



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology

### **A. Reading course in “Endings – how things fall apart” (PhD level)**

A third level (PhD) “reading course” does not involve any teaching and typically only has one or a few participants taking part in the course. A reading course for 7,5 credits should cover an ambitious and demanding reading material, which exact page number can vary depending on the nature of texts (i.e., heavy dominance of research articles). The Department of Sociology offer reading courses to its PhD students on areas that cover either a specific topic of high relevance for the PhD thesis, or a specific area of research expertise in the Department. This course belongs to the former category.

This course has been reviewed by the Director of graduate studies on 2023-12-13.

### **B. Course Details, Assessment, Grades**

This course focuses on a variety of processes of endings and asks the question: how do previously stable things fall apart, erode, dissolve, disappear? This question is particularly relevant in the context of current grand societal challenges related to sustainability, where there is an imperative to phase-out existing, unsustainable modes of production and consumption. We will study this question from different theoretical vantage points including institutional theory, socio-technical transition studies, science-and technology studies and economic geography.

This course is offered by Lea Fünfschilling upon demand as a reading course on the readings listed under D, below. There is no teaching. The course is examined on the basis of a written paper in English of 10-15 pages.

The grades for the course are awarded as Pass or Fail. To receive a Pass, the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course and demonstrate an independent, reflective, well-informed and critical relationship to the issues presented in the course

### **C. Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

- 1) Summarize the main outlines of the research fields covered in the reading material
- 2) Critically examine contributions to the relevant research fields
- 3) Apply some of the ideas in the literature to their own research problem

### **D. Admission Requirements**

Applicants must be admitted to the Ph.D. program at the Department of Sociology, Lund University, or be accepted as a visiting student to that program.

### **H. Course Literature**

----(please choose ca. 1500 pages from articles/books below)---

- Ahmadjian CL, Robinson P. 2001. *Safety in numbers: Downsizing and the deinstitutionalization of permanent employment in japan*. *Adm. Sci. Q.* 46 : 622-54
- Arne Heyen D, Hermwille L, Wehnert T. 2017. *Out of the comfort zone! governing the exnovation of unsustainable technologies and practices*. *GAIA-Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society.* 26 : 326-31
- Blažek J, Květoň V, Baumgartinger-Seiringer S, Tripl M. 2020. *The dark side of regional industrial path development: Towards a typology of trajectories of decline*. *European Planning Studies.* 28 : 1455-73
- Cooke P. 1995. *Rise of the rustbelt: Revitalizing older industrial regions*, Routledge
- Dacin MT, Dacin PA. 2008. *Traditions as institutionalized practice: Implications for deinstitutionalization*. *The Sage handbook of organizational institutionalism.* 327-352.
- de Sousa Santos B. 2018. *The end of the cognitive empire: The coming of age of epistemologies of the south*, Duke University Press
- Feola G. 2019. *Degrowth and the unmaking of capitalism*. *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies.* 18 : 977-97.
- Grabher G. 1993. *The weakness of strong ties; the lock-in of regional development in ruhr area*. *The embedded firm; on the socioeconomics of industrial networks.* 255-77.
- Greve HR. 1995. *Jumping ship: The diffusion of strategy abandonment*. *Adm. Sci. Q.* 444-73.
- Hassink R. 2010. *Locked in decline? on the role of regional lock-ins in old industrial areas*. *In: The handbook of evolutionary economic geography.* 450-468.
- Johnstone P, Hielscher S. 2017. *Phasing out coal, sustaining coal communities? living with technological decline in sustainability pathways*. *The Extractive Industries and Society.* 4 : 457-61
- Kivimaa P, Kern F. 2016. *Creative destruction or mere niche support? innovation policy mixes for sustainability transitions*. *Research Policy.* 45 : 205-17
- Newig J, Derwort P, Jager NW. 2019. *Sustainability through institutional failure and decline? archetypes of productive pathways*. *Ecology and Society.* 24 (14 pages)
- Oliver C. 1992. *The antecedents of deinstitutionalization*. *Organ. Stud.* 13 : 563-88
- Rogge KS, Johnstone P. 2017. *Exploring the role of phase-out policies for low-carbon energy transitions: The case of the german energiewende*. *Energy research & social science.* 33 : 128-37
- Rosenbloom D, Rinscheid A. 2020. *Deliberate decline: An emerging frontier for the study and practice of decarbonization*. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change.* 11 (20 pages)
- Turnheim B, Geels FW. 2012. *Regime destabilisation as the flipside of energy transitions: Lessons from the history of the british coal industry (1913–1997)*. *Energy Policy.* 50 : 35-49