



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Annual Report 2024

LUND SOCIAL SCIENCES METHODS CENTRE



Lund Social Sciences
Methods Centre

Annual Report, 2024

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Lund Social Science Methods Centre

Lund Social Science Methods Centre is committed to the application and development of social science research methods and the exploration of new ways of investigating society and human behaviour. We strive to provide a space in which we can cultivate and employ different social science methods and encourage interdisciplinary encounters from which our work can grow. By championing new ideas and promoting unexpected collaborations, the centre provides opportunities to further our methodological knowledge on how to best explore and analyse the most pressing societal concerns, historically and today.

Introduction

The Lund Social Science Methods Centre was inaugurated with a festive ceremony on November 17, 2023. Throughout 2024, the centre has sustained a dynamic and engaging schedule of activities, including seminars, workshops, and conferences. These events have brought together colleagues from various departments across the university, fostering a collaborative and stimulating academic environment.

Working with the Methods Centre during its first year has been incredibly inspiring and rewarding, especially thanks to the many activities initiated by faculty colleagues. In this report we aim to highlight these activities and share the story of how the centre was first established.

Lund January 31, 2025

Åsa Lundqvist, Director of Lund Social Science Methods Centre

Lisa Flower, Coordinator of the Qualitative Methods Lab

Nils Gustafsson, Coordinator of Skill School

Mikael Johansson, Coordinator of Experimental Methods

Robert Klemmensen, Coordinator of the Computational Social Science Lab

The background and establishment of Lund Social Science Methods Centre

The idea of establishing a Social Science Methods Centre emerged following the RQ20 research evaluation, when faculty and department leadership decided to create a faculty-wide hub for methodological development. The overall purpose was to gather methodological competencies across the faculty, while developing and strengthening existing areas of excellence and addressing gaps in neglected fields. In preparation for 2022, Professor Åsa Lundqvist was appointed by the faculty management to lead the establishment and development of a Social Science Methods Centre (STYR 2021/2927). The process building up this environment began in January 2022.

At the outset, interviews were conducted with all department heads and management teams to discuss needs, conditions, concrete ideas, and visions for the centre. These conversations revealed strong enthusiasm across departments, with unanimous agreement on the need for a shared space where methodological and research-related issues could be explored. The talks highlighted the remarkable breadth of methodological competence at the Faculty of Social Sciences. However, they also underscored the faculty's large size, which has sometimes led to limited awareness of each other's competencies – potentially resulting in missed opportunities for innovative and interdisciplinary collaborations.

The discussions also emphasized the importance of breadth and quality. A common view among the departments was that a methods centre should encompass a wide range of methodological competences, not only to develop and enhance new knowledge but also to foster synergies. Quality was another key theme. The faculty's strong methodological competences were acknowledged, while also recognising that coordinated collaboration across departments could further enhance them. By bringing together our diverse methodological skills, the centre could create better conditions for new, and hopefully unexpected, research collaborations. For example, shared methodological interests could help researchers connect with

new partners and even inspire novel research questions. In this sense, the methods centre would constitute a central node, integrating and strengthening the faculty's collective methodological expertise.

In 2022, a workshop was also held with faculty staff to explore how the Methods Centre could take concrete form. Based on the previous discussions with the department managements, an initial proposal was presented outlining the centre's structure and potential activities. The workshop sparked a range of creative and insightful suggestions, contributing to the development of a clear vision for bringing the methods centre to life.

In summary, it was proposed that the future Methods Centre should function as an umbrella organization, bringing together distinct, yet interconnected areas as the foundation for its activities:

1. Qualitative methods
2. Computational social sciences
3. Experimental methods
4. Skills School

In addition, a mapping of other methods centres worldwide was conducted, revealing that the broad approach envisioned for Lund was quite unique. This realization further strengthened our commitment to a comprehensive and inclusive model. It was with this broad approach in mind that the then Dean, Professor Christofer Edling, together with the faculty management team, proposed the establishment of a Social Science Methods Centre at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Lund.

Lund Social Science Methods Centre's first year

In November 2023, the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences approved the establishment of the Lund Social Science Methods Centre. That same autumn, the faculty secured funding from the Vice-Chancellor to support the centre's creation, ensuring its role as a university-wide resource.

The Social Science Methods Centre is organized as an umbrella organization, consisting of four different areas, each led by a

coordinator. These coordinators are responsible for organizing, developing and managing activities within their respective area. In addition to coordinating these areas, the director focuses on organizing activities common to all areas. Together, the director and the coordinators form the Method Centre's steering group, which reports directly to the faculty management. Additionally, the Methods Centre benefits from 20 per cent administrative support.

In connection with the establishment of the method centre, a decision was taken on the Method Centre's steering group. Professor Åsa Lundqvist was appointed Director of the Methods Centre, who together with Associate Professor Lisa Flower, Associate Professor Nils Gustafsson, Professor Mikael Johansson, Professor Robert Klemmensen and Administrator Susanne Lindberg, make up the Methods Centre's steering group.

Throughout 2024, the Methods Centre has actively been engaged in various activities. We began by developing a [website](#) and opening a 'call for ideas', inviting researchers to propose activities that align with their interests. The response from faculty members has been overwhelmingly positive, with proposals coming in from nearly every department.

A key aspect of planning the faculty's Methods Centre was to enhance the consolidation of our methodological competencies. By bringing together our methodological knowledge, we aimed not only to identify current and future knowledge gaps, but also to create opportunities for new and potentially unexpected research collaborations. This ambition led us to establish an easy way for staff to join the Methods Centre via Lucris, enabling affiliates to showcase their methodological expertise and connect with others who share similar interests. This initiative is carried out in close collaboration with the Faculty of Social Sciences library.

The Methods Centre's steering group has also established contacts with environments outside the faculty. For instance, we conducted a study visit to the Lund University Humanities Lab at the HT faculties, with which we are now expanding our already existing collaborations.

We also initiated contacts with method centres at other universities, including the Copenhagen Centre for Social Science Data, thus enabling future cooperations with our Danish colleagues, and hosted representatives from The Swedish Excellence Centre for Computational Social Science, and the Stanford Ethnography Lab. We look forward to developing all of these inspiring connections.

In the fall of 2024, we also hired two research engineers, Minahil Malik and Maria Luchetta. The research engineers will provide support for the faculty's researchers who either have ongoing research projects involving relevant methods or are interested in broadening their methodological skills in Computational Social Sciences and experimental methods.

During the fall, the Methods Centre also initiated a faculty-wide application for funding to build up our existing and future databases within the framework of a common research infrastructure. The application should be ready in March 2025.

We are also delighted that the faculty, together with six of the faculty's departments, has advertised a position as professor and director of the Methods Centre.

One Methods Centre - four pillars

The overall ambition of the Methods Centre is to bring together researchers with diverse methodological expertise to foster synergies and generate new research questions and projects. Simultaneously, it is essential to develop and deepen competencies within specific methodological fields. Consequently, the Methods Centre is structured as an umbrella organization, comprising an overarching level and four distinct pillars.

Qualitative Methods Lab

The Qualitative Methods Lab serves as a vibrant hub of expertise for exploring and understanding human experiences and social phenomena and unravelling the intricate tapestry of society.

Embodying a spirit of inquiry and discovery, the Qualitative Methods Lab encompasses a diverse array of qualitative approaches characterized by their focus on in-depth exploration and context. The methodologies gathered include, but are by no means limited to, ethnography, interviews, discourse analysis, participant-based approaches, case studies, narrative analysis, focus groups, action research, and documentary research. The Qualitative Methods Lab is an organic, open and evolving hub for all experts, researchers and lecturers with an interest in qualitative methods.

Coordinator: Associate Professor Lisa Flower, Department of Sociology (Lisa.Flower@soc.lu.se)

Webpage: [Qualitative Methods Lab](#)

Experimental methods

Experimental methods in the social sciences are invaluable for gaining a deep understanding of human behaviour, cognition, and social interaction. They offer a rigorous way to test hypotheses, establish causal relationships, and build explanatory models that hold significant theoretical and applied importance. The experimental methods pillar brings together researchers with an interest in quantitative approaches to consolidate, share, and enhance expertise spanning a spectrum of methodologies.

Coordinator: Professor Mikael Johansson, Department of Psychology (Mikael.Johansson@psy.lu.se)

Webpage: [Experimental methods](#)

Computational Social Sciences

Computational methods in the social sciences are used to predict different social outcomes. Computational methods offer rigorous ways to analyze large datasets to detect patterns in very diverse types of data. The computational pillar brings together researchers with an interest in using large unstructured data such as large amounts of text from

social media, pictures, videos and sound to enrich our understanding of human cognition, opinion formation and behaviors. Furthermore, the pillar wishes to bring together researchers with an interest in natural language processing, machine learning, neural networks, network analysis and various machine learning techniques to enhance our understanding of human thoughts and behaviors.

Coordinator: Professor Robert Klemmensen, Department of Political Science (Robert.Klemmensen@svet.lu.se)

Webpage: [Computational Social Sciences](#)

Skill School

Every year, the Methods Centre organizes several method workshops. The aim of these workshops is to develop competence in research methods among the research staff and PhD Candidates at the Faculty of Social Sciences. This competence feeds directly into methods courses and research. Participants come from different departments and disciplines, which creates opportunities for networking and finding collaboration partners from other fields. Additionally, the workshops are open for participants from other faculties and universities, which further enhances the potential for networking. The mix of internal and external workshop instructors establishes and maintains valuable contacts in method expertise for the Centre.

Coordinator: Associate Professor Nils Gustafsson, Department of Strategic Communication (Nils.Gustafsson@kom.lu.se)

Webpage: [Skill School](#)

Activities during 2024

Over the past year, we have organized fifteen different events within the framework of the different pillars of the Methods Centre. We have organized seminars, workshops and conferences, and colleagues from all departments of the faculty have participated in the various events. In addition, we have reached out to other faculties, and colleagues from the HT faculties, the Faculty of Law and LTH have participated

in our activities. On some occasions, researchers from other universities have also participated. The number of participants has varied between 8 and 60 people. Skill School has conducted eight workshops.

[More information about all the different activities can be found in the centre's calendar at sam.lu.se.](#)

Seminars

21 March

[Abductive approach to a new field – forensic medical examination as a coding case](#)

Keynote: Professor Mikaela Sundberg, Department of Sociology, Stockholm University.

7 May

[Future Directions of Ethnography: “Pleasures and problems of auto-ethnography”](#)

Keynote: Professor Ulrika Dahl, Genusvetenskapliga institutionen, Uppsala universitet.

3 September

[Future Directions of Ethnography: Multi-situated ethnography, a good methodological framework for qualitative critical, feminist or queer research?”](#)

Keynotes: Associate Professor Anna Olovsdotter Lööv, Mittuniversitetet and Associate Professor Signe Bremer, Mittuniversitetet.

25 November

[Visions on the Future of Immersive Virtual Reality: Research and Application](#)

Keynote: Professor Alexander Klippel, Wageningen University and Research

28 November

[Humor in crisis: using digital methods to study the spread of disinformation, Sociotechnics and new platforms](#)

Keynote: Associate professor Moa Eriksson Krutrök, Department of Sociology, Umeå University

Workshops

16 May

[Creative Methodologies and Creative Writing: A Participatory Workshop](#)

Keynote: Professor Yvonne Jewkes, University of Bath, UK

20-21 May

[Workshop and Presentation on Sensitivity Analysis](#)

Keynotes: Professor Qinyun Lin, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, GU and Professor Kenneth Frank, Michigan State University, US.

23 May

[Illustrating research: Graphic novels as method and critical praxis](#)

Key notes: Associate Professor **Priscyll Anctil Avoine och Zulay Rueda Rueda**

Organizer: Lund Social Science Methods Center in cooperation with Agenda 2030

12 June

[Collaboration in international research projects – empty promises to funders or real opportunities to develop new knowledge?](#)

10 October

[Narrative Analysis: Forms and Application](#)

Keynote: Professor Sveinung Sandberg, Department of Sociology, Oslo University

12 October

[Computational Social Science: Linking Social Theory to Big data](#)

Keynotes: Professors Hanna Bäck, Robert Klemmensen, Lennart Olsson and Alexandru Sopasakis

29 October

[Methods that make a difference](#)

Keynotes: Professor Kimberly Nicholas, LUCSUS och Professor Diana Ivanova, University of Leeds

25 November

[Mixed methods and positionality in feminist-inspired research on water, development & environment](#)

(workshop together with SASNET)

Conferences

12 April

[Challenges and Opportunities in Participatory Research](#)

Keynotes: Professor Alice Schippers, University of Humanistic Studies (Utrecht) och Professor Klaus Petersen, Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Organizer: Lund Social Science Methods Center in cooperation with School of Social Work

30 September

[Participatory research with children and young people: Empowering Voices, Upholding Rights, Fostering Growth](#)

Keynotes: Professor Kirsten Elisa Petersen, Aarhus University, Denmark and Professor Caron Carter, Sheffield Hallam University, UK

Organizer: Lund Social Science Methods Center in cooperation with the [research network “Children’s voices, rights and development: Future practices for a resilient childhood”](#)

Skill School

Skill School is the name of a series of methods workshops that have been offered in the autumn term at the faculty since 2018 (and thus predates the Methods Centre). They are free for faculty staff and for all Lund University PhD students. For other participants, there is a low fee, ranging from 2000 SEK for a two-day workshop to 5000 SEK for a five-day workshop. Some workshops recur annually due to high and consistent demand, such as Qualitative Analysis and Coding using NVivo. Most of the instructors are internal, with a few external guests invited each year. The Skill School programme in 2024 consisted of eight workshops, covering both quantitative and qualitative methods. They are listed below:

1. *Introduction to Python*

Workshop leader: Nils Holmberg, Lund University,
Department of Strategic Communication
Time: 16–20 September, 09:00–12:00

2. *Qualitative Analysis using AI*

Workshop leader: Tullia Jack, Lund University, Department of
Service Studies
Time: 24–25 September, 09:00–12:00

3. *Introduction to R*

Workshop leader: Chris Swader, Lund University, Department of
Sociology
Time: 30 September–4 October, 09:00–12:00

4. *Qualitative Analysis and Coding using NVivo*

Workshop leader: Benjamin Claréus, Lund University, Department
of Psychology
Time: 30 September–4 October, 13:00–16:00

5. *Applied Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis in a nutshell*

Workshop leader: Jessica Daikeler, Leibniz Institute for the Social
Sciences, Survey Design and Methodology
Time: 3–4 October, 13:00–16:00

6. *Critical Ethnography*

Workshop leader: Helle Rydström, Lund University, Department of Gender Studies

Time: 7–8 October, 09:00–12:00

7. *First Order Logic for Knowledge Representation and Scientific Inference*

Workshop leader: Jean-Christophe Rohner, Lund University, Department of Psychology

Time: 7–11 October, 09:00–12:00

8. *Sensory Ethnography and Multimodal Practice*

Workshop leader: Karen Waltoorp, University of Copenhagen, Department of Anthropology

Time: 9-10 October, 13:15-16:00

Participation

The following statistics about participation are based on actual attendees (i.e. excluding late cancellations, no-show, etc.). The number of people who registered is higher. From 2022 there is a no-show fee if you cancel later than two weeks before the workshop.

83 unique individuals participated in Skill School 2024, compared to 69 in 2023. Because it is common to participate in several workshops, the number of filled spots was 106 (83 in 2023). While it is difficult to compare the different workshops since they have different scope and length, the Qualitative Analysis using AI was the most popular this year (as was the more general AI workshop last year), where we had to turn several applicants away. We will offer this workshop once again in 2025 since the demand is obviously very high.

About 60% of participants come from the Faculty of Social Sciences with all departments represented. A further 35% come from other faculties at Lund University, up from 22% last year. All faculties except the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts were represented this year, including one participant from the School of Aviation. Only two participants came from other universities this year (CBS and NTNU). 59% of participants are PhD students, which is in line with previous years.

General evaluation

The Skill School workshops were appreciated by participants and by instructors (according to evaluations and personal contacts), and the interest both internally and from other faculties demonstrate that they fill an important role for competence development, not least for PhD student across the university. The integration of the workshops into the Methods Centre has been very beneficial for increased visibility and cooperation and we hope to expand that in 2025. We suggest an offering of eight workshops in 2025, including both qualitative and quantitative methods. One recurring point of feedback is that the Introduction to R and Introduction to Python are seen as too basic by some and too advanced by other participants. For this reason, we are considering trying out a more basic version of the workshops in 2025 and perhaps follow it up with a more advanced version in 2026. Due to the high interest in AI-assisted methods in research, we will offer at least one workshop with that theme.



www.sam.lu.se/samhallsvetenskaplig-metodcentrum

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