FID3216 Data Feminism 7.5 credits

Datafeminism

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years

Establishment

Course syllabus for FID3216 valid from Autumn 2024

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

Third cycle

Specific prerequisites

Participants should be enrolled as doctoral students.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

After the course, the student should be able to:

- ILO1: analyze the theoretical and technical issues related to data ethics, data justice, and data sustainability.
- ILO2: apply acquired knowledge to employ data and data science as tools to confront injustices magnified by data and associated techniques.
- ILO3: evaluate data science practices by recognizing their biases and taking actions to address them.

Course contents

This course aims to bridge ethical and social justice themes with advancements in data science, exploring how individuals working with data can actively challenge and transform power differentials through an intersectional feminism lens. The objectives are mainly drawn based on the seven principles outlined in the book "Data Feminism": (1) examine power, (2) challenge power, (3) elevate emotion and embodiment, (4) rethink binaries and hierarchies, (5) embrace pluralism, (6) consider the context, and (7) make labor visible. The first two modules center on acknowledging the profound significance of identifying systems of power while also recognizing the diverse methods for challenging them. In the third module, the course focuses on appreciating multiple forms of knowledge, including those originating from marginalized communities. Module four engages with the reevaluation of binary and hierarchical structures. Module five delves into pluralism, emphasizing the incorporation of local, indigenous, and experiential data in shaping knowledge paradigms. In the last two modules, the course delves into the contextualization of data and the often overlooked labor involved in data science. The course includes seven modules, each dedicated to fulfilling the outlined objectives. The instructor collaborates with students within each module, covering relevant book chapters and cutting-edge research papers. Students should read the provided material, write reports, and present their findings to the class. By the conclusion of each module, students will have gained insights into the respective topic and will be able to analyze and evaluate biases inherent in data science practices critically.

Examination

- EXA1 - Examination, 7.5 credits, grading scale: P, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

Assessment of this course will be based on four distinct tasks:

- Task 1 (reading assignments): Each student/group is required to submit a comprehensive review for a set of assigned papers corresponding to each module.
- Task 2 (presentation): Each student/group should present a set of the assigned papers.
- Task 3 (group discussion): Students are expected to attend the group presentation sessions and actively engage in the subsequent group discussions.
- Task 4 (final project): The final project requires each student/group to reproduce a paper relevant to the course topics and deliver an oral presentation.

Other requirements for final grade

None

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.