



FACULTY
OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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Faculty Board

Development plan for third-cycle Gender Studies at the Department of Gender Studies

Background

In spring 2021, third-cycle gender studies underwent an evaluation. The expert group for gender studies included Professor Helma Lutz, Cornelia Goethe University, Frankfurt (chair) and Professor Harriet Silius Åbo Akademi University.

The evaluation is based on a documented self-evaluation, a digital site visit (due to the Covid-19 pandemic) and a report from the expert group. We also had a feedback meeting with the chair of the expert group, a doctoral student representative, faculty management and departmental management. The expert group's report was discussed at a board meeting and at a departmental away-day event attended by all colleagues.

The members of the assessment group were very impressed by the structure, content and outcomes of the research studies programme. Their reading highlighted our work in a number of areas and revealed the strength in the department's organisational structure based on collaboration and dialogue, upheld by clear rules and procedures, which were recognised as comprising an organisational culture with a positive impact on the learning processes of doctoral students, with emphasis on a diversity of seminars in which theoretical and methodological perspectives are tested against one another.

The assessment group also highlighted risks and limitations in the department's partial dependence on external funding, with reference to uncertain future sources of finance and the antidemocratic threat against gender studies.

In its summarising conclusion, the evaluation presents a series of exciting and productive proposals for further development.

Development areas

Internationalisation

The assessors observed that the Department of Gender Studies is currently an important nationally leading and internationally established interlocutor.

In order to improve, deepen and expand our activities, the following measures will be taken: a) the department will host the Journal for Gender Studies (Tidskrift för genusvetenskap) (2022–2025) with the aim of profiling Lund as a hub in gender studies debate in a Swedish context. b) The head of research will work to maintain high quality in the department's international visiting researcher programme, with clear guidelines and procedures.

Profiling

Research at the department is solid and original, with a variety of research issues and themes. Although the assessors perceived this as a strength, they also argued for the need for greater rigour in knowledge production. The department needs to emphasise its areas of strength in research by highlighting a number of department-wide fields.

We have started the fundamental work to identify areas in which research at the department takes a leading role or has the potential to do so in future. The head of department, head of research for research studies and the director of first and second cycle studies will lead this initiative. The work will be done in

working groups during 2022 and 2023 and will also include issues of publication and external grants, as well as the department's already established profile in qualitative methodologies.

Forms of collaboration

The evaluators asked questions concerning opportunities to expand the number of doctoral students; these opportunities are currently limited. The department participates actively in faculty-wide doctoral student recruitment initiatives in prioritised fields such as social resilience and Agenda 2030.

The department will work more systematically with the aim of creating and further developing forms of collaboration with:

the Faculty of Social Sciences, through a) joint doctoral student courses, b) the development of an academic dialogue emphasising the profile areas and faculty initiatives.

Lund University, with emphasis on a) Agenda 2030 and b) reinforcing collaboration with other faculties at Lund University, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

wider society: the Department of Gender Studies has well-established collaboration with key agents in both government institutions and civil society. Over the next few years, this work will be a) highlighted; b) systematised and documented; c) operationalised through annual meetings in which research meets practitioners/professionals/ activists, and d) reinforced through applications for external engagement funding.

Knowledge transfer

This area is to be reinforced through a number of working groups in 2023 in media and communication, as well as a common independent study course for the whole department on operationalisation of academic results for a broader audience.