

## Theories and Theorising in Educational Sciences and Research, 5 course credits

Teorier och teoretisering inom utbildningsvetenskap och utbildningsvetenskaplig forskning, 5 högskolepoäng

<b>Course code:</b>	FOUKxxx
<b>Third-cycle subject:</b>	Didactics
<b>School:</b>	School for Education, Culture and Communication
<b>Responsible department</b>	Department for the Didactics of Mathematics, Science and Engineering
<b>Valid from:</b>	Date of decision
<b>Established by:</b>	The Dean of the School
<b>Decision date:</b>	2024-12-10
<b>Last modified:</b>	--
<b>Level of education:</b>	Third cycle level

### Course objective

The aim of the course is to provide the doctoral candidates with awareness of and knowledge about a range of perspectives on the relationship between theory and empirical evidence, including different understandings of what constitutes theory. Furthermore, the course aims to introduce doctoral candidates to knowledge of the processes of theorising.

### Course content

The course addresses some common conceptions of the notion of theory in Education and provides an introduction to a range of historical and current perspectives on the relationship between theory and data in Education. Some cases of theorising are critically engaged and the process of theorising is discussed in relation to engaged perspectives on the theory-data relationship. Ontological, epistemological and methodological positions will be engaged in the comparisons of perspectives.

### Intended learning outcomes

After passing the course, the doctoral student should be able to:

1. Differentiate some perspectives on the relationship between theory and empirical evidence within the educational sciences.
2. Account for key components of theorising within the educational sciences.
3. Critically discuss the use of theory and possible theorisation of own research.
4. Discuss the challenges in existing theories in relation to own research.

## **The intended qualitative targets in relation to the Higher Education Ordinance, appendix 2.**

### ***Knowledge and understanding***

For the Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

- A1: broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field, and
- A2: familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

### ***Competence and skills***

For the Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

- B1: the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues, and situations autonomously and critically,
- B2: the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously, and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work,
- B4: the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
- B6: the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity.

## **Teaching formats**

Tutorials, independent work, and seminars.

## **Examination**

SEM1, seminar, 2.5 cr, concerning learning outcomes 1 and 2, grade fail (U) or pass (G).

SEM2, seminar, 2.5 cr, concerning learning outcomes 3 and 4, grade fail (U) or pass (G).

## **Grade**

Two-grade scale: fail (U) or pass(G).

A person who has not passed the regular examination shall be given the opportunity to retake the test.

## **Requirements**

To participate in the course and the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to doctoral studies.

### **Specific entry requirements**

Completion of 45 ECTS of doctoral courses.

It is recommended that the doctoral candidate has completed their halfway seminar.

### **Selection criteria**

Selection of applicants will be made in accordance with the ranking:

1. Doctoral students at Mälardalen University in the field of Education or related area.
2. Doctoral students at other universities in the field of Education or related area.

## **Transitional and other provisions**

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