



Course facilitator: Jonas Alwall

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# *Cultural Political Economy* -

*Theory, Methods and  
Applications*

Key tutors and lecturers:

Bob Jessop and Ngai-Ling Sum



**A PhD  
course**  
7.5 credits  
December 2015-  
April 2016



MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

## Course description

Cultural political economy aims to synthesize the study of sense- and meaning-making with the critique of political economy in both theoretical and empirical terms.

The course is especially suitable for a doctoral training programme that will contribute to transdisciplinary capacity building for students coming from different disciplines. Its aim is to equip participants with the theoretical background and skills necessary to understand the changing terrain of political economy at different sites and scales and to provide the critical analytical tools for understanding the interaction between sense- and meaning-making and the nature and dynamics of economic and political institutions.

The course deals with topics such as competitiveness, economic imaginaries, economic crises, financialisation, the knowledge-based economy, migration, neo-liberalism, political crises, social democracy, urban restructuring, urban social movements, varieties of capitalism, and welfare state restructuring.

## Work formats

In addition to individual studies of the literature and writing papers, the teaching methods are based on 1) thoroughgoing workshops including elements of lecture, debate, group discussion (based on questions or assignments posed to the groups) and opposition and defence of written papers, and 2) distance learning in the form of written feedback and individual discussions between PhD students and tutors, using the university's e-learning platform. Between workshops, the tasks of the students will consist mainly of literature reading, individual work with written assignments, keeping a dialogue with the tutors and preparing for the oral presentations and discussions of the concluding workshop.

## Admissions

The course is part of the doctoral programme in Migration, urbanisation, and societal change (MUSA) at the Faculty of Culture and Society, Malmö University, but is also open to applications from PhD students from other universities. Participants should be enrolled in PhD studies in subjects within the social sciences or humanities, e.g. political science, economy, sociology, geography, cultural studies, linguistics or media and communication studies.

## About the teachers

**Bob Jessop** is Distinguished Professor of Sociology and founding co-director of the Cultural Political Economy Research Centre, Lancaster University. He has worked for many years on theories of the state and state power, critical political economy, critical realism, cultural political economy, and questions of governance and governance failure.

**Ngai-Ling Sum** is Reader in Cultural Political Economy and founding co-Director (with Bob Jessop) of the Cultural Political Economy Research Centre, Lancaster University. Her research and teaching interests include cultural political economy, Marx, Gramsci and Foucault, globalization and competitiveness, corporate social responsibility, and global retail.

**Mikael Stigendal** is professor in Sociology at the Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University. His research has focused on matters of social cohesion and exclusion in European cities. Much of his research has been carried out interactively, in collaboration with civil servants, voluntary workers and young people.

**Jonas Alwall** is senior lecturer in International Migration and Ethnic Relations at the Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University.