Engaging with Normativity: Normative Embodiment and Normativity in Medical/Technological Knowledge Practices and Policy-Work (6 hp)

October-November 2021

How can norms and values be expressed or enacted in/by/through bodies and technologies, and how can this be studied? How can norms come to be embodied and what does that mean for subjectivity and perception? How can norms be transformed and acquire different meanings when becoming part of different practices or networks? What are the political and ethical implications of different stances on normativity within medical and technological knowledge practices or in policy-work?

These are some of the questions that this course addresses.

Do you want to know more about the course or take part in it? If so, please contact Kristin Zeiler (kristin.zeiler@liu.se). Most welcome to the course!

Generally about the course: The course will start ca 20 Oct, and it is clustered in one two-day session (Oct 26-27), one three-day session (Nov 17-19), and ends with a final one-day session (nov 26). It is designed to be participant-oriented in the sense that it seeks to maximize active interactions as learning activities. This means that you are expected to have read the literature and prepared questions or reflections in advance, and that the course is designed to give many opportunities for discussion with lecturers on-site at The Department of Thematic Studies, Linköping University (provided that the pandemic so allows) and on Zoom with researchers from other universities, and with fellow course participants.

Course Content

The course gives an introduction to approaches that are central for researching normativity within STS, feminist STS, post-phenomenology, critical phenomenology including e.g. feminist phenomenology, and ethics/policy-work. It also engages with questions of how to address and engage with normativity in policy-work, for example on ethically pertinent questions. It presents key theoretical positions on how to conceptualize and analyze embodied normativity and normativity in perception; enacted normativity in different scientific, medical and other technological knowledge production practices, and normative dimensions of policy-making. The term normativity is understood broadly as including normative dimensions, norms and values, including ethical or political norms and values.

The course participants will be challenged to discuss, critically examine, and compare various perspectives, approaches and concepts. They will read and discuss key texts and be familiarized with the debates on embodied normativity and normativity in perception, enacted normativity in different scientific, medical and other technological knowledge production practices, and normative dimensions of policy-making, from within the fields of STS, feminist STS, post-phenomenology, critical phenomenology including e.g. feminist phenomenology, and ethics/policy-work. They will also be given ample opportunities for reflection and discussion of perspectives, theories and concepts in past research on normativity, and relate this to their own research.