PhD Course
Theoretical Perspectives in Geography (GEOG 8000/GEOG8001):
On theory, theorizing and writing theory

Date: November 13-17, 2017
Venue: NTNU, Trondheim, Norway
Credits: 10 ECTS/5 ECTS

Short description
During the course, we will work with theory and theorizing in geography as well as how to write theory. We welcome students from different sub-disciplines of geography – and both from human and physical geography. The aims of the course are to provide the candidates with a knowledge base that may help to maneuver in the complex landscape of theory and theoretical discussions in geography, in other words to develop tools for theoretical positioning, and to discuss how we theorize in geography.

In order to provide insights into these questions and aims, we have invited contributors to reflect on their own academic biography and particularly how theory has been part of their work, and reflect on how they have used theory and theorized in their engagements with society, nature and environment.

It will be possible to take the course as a 5 credits- or 10 credits-course. In addition to submitting an abstract upon registration, participants are expected to submit a reflection note/draft paper before the course, present their project and the draft paper during the course and discuss the draft paper in plenary and groups before submitting a final paper some time after the course. It is expected that the students participate in all course activities.

The course is funded by the Norwegian Researcher School in Geography run by three Norwegian geography departments: the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), University of Bergen and University of Oslo. Candidates outside these departments are welcome to participate.

Lecturers
Associate Professor Benedikt Korf, Department of Geography, University of Zurich
Professor Emeritus Michael Jones, Department of Geography, NTNU
Professor Päivi Lujala, Department of Geography, NTNU
Associate Professor Hilde Nymoen Rørtveit, Department of Geography, NTNU

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: September 30th with paper abstract to paivi.lujala@ntnu.no
Course requirements GEOG 8000 (10 credits)/GEOG 8001 (5 credits)

Reading list
All lecturers will suggest a reading list relevant for their lectures and talks – the literature represents a rich body of general and more specific readings and should be used as a guide for the candidates in preparing for the course. For both courses, it is expected that the candidates in advance of the course have read and reflected on the literature to be able to actively participate in the discussions following the lectures and presentations.

**GEOG 8000, 10 credits:**
- **30 September:** Registration with a 200-word abstract (send to paivi.lujala@svt.ntnu.no)
- **31 October:** Submission of a 2000-word draft paper (paivi.lujala@svt.ntnu.no)
- **13-17 November** (during the course):
  - participation each day
  - presentation of the draft paper (which is the first idea for a full paper/theoretical framework)
  - discussant on papers of co-participants in group sessions
- **17 December:** Circulating paper for peer group established at course, commenting co-participants’ paper
- **15 January 2017:** Submission to Department of Geography (NTNU) of 6000-8000-word paper on theoretical positioning or development for theoretical framework for PhD thesis.

**GEOG 8001, 5 credits:**
- **30 September:** Registration with a 200-word abstract (send to paivi.lujala@svt.ntnu.no)
- **31 October:** Submission of a 2000-words draft process note
- **13-17 November** (during the course):
  - participation each day
  - presentation of the draft process note
  - discussant on papers of co-participants in group sessions
- **17 December:** Submission to Department of Geography (NTNU) revised process note – up to 4000 words.

**Process note**
With process note is meant: a text with starting point in your own PhD-project which discusses the process of finding a theoretical position in the project. Discuss, for example, what alternative theoretical approaches you are considering or how you are planning to theorise and use theory in your project. The process note should to a larger degree than a paper open for discussing the process of theorisation and establishing theoretical positions, the choices made in the process and how those choices were made and why. The discussion of choices should be justified by using literature from the reading list. The structure of the process note could be as follows: present the research questions of the project, describe the process of theoretical positioning and a discussion of that process in relation to the theoretical approaches you have decided to use.

**Paper**
A paper should be written as an academic article. Formulate the theme of the paper and the “problem” you attempt to solve in the paper. Present the theoretical position or theories selected to be discussed and show the relevance of the theoretical position/theories for your own PhD project. A paper should to a larger extent than a process note be an independent and publishable text and it is assumed that you may use this text or parts of the text in some capacity in your thesis. Compared to a process note, more discussion of relevant literature is required in the paper. In the literature
review, the theoretical discussions presented should be considered in relation to geography generally or a particular thematic field: in other words, position your theme in a wider disciplinary or thematic field. The structure of the paper should be as follows: an introduction with a problem statement, a discussion of how you have developed the paper (by looking at how to find a theoretical position, how to use theory, how to theorise – relevant literature from the reading list could be used here), positioning in relation to relevant literature in your field, discussion and analysis of the theoretical position you have chosen or the theorisation process, conclusion.

**Approval of process note and paper**
The course convenor together with relevant staff at the Department of Geography, NTNU will read and assess the papers as approved/not approved.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Päivi Lujala: paivi.lujala@ntnu.no

Homepage for the Norwegian Researcher School in Geography: [http://www.ntnu.edu/nrsg](http://www.ntnu.edu/nrsg)