

2014-11-11

Ledande större forskningsområden vid Samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten, Stockholms universitet 2014

Följande 21 forskningsområden har av Nämnden för forskningsfrågor vid Samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten befunnits vara ledande större forskningsområden. Områdena presenteras i alfabetisk ordning. Vid varje område återfinns en kort presentation på engelska skriven av respektive område.

Kriterier

Kraftfull forskningsmiljö som är väl fungerande, fokuserad och urskiljbar samt med en forskarutbildning som genererat ett antal disputerade forskare och som fortsatt har en grupp doktorander. Miljöer som erhållit externa forskningsanslag av en viss volym.

Barn och ungdomar i utsatta livssituationer

Barn- och ungdomsvetenskapliga institutionen

Main focus is on how children and young people understand and cope with various social circumstances and predicaments in their daily lives. Some of the research projects have explored integration of young refugees into the school system, asylum process, bullying, children as crime victims and offenders.

*Demografi ***

Sociologiska institutionen och Kulturgeografiska institutionen

This research focusses on dimensions of space and time in the processes that produce population change: fertility, mortality and migration and extends to research on processes related to family formation and family dissolution. Swedish demographic data are among the finest in the world, making Sweden a country of reference in a wide variety of demographic research. Furthermore, Swedish people have been forerunners in much demographic change, making Sweden a country of reference in most family-demographic research. Demography itself offers techniques to study human behaviour by accounting for the temporal and spatial dimensions of demographic events.

Samhällsvetenskapliga fakultetsnämnden



Design för lärande

Institutionen för data- och systemvetenskap

Technology enhanced learning (TEL) is a research area that has been conceptualized as “Designs for Learning” (DEL) combining research in interaction design with learning sciences – with a focus on designs *for* and designs *in* learning in formal and in non-formal contexts. Designing activities entails both the researcher and the professional as a designer of systems, activities and processes. The perspective also studies the individual learner as a (micro-) designer of his or her own learning environments and processes, to better inform different designs for learning.

*Ekonomisk, social och hälsomässig ojämlikhet ****

Instituten CHES och SOFI

In this research area the mechanisms and processes that generate and sustain inequalities, also in rich and relatively egalitarian welfare states, are analysed. At the centre of the research are inequalities in childhood conditions, educational attainment, working life, incomes and health status, to take some key factors, and how these and other factors are intertwined across the life-course. A perennial question is whether, and how, economic and social inequalities affect health inequality. The research has several time dimensions: cross-sectional inequality, how inequality evolves of the life-cycle, and transmission across generations.

e-tjänster och e-demokrati

Institutionen för data- och systemvetenskap

The complexity of e-Governance with its purpose to provide government services online, as well as exchange information between government and a variety of recipients, has mandated the field to refocus from service orientation to a holistic perspective integrating all of government in coherent action. Further, a connected society causes tensions between the legitimate need of e-Governance to use all available information and equally legitimate right of privacy for its citizens participating in democratic processes.

Genusakademin

Fakultetsgemensamt och fakultetsöverskridande

Gender research is constituted as a multi-disciplinary field in which researchers share common concepts and theoretical approaches. The disciplines collaborating in the Gender Academy are: Gender Studies, History, History of Ideas, Art History, Religious History, Ethnology and Cinema Studies in the faculty of Humanities; Political Science,



Economic History, Criminology, Human Geography, Child and Youth Studies, Social Work, Sociology and Social Anthropology in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Globala och regionala styrformer **

Statsvetenskapliga institutionen

This research addresses the sources, forms, and consequences of global and regional governance, including issues of power, democracy, legitimacy, and effectiveness. Empirically, the research spans multiple issue areas, including trade, finance, security, human rights, environmental policy, and regional integration. Methodologically, the research is distinguished by its comparative orientation, its combination of positive and normative research, and includes both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Historisk geografi och landskapsstudier

Kulturgeografiska institutionen

Farmlands, or agricultural landscapes, is studied from three roots: farming, landscape and society. The society is in this sense a short form for institutions, gender relations, political economy and scientific relevance. The research investigates the relation between farming, livelihoods and the environment in the past, the present and the future. From a starting point of studying the historical geography of agricultural landscapes in Sweden, the interest has broadened to farming landscapes globally. A substantial development of GIS and Remote Sensing for reading landscapes from a social science perspective has also taken place.

InRights - utmaningar för demokratiska rättigheter och inkludering

Statsvetenskapliga institutionen

The focus of this research is political inclusion and rights for migrants and minorities in contemporary democracies. The general research questions are two: how are new the societal and political inequalities following the last decades of globalization related to institutions, norms and public policy? And how are these inequalities to be evaluated in terms of democracy and justice?

Kognitivt åldrande ***

Psykologiska institutionen

Identifying the risk factors for, and mechanisms of, individual differences in age-related cognitive decline is amongst the greatest challenges to improving the health and wellbeing of older people. Yet, cognitive aging is complex in that there is little age-related decline in some mental functions, such as vocabulary and general knowledge,



but some other mental capabilities decline from middle age onwards, or even earlier. A major aim for the research is to examine whether cognitive deficits can be identified early and to provide better conditions for living independently, carrying out everyday activities, and improving verbal and socio-emotional communication with relatives and friends.

Klimat- och makroekonomi

Institutet för internationell ekonomi

The purpose is to conduct empirical and theoretical work in the intersection of economics and climate science. A key goal is to construct so-called integrated assessment models, thus describing both the economics and the climate system and their two-way interactions, at different degrees of geographical resolution aimed at studying different possible policies for combating climate change. The IIES macro group has focused primarily on the macroeconomics of inequality, labour markets, public finance, growth and technological change, and endogenous policy.

Ledning och styrning av offentlig sektor

Institutet SCORE

Economic, social and health inequalities constitute central research areas for economic science, and they are often regarded as important societal issues. In this research area the mechanisms and processes that generate and sustain such inequalities, which also exist in rich and relatively egalitarian welfare states, are analysed. At the centre of the research are inequalities regarding childhood conditions, educational attainment, working life, incomes and health status, to take some key factors.

*Politisk ekonomi ****

Institutet för internationell ekonomi

Political economy studies the determinants of government policy and ask questions such as what determines the size of government, the form of redistributive programs, the level of corruption, the extent and type of public goods provision, the burden of taxation across alternative tax bases the size of government deficits, and the stance of monetary policy during the course of business and electoral cycles. The primary methods used are analytical theoretical models of political institutions, combined with large-scale empirical investigations of the predictions from these models.

Sinnen och perception

Psykologiska institutionen

The research is multidisciplinary and organized in three topics with specific focus on the visual, auditory, and olfactory sensory systems and covers both basic and applied

research. Some examples of current research themes are; (a) the role of olfactory deficits in early-stage dementia, (b) the capacity of blind individuals to use sounds for spatial navigation (echo-localization), and (c) how intentional allocation changes the processing of visual objects of high emotional value (e.g. spiders in individuals with phobia).

Sociala nätverk

Sociologiska institutionen

The aims of this research is to explore how individual behaviour is affected by the individual's position in various social networks, how these networks develop over time, and how the structure of these networks influences various collective processes, such as the diffusion of information and collective mobilization and coordination. The research has traditionally focused on quantitative analyses with a strong element of sophisticated mathematical models (often developed by or in close collaboration with mathematicians).

Socialt arbete med barn och unga

Institutionen för socialt arbete

The area has a special focus on maltreated children and youth with behavioural problems. The research focuses on societal interventions targeting children and youth. Important institutions in this respect are child welfare agencies which investigate child maltreatment and youth delinquency, post investigative care facilitated within foster and residential care as well as other essential child welfare domains such as school social work. Important research fields include prerequisites and rationales for child welfare interventions, their legal basis, clients' perspectives of care, the evidence base for different interventions and outcomes in the short and long run for those concerned.

Socialt arbete med inriktning mot omsorg om äldre

Institutionen för socialt arbete

An important question underlying the research area is to analyse the shifting boundaries of care between state, family and market. The research is conducted in a number of interrelated projects, several involving international comparisons. One comparative project takes in seven countries and explores promising practices in residential care; another focuses on marketization of eldercare in the Nordic countries; a third compares working conditions for care workers in nine countries. Other projects focus on Sweden, e.g. investigating intimate relations in older life, and how older women and men with addiction problems are cared for by the care services.

Socialvetenskaplig alkohol- och drogforskning

Institutet SoRAD

This research highlights phenomenon such as addictive behaviours and dependence from a societal perspective and approaches those problems as multifactorial. Within this field of research the distribution of alcohol- and drug use over time is investigated, as well as its societal determinants, its related effects and consequences. Another topic concerns alcohol- and drug policy, its fundamentals, implementation, and the associated effects and consequences. The research includes discursive studies as well as empirical evaluations of specific alcohol- and drug related policies.

*Stress, arbete och hälsa ***

Psykologiska institutionen och Stressforskningsinstitutet

This research focusing on stress, work, health and restitution and seeks to understand how various work-related factors influence health and well-being, as well as to investigate the psychological and biological stress mechanisms that link exposures to health outcomes. The research comprises large-scale epidemiological studies, intensive field studies, brain imaging, and experimental lab studies as well as interventions. Investigating how organizational characteristics, working conditions and increasingly uncertain employment relations relate to health and well-being as well as to satisfaction, motivation and performance at work, this research contributes to the understanding of how healthy work practices can be achieved and sustained.

*Transnationell antropologi **

Socialantropologiska institutionen

This research deals in particular with the broader themes of globalisation and transnational processes. In a world with a constant flow of information, people and goods across borders there is a need for enhanced knowledge about the effects of globalisation. The focus lays specifically on cultural diversity, migration, ethnicity, environmental and climate change and the ideas and organizational forms that transcend national boundaries. The regional coverage is extensive and the research themes are organized into four clusters: Migration, Environment, Media and Organization.

*Utvärdering av ekonomisk-politiska åtgärder ***

Nationalekonomiska institutionen

Policy analysis involves having the appropriate econometric tools for policy evaluation and a consistent framework (i.e. a model) for interpreting the estimates of the effects of policy. Significant contributions regarding: the evaluation of particular policies (e.g. education policies) has been made; whether the impact of policies varies over social



contexts (so-called social interactions); the appropriate policy design; the extent to which political systems matter for public policy choices; and evaluation methodology (e.g. quasi-experimental methodologies).

Fotnot: markeringar för tidigare ledande forskningsområden

* = Ledande 2007

** = Ledande 2010

*** = Ledande 2007 och 2010