



Course syllabus

Kritiska frågor i katastrofriskhantering och klimatanpassning Critical Issues in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation

VRSN55, 7,5 credits, A (Second Cycle)

Valid for: 2023/24

Faculty: Faculty of Engineering, LTH

Decided by: PLED BI/RH

Date of Decision: 2023-04-12

General Information

Compulsory for: MKAT2

Language of instruction: The course will be given in English

Aim

The course aims to provide students with understanding of contemporary critical issues that affect disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, as well as skills and approaches to independently consider and communicate them. The course builds on previous knowledge and abilities from one or several subject areas that the students have developed through previous courses on advanced level.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a passing grade the student must

- be able to explain particular critical issues in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation from different and sometimes incompatible perspectives.
- be able to actively relate different critical issues to each other.

Competences and skills

For a passing grade the student must

- be able to critically and systematically integrate knowledge while analysing and addressing critical issues that affect disaster risk management and climate change adaptation even with limited information.
- be able to present and discuss various critical issues both orally and in writing.

Judgement and approach

For a passing grade the student must

- be able to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of particular critical issues in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.
- be able to reflect on her/his own need for further knowledge concerning critical issues.

Contents

The course is structured in modules focusing on different central groupings of critical issues that affect disaster risk management and climate adaptation, now and for the future. For instance, the nexus of conflict, disaster, and global change; inequality, intersectionality, and power; colonial legacies, resistance to facts, and polarization; and displacement, protection, and the erosion of international law. Students use a smorgasbord of lectures, literature and online mini-lectures and films—and the course demands that they actively and independently seek additional material—to inform their own work, their peer review of other students' work, and preparations for student-led seminars where particularly important issues are addressed, facilitated by teachers.

Examination details

Grading scale: TH - (U,3,4,5) - (Fail, Three, Four, Five)

Assessment: Written individual paper, approved portfolio of module assignments, and participation in compulsory seminars.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Parts

Code: 0121. **Name:** Portfolio.

Credits: 4. **Grading scale:** UG. **Assessment:** Approved portfolio.

Code: 0221. **Name:** Seminars.

Credits: 1. **Grading scale:** UG. **Assessment:** Approved active participation on obligatory seminars.

Code: 0321. **Name:** Course Paper.

Credits: 2,5. **Grading scale:** TH. **Assessment:** Approved written course paper.

Admission

Admission requirements:

- Enrolled on the Master's programme in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation

Assumed prior knowledge: VRSN01 Societal Resilience, VRSN05 Foundations for Risk Assessment and Management, VRSN15 Climate Smart Risk Reduction, VRSN50 Risk Perception, Communication and Human Behavior

The number of participants is limited to: No

Reading list

- Adams, C., Ide, T., Barnett, J., & Detges, A.: Sampling bias in climate-conflict research. *Nature Climate Changes*, 8(3), 200–203, 2018.
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- Behrman, S.: Refugee Law as a Means of Control. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 32(1), 42–62, 2019.
- Brinkerhoff, D. W.: Developing capacity in fragile states. *Public Administration and Development*, 30(1), 66–78, 2010.
- Brown, S.: Aid to Fragile States: Do Donors Help or Hinder? In G. Mavrotas (Ed.), *Foreign Aid for Development: Issues, Challenges, and the New Agenda*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.
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- Eriksson Baaz, M.: *The paternalism of partnership: A postcolonial reading of identity in development aid*. New York?; London: Zed Books, 2005.
- Ferris, E., & Bergmann, J.: Soft law, migration and climate change governance. *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*, 8(1), 6–29. <https://doi.org/10.4337/jhre.2017.01.01>, 2017.
- Gluckman, P., & Wilsdon, J.: From paradox to principles: Where next for scientific advice to governments?. *Palgrave Communications*, 2, 1–4, 2016.
- Hagelsteen, M., & Becker, P.: Systemic problems of capacity development for disaster risk reduction in a complex, uncertain, dynamic, and ambiguous world. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 36, 101102, 2019.
- Hsiang, S. M., Burke, M., & Miguel, E.: Quantifying the influence of climate on human conflict. *Science*, 341, 1235367. (Links to an external site.), 2013.
- Johnson, D., & Levin, S. A.: The tragedy of cognition: Psychological biases and environmental inaction. *Current Science*, 97, 1593–1603, 2009.
- Kjaerum, M.: Human rights: Early days or coming to an end?. *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*, 36(4), 311–318, 2018.
- Klintman, M.: *Knowledge resistance: How we avoid insight from others*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2019.
- Lund Schlamovitz, J., & Becker, P: Differentiated vulnerabilities and capacities for adaptation to water shortage in Gaborone, Botswana. *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, DOI: 10.1080/07900627.2020.1756752, 2020.
- Sachs, J. D.: How to help the poor: Piecemeal progress or strategic plans?. *The Lancet*, 367(9519), 1309–1310, 2006.
- UNDP: *Supporting Capacity Development in Conflict and Fragile Contexts*. New York: UNDP, 2012.

- Bolin, B., & Kurtz, L. C.: Race, Class, Ethnicity, and Disaster Vulnerability. In *Handbook of Disaster Research: Handbooks of Sociology and Social Research* (pp. 181-203). Cham: Springer, 2018.
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- Maldonado, J. K., Shearer, C., Bronen, R., Peterson, K., & Lazrus, H.: The impact of climate change on tribal communities in the US: displacement, relocation, and human rights, In J. K. Maldonado, B. Colombi, & R. Pandya (Eds.), *Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the United States* (pp. 93-106). Cham: Springer, 2013.
- Niño-Zarazúa, M., Roope, L., & Tarp, F.: Global Inequality: Relatively Lower, Absolutely Higher. *Review of Income and Wealth*, 63(4), 661-684. 2017.
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- Eklund, L., Theisen, O. M., Baumann, M., Forø Tollefsen, A., Kuemmerle, T., & Østergaard Nielsen, J.: Societal drought vulnerability and the Syrian climate-conflict nexus are better explained by agriculture than meteorology. *Nature Communications Earth & Environment*, 3(1), 85., 2022.
- Gleditsch, N. P.: This time is different! Or is it? NeoMalthusians and environmental optimists in the age of climate change. *Journal of Peace Research*, 58(1), 177-185., 2021.
- Groesch, J. & Noy, I. (eds.): Special Issue: Poverty, Inequality, and Disasters (10 articles). *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*, 4(1), 2020.
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- Schaar, J.: *Addressing Climate-related Security Risks in the Middle East and North Africa*. New York and Nairobi: UNDP and UNEP., 2020.
- von Uexkull, N., & Buhaug, H.: Security implications of climate change: A decade of scientific progress. *Journal of Peace Research*, 58(1), 3-17., 2021.
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- Wilkinson, R., & Pickett, K.: *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*. London and New York: Bloomsbury Press., 2009.

Contact and other information

Course coordinator: Per Becker, per.becker@risk.lth.se

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Further information: This course aims to facilitate to develop understanding of contemporary critical issues that affect disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA)—e.g. the nexus of conflict, disaster, and global change; inequality, intersectionality, and power; colonial legacies, resistance to facts, and polarization; and displacement, protection, and the erosion of international law—as well as skills and approaches to independently consider and communicate them. The course ends with an individual course paper that allows the student to engage in and elaborate on whatever critical issues she/he consider interesting and important in relation to DRM and/or CCA.