to submit a brief (half page) description of their PhD-project part of the application). Between the two parts, one is expected to write a draft version of a paper. This is sent to the course organiser by February the 6th, and distributed to participants before the second seminar. During the second seminar, papers will be presented and discussed. A final version of the paper is expected to be submitted to the course organisers by May 1st, 2009.

Speakers

Mark Priestley is Professor of Disability Policy and Director of the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Leeds (UK). His current research interests are in European disability policy. He is administrator of the international discussion forum disability-research@jiscmail.ac.uk and Scientific Director of the European Commission's Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED). His previous research has included studies of UK disability policy and the development of a 'life course' approach to disability studies. His current research interests are in comparative and European disability policies.

Rafael Lindqvist is Professor of Social Work at Gothenburg University. He has conducted research on the development of health insurance and disability politics in Sweden. His main research interest has been inter-organizational cooperation within the field of vocational rehabilitation of the long-term sick. Currently he is doing research on the implementation of community mental health reforms in Sweden.

John Wrench (PhD) is Head of Sector Research and Analysis at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (formerly the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia), in Vienna. He has worked for many years in the area of ethnic discrimination and inclusion in the labour market at a European comparative level, first at the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick, and later at the Danish Centre for Migration and Ethnic Studies. He has also carried out a number of research commissions in the area of employment integration and exclusion in Europe on behalf of the International Labour Office and the European Commission.

Jan Tøssebro is Professor of Social Work at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim. He has been working with issues such as deinstitutionalization, disabled children and their families, and the living conditions of disabled people. He has been a member of three public committees on disability policy and law recent years, and has also headed the Norwegian State Council on Disability.

Organisers

The course is organised as a part of the PhD-programme at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Social Work and Health Science. The seminars will be moderated by Professor Jan Tøssebro and Associate Professor Borgunn Ytterhus who is also the President of NNDR. For practical information and applications; please contact research fellow Marianne Garvik (Marianne.garvik@svt.ntnu.no).