

Title of the PhD Course: RESEARCH METHODS IN LAW

Date and time: 3-5, February 2021

Teaser: The course is designed for students who have recently embarked upon PhD studies and need to enhance their general understanding of methodology and research methods, as well as the ways in which the theoretical framework and specific research methods may be applied in their research projects. The course can also be relevant for students who have been working on their research for a while and needs perspectives on methodology questions for their research project.

Course description:

The course is designed for students who have recently embarked upon PhD studies and need to enhance their general understanding of methodology and research methods, as well as the ways in which the theoretical framework and specific research methods may be applied in their research projects. The course can also be relevant for students who have been working on their research for a while and needs perspectives on methodology questions for their research project.

The course will introduce fundamental concepts, such as 'theory' and 'method', and provide an overview of main research methods commonly used by legal researchers. Apart from the main jurisprudential approaches, the course will also cover empirical and interdisciplinary approaches to law. The research approaches and trends will be discussed in the context of international as well as Danish law.

Course objectives:

The main objective of the course is to equip PhD students with the necessary set of skills required to carry out independent research of the highest academic standard.

Participants will learn how to frame the theoretical foundation of their research project at the early stages of their PhD studies as well as how to identify and choose research methods relevant to their main object of inquiry.

Prerequisites:

3 weeks prior to the course, the participants will receive a set of recommended readings, with which they should be familiar at the time of the course.

2 weeks prior to the course, the participants shall submit a brief presentation of their PhD projects (½-1 page) together with a description of methodological aspects of their research (1 page). These documents will be used during the group work and will be distributed among all participants.

1 week prior to the course, the participants will be informed of their groups during the course. Participants must prepare to give feedback on the documents submitted by the other participants in their group.

2 weeks after the completion of the course the participants shall submit a 1-page reflection paper on the use of methodology and methods in their PhD project based on experience from the course.

Course format:

The course is divided into three parts. In each of the parts, senior scholars will discuss methodological issues in their respective areas of expertise, present challenges related to use of particular methods, and share examples from actual studies which they conducted or coordinated.

Day 1 offers a general introduction into main concepts of philosophy of science in the context of demands posed by legal research. It also provides an overview of three main methodological approaches, employed in the studies of law and legal phenomena: the legal doctrinal approach, the comparative approach and the empirical approach. Methods specific to each of these approaches will be presented. Finally, day 1 includes an introduction to legal politics in legal research.

Day 2 is dedicated to interdisciplinary methodologies, applied in legal research, as well as groupwork. The day will provide an overview of four popular paradigms (law and language; law and economics; law and political science; law and history). Invited speakers will comment on the benefits and challenges of combining the perspective of legal studies with those of other academic fields.

Day 3 will focus on methodology relating to the PhD students own projects. Participants will present their PhD projects to each other in groups, focusing on the methodological issues of their research, and will receive feedback from each other. The day also provides presentation from 2 previous Ph.D. students who have defended their PhD with success in 2020.

Intended learning outcomes:

Upon the completion of the course, the participants will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of legal research approaches, methodologies, and techniques,
- apply such methodologies and techniques within a specific field of research,
- critically reflect upon the chosen methodology and research method(s),
- Identify which research methods are most suitable for answering major research questions in their individual projects.

Instructors:

The course consists of lectures, presentations, and workshops delivered by distinguished academics, affiliated with the Faculty's research centers. The course instructors are specialists in Danish and in international law and represent different areas of public and private law. Their expertise and insights will thus be helpful to participants pursuing their PhD projects in different legal fields.

Course organiser: Associate Professor Carina Risvig Hamer (carina.hamer@jur.ku.dk)

Maximum no. of participants: 30

ECTS: 4½ ECTS points for participating in the 3-day course, submitting the required written assignments and participating in group work during the course.

Practical information:

- The course will run as hybrid-teaching, including the option to participate online.
- Wi-Fi: University of Copenhagen is connected to Eduroam, which allows students, researchers and staff from participating institutions to obtain Internet connectivity across the campus and when visiting other participating institutions.
- Address: University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Law, Njalsgade 76, DK-2300 Copenhagen S.
A guide on how to find Campus is available at our website [via this link](#). A map of campus [is available here](#).

Registration: [No later than on 6 January 2021 via this link](#)