

PhD Course on Equality of Opportunity (7.5 credits)

Course Description:

This course takes an economic approach to analyzing questions related to social and economic inequalities. The goal is to provide an overview of the key literature on the topic, with a focus on cutting-edge research. For each topic covered, we will review foundational studies and discuss pivotal contributions in detail, highlighting relevant recent high-quality job market papers. Another key objective of the course is to offer PhD students early exposure to conducting their own empirical, micro-oriented research. To achieve this, we will focus on different stages of the research process, including idea generation, data collection, and applying appropriate econometric methods to answer research questions.

Examination:

Students will be required to carry out original research as part of the course requirements. The examination consists of a term paper focused on the course theme. Students will also present their term papers at the end of the course.

Course Instructors:

Lina Aldén (LA), Thomas Giebe (TG), Hans Grönqvist (HG), Olle Hammar (OH), Joakim Jansson (JJ), Jonas Kolsrud (JK), Tobias König (TK), Peter Nilsson (PN), Erik Prawitz (EP), Peter Sandholt Jensen (PSJ)

Practical Information:

The course is open to all PhD students in Economics. There are no course fees. The course schedule is designed to allow students to commute from other universities, including those in the Uppsala-Stockholm, Gothenburg, and Lund-Copenhagen regions. Lectures will be held once a month from February to June. Students are expected to attend at least three of the five lecture sessions. To foster closer interaction with the instructors, students may also join the optional lunch before the course begins and dinner afterward (participants are responsible for their own expenses). A reading list will be distributed in January.

To sign up for the course, please send an email to Ivana Tomic-Kokic at ivana.tomic-kokic@lnu.se by **December 15th**. For any questions, please contact Hans Grönqvist at hans.gronqvist@lnu.se.

Outline

Feb 4th 12:00-18:00

Theory and measurement

- Market failures and the rationale for government intervention (TG)
- Measuring inequality (OH)

March 4th 12:00-18:00

Historical origins of institutions, development and inequality (EP and PSJ)

April 8th 12:00-18:00

Behavioral aspects of inequality and public economics (TK and JK)

May 5th 12:00-18:00

Criminal justice policy and the importance of health (HG and PN)

June 3rd 12:00-18:00

Ethnic and gender inequalities (LA and JJ)

Deadline for term paper and presentation is TBA but will be after the last lecture. The presentation may be on Zoom, on site or hybrid.