Dear Graduate School students,

We are happy to announce a new event specifically geared to get you up and running with your thesis thoughts at an early stage. To that end our Directors team has created the Thesis Introduction Day just before the summer break. We have made sure that you will not have any active methods course work left on that day, and of course expect all of you to join us on June 2 for an event that will assuredly be helpful – and hopefully inspirational too. Welcome!

Mikael Sundström  
Director of Studies, Graduate School

N.b., if you cannot attend the event, please notify helena.falk@sam.lu.se ASAP and state your reasons for non-attendance
WELCOME TO

Thesis introduction day

Your Day at a Glance (all times are sharp!)

09.15 – 09.45
locus: Eden Hörsal
Intro with the Graduate School Programme directors
All Master programmes meet together to receive information on the Thesis Introduction Day and the MA thesis course more broadly. This includes a short block on how to use online library resources as a starting point. The focus is on how to use the library system to find previous years’ theses; to find review articles and use keywords in databases as a way of helping you to frame your arguments, acquire inspiration and start thinking about the conceptual and empirical underpinnings of your thesis. You will also be introduced to the Lund University research portal to enable you to locate new and cutting edge research.

10.00 – 10.45
Development: Eden
Global: R236
Gender: R240
Programme meetings
Programme directors meet with their students in order to provide programme-specific information about the thesis process; focusing on timelines, the assignment of supervisors, as well as thinking through how to select thesis topics.

11.00 – 12.00
Eden Hörsal
Inspirational lectures
Two brief lectures to inspire graduate school students to start thinking about the writing of their theses and selecting potential topics.

Erik Hannerz (Sociology)
Failing fieldwork. Or how I learned the importance of epistemological reflections

Diana Mulinari (Gender Studies)
The role of social science and social scientists in relation to social change

12.00 – 13.00
Lunch (individual)

13.15 – 15.00
R236
R240
G119
(see separate group assignment document for details about loci)
Research Design
At times students find it difficult to start the actual writing process and it is often useful to ‘visualise’ the different parts of the forthcoming thesis. Such visualisations together with other students can tease out new ideas and approaches and as such help you kick off your own thought and writing processes.

Students on the Graduate School programmes will meet their Directors to engage in a collaborative research design task. Please consult the detailed task description here

1st hour:
Students are divided into groups on the basis of their individual masters programmes to start working on thesis research designs. The task is to make a rough research design; for example by defining a research problem/puzzle, formulating a research question, suggesting methods to collect, construct, analyse and interpret data.

2nd hour:
Present these ideas to other classmates.

15.00 – 16.00
Coffee and Cake across the programmes
GS Student Lounge

Research Design Task Description

You should report to your assigned room and programme director, as noted in the thesis introduction day guide. Once you arrive, your teacher will split you into 4-5 person groups and give you instructions.

The first block (13:15 to 14:00) will consist of you and your small group discussing and devising rough research project designs and preparing brief presentations of those designs/ideas.

The second block (14:15 to 15:00) will involve your presentations and feedback. Your general task is to think of a potential research question (on any theme interesting to you) and what concepts might be applicable to that question. Moreover, you will be asked to consider the relevance of your research question (for society and/or theory), some expectations possibile outcomes or hypotheses in relation to it, as well as a methodology (including argumentation for this). You do not need to hand this in, but it should be recorded by all group members in note format to enable your brief presentation. Your presentations will be no more than 2-3 minutes! The presentation should focus on the most central aspects of the design: the question, relevance, concepts, expectations, and methodology.

The members of the large group will be encouraged to offer very brief comments on your suggested concepts, the scope and feasibility of the project (is it too big for a master thesis?), the logic and argumentation of the methods in relation to the RQ. The programme director will offer a few brief comments too.