

**FAK3145**  
**Att kommunicera forskning / To communicate research**  
**Fall 2020, September**  
7,5 credits, 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle

**Course content and aim**

This is a processual course with the aim of training specific skills central to working as an academic or public intellectual. The skills are connected to the principle activities of an academic when it comes to communicating research. To communicate research is obviously a vast activity and the skills shift with the audience and the aim of the communication. In this course, we focus on a few general communications that every PhD student should have practiced before graduating. We prepare for participating in a conference by discussing how and why you choose your conferences, how you write an abstract and how you prepare and execute a presentation; we discuss how to plan and write an article for a scientific (peer-review) journal; we write academic reviews of books and talk about the why and the how of this type of circulation of knowledge; and finally, we address the non-academic audience in some modality of your own choice.

After completing this course the students should be able to

- write an abstract for an international conference
- present their research at a conference
- plan and partly write an article for a scientific journal
- review an academic book for a scientific journal or similar
- present their own research for a non-academic audience

**Course requirements**

80 % presence at the seminars. All assignments fulfilled. Peer feedback is an important part of the course as we focus on the process and tools behind academic writing. Thus, active participation is required. Please respect the deadlines.

Sign up no later than Augusti 20<sup>th</sup>.

Course responsible and examiner: Nina Wormbs, [nina@kth.se](mailto:nina@kth.se).

**Schedule in brief, all dates in September 2020**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday	9-12	Intro, conferences, journal articles
9 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	13-16	Conference presentations or
10 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	full day	Conference presentations
17 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	9-12	Discussion of journal article, intro review
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	14-17	Discussion of review, intro non-academic
29 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	13-16	General public / non-academic / expert role

### 3 September 9-12

Course introduction. What is communication? Discussion of abstracts.

At this introduction and first session we will talk about the core of the course, prepare for the two next assignments and discuss the prepared abstracts.

Conference participation: How and why? What are your reasons for going to a conference and how do you choose? What are the costs of going and the costs of abstaining.

Writing journal articles. Why articles in the humanities? A compilation dissertation vs a monograph. How do you plan and what to keep in mind?

To prepare for this session, read instructions for submitting in your own field and for a specific conference key to you. *Circulate those instructions and an abstract intended for a conference no later than two days before the session.*

### 9 September 13-16 or 10 September full day

Conference presentations

At these two sessions you will present a paper to the rest of the class. You will stick to the format of the conference of your choice. Depending on your preference, you can either take part in a presentation live for which a large lecture room will be booked, or you can choose to present on line in zoom. Please let me know which you prefer and I will sort and schedule. Also tell me the expected format. If you do not know, I will give you a time. You are welcome to both present digitally and physically.

To prepare for your conference presentation, read Paul Edwards, How to give an academic talk, (<https://pne.people.si.umich.edu/PDF/howtotalk.pdf>)  
Jens E. Kjeldsen, "The Rhetoric of Power Point", *Seminar.net - International journal of media, technology and lifelong learning* Vol. 2 – Issue 1 – 2006 ([http://seminar.net/files/Kjeldsen\\_powerpoint.pdf](http://seminar.net/files/Kjeldsen_powerpoint.pdf))  
Erica Robles-Anderson and Patrik Svensson. "One Damn Slide After Another: PowerPoint at Every Occasion for Speech." *Computational Culture* (January 15, 2016). (<http://computationalculture.net/one-damn-slide-after-another-powerpoint-at-every-occasion-for-speech/>)

### 17 September 9-13

Discussion of journal article, intro to review

We will begin this session with discussing your journal-article drafts and plans. This will be done both in small groups and in the larger group. I will hand out discussion topics when you have circulated the assignment.

We will also discuss the role of the review in academia, challenges and opportunities.

To prepare for this session, find a favorite article in a journal you would like to submit to, find and read the instructions for this particular journal and be prepared to summarize the main point that are of importance or pose a challenge to you. *Circulate an introduction and a plan for the proposed article no later than two days before the session.*

## **23 September 14-17**

Discussion of review, intro to non-academic communication

In this session we will discuss your reviews, in groups and all together.

We will also talk about non-academic communication, which can take many forms. In Sweden the so called third mission (tredje uppgiften) is written into the higher education ordinance. The understanding of what it entails differ between knowledge areas and it is also sometimes just called cooperation with society (samverkansuppgiften). It is not only about communication. We will also elaborate further on being an intellectual and possibly and expert. The terminology is not straight forward, but as an academic in society you can take on several roles. We will discuss a few with Sverker Sörlin who has not only an longstanding and encompassing experience in this field but who has also reflected on it and studied it.

To prepare for the discussion on samverkan read Sverker Sörlin, "Science advice: challenges pave way for judgement and values", in Jenny Björkman & Björn Fjæstad (eds.), *Thinking Ahead: Research, Funding and the Future* (Riksbankens jubileumsfond, 2015), 235-248.

To prepare for the review, read Paul Edwards, How to read a book (<http://pne.people.si.umich.edu/PDF/howtoread.pdf>)  
Bruce Mazlish, The art of reviewing, AHA, February 2001  
(<https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/february-2001/the-art-of-reviewing>)

*Circulate a review – published or unpublished – with the information on the actual or intended forum enclosed no later than two days before the session.*

## **29 September 13-16**

General public / non-academic / expert role / Course evaluation

In this last session we will discuss your non-academic contributions.

In preparation you can write a blog post, record a short radio show, do a short audiovisual piece, write an op ed etc. The central issue is that you do not communicate with an academic audience. Be prepared to state what kind of audience you have had in mind. You are free to do this in any of the bigger European languages (or any of the Scandinavian languages). However, be prepared to explain your piece to those who cannot understand the language of your choice. *Circulate the piece no later than two days before the session.*

We will also have a course evaluation.