LUND UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

Department of Business Administration

Reg. no U 2018/456

EHFE003, Critical Management Studies, 7.5 credits

Critical Management Studies, 7,5 hp

Third Cycle/Forskarutbildningsnivå

General information

The course EHFE003 is a course in Business Administration at the third cycle level.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies: Business Administration

Many researchers in social science and organization studies assume that companies and other organizations work for 'the common good', that their outputs make things better for customers, employees, owners and the general public. Organizational structures and practices are thought to accomplish organizational objectives and serve stakeholders. In short, organizational and institutional arrangements are seen as fair and unproblematic. In contrast, studies within critical management problematize the status quo. They focus on the 'darker' side of business and organizations.

The word 'critical' has, of course, a number of meanings. All research is critical in the sense that the researcher is observant and intolerant of weak argumentation, speculative statements, erroneous conclusions etc. In Critical Management Studies, 'critical' is understood as the stimulation of a more extensive reflection upon established ideas, ideologies and institutions in order to encourage liberation or at least reduce repression. Critical theory is referred to as a tradition of social science, including the Frankfurt School and related authors and lines of thought such as Marx, Foucault, poststructuralism, certain versions of feminism and so on. Critical Management Studies is a large an expanding research orientation, prominent in organization studies and sociology but also to some extent in accounting, marketing and strategy.

The PhD course aims to give an advanced introduction to the theoretical frameworks, research interests, methodologies and discussions in Critical Management Studies. The course will also give examples of critical studies and explores how critical research can be produced. Much space will be given for participants to present and get feedback on their ideas and projects.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

- A thorough understanding of CMS – its background, definition, manifestations and implications.

Competence and skills

- Applying the CMS literature to the personal research project
- Critical reflect on the CMS debates in research

Communication:

- Have an ability to form arguments for both research and public debate orally as well as in writing.

Course content

- Theoretical roots of CMS such as critical theory, post-structuralism, labour process theory, critical realism, post-colonialism and feminism
- Methodological issues in doing CMS
- Applying CMS in fields such as leadership and identity
- CMS and philosophy
- Performativity and non-performativity in CMS
- Ethics, aesthetics and CMS
- Publishing in CMS and the rise of 'excellence'

Assessment

Written paper based on student's own project (max 4.000 words).

Credits

Grades are Pass or Fail.

Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The University will take disciplinary actions against any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other improper practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specific period of time.

Entry requirements

PhD students accepted to the PhD programme in Business Administration or an adjacent subject are eligible for the course.

Course literature

See separate literature list.