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

Date: October 8-12, 2018
Venue: Department of Geography, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway
Credits: 10 ECTS/5 ECTS

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:
31 August with paper abstract to gunhild.setten@ntnu.no

Short description:
During the course, we will work with theory and theorizing in geography as well as how to write theory. We welcome PhD candidates across all facets of geography, including from human and physical geography. The aims of the course are to provide the candidates with knowledges and skills that help to maneuver in the complex landscape of theory and theoretical discussions in the discipline. In short, to develop tools for theoretical positioning, and to discuss how we theorize in geography.
In order to provide insights into these aims, we have invited lecturers to reflect on their own academic biography, including, what is theory in the first place? In what ways has theory been part of their work? In what ways have they used theory and theorized within their fields?

Included in the course is a one-day writing seminar with Lynn P. Nygaard, PRIO: “On writing theory and theorizing through writing”

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 required to submit a reflection note/draft paper prior to the course, present their project and the process note/draft paper during the course and discuss their texts in plenary and break-out groups. Final papers and process notes are to be submitted after the course. Candidates attending the course are required to 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 in geography registered at other departments in Norway as well as abroad, are very welcome to participate.

**Lecturers**

Professor Danny Mackinnon, University of Newcastle,  
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/profile/dannymackinnon.html#background

Professor Don Mitchell, University of Uppsala,  
http://katalog.uu.se/profile/?id=N17-34

Lynn P. Nygaard, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIOD),  
https://www.prio.org/People/Person/?x=6141

Associate Professor Hilde Nymoen Rørtveit, Department of Geography, NTNU,  
https://www.ntnu.edu/employees/hilde.nymoen.rortveit

Professor Gunhild Setten, Department of Geography, NTNU,  
https://www.ntnu.edu/employees/gunhild.setten
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 prior to the course have read and reflected on the literature in order to be able to actively participate in the discussions following the lectures and presentations.

GEOG 8000, 10 credits:

31 August: Registration with a 200-word abstract [send to gunhild.setten@ntnu.no]
28 September: Submission of a 2000-word draft paper [send to gunhild.setten@ntnu.no]
8-12 October (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
16 November: Circulating paper to peer group established at course, commenting co-participants’ paper
13 December: 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:

31 August: Registration with a 200-word abstract [send to gunhild.setten@ntnu.no]
28 September: Submission of a 2000-words draft process note [send to gunhild.setten@ntnu.no]
8-12 October (during the course):
• participation each day
• presentation of the draft process note
• discussant on papers of co-participants in group sessions
16 November: Submission to Department of Geography (NTNU) revised process note – up to 4000 words.
Paper
A paper should be written as an academic article. Formulate the theme of the paper and the “problem” you attempt to solve/address in the paper. Present the theoretical position or theories selected to be discussed and demonstrate 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, an extended discussion of relevant literatures 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 identify 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 literatures in your field, discussion and analysis of the theoretical position you have chosen or the theorisation process, conclusion.

Process note
A process note is a text departing from your PhD project, and 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 extent than a paper open up for a discussion of 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 literatures 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.

Approval of process note and paper
The course convener, 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 course convener
Gunhild Setten, gunhild.setten@ntnu.no
Homepage for the Norwegian Researcher School in Geography: http://www.ntnu.edu/nrsq