Systematic approaches to reviewing literature

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20 September – 1 November 2013

Course organised by the Wageningen School of Social Sciences (WASS), Wageningen University
Introduction & objectives of the course
This course will lead PhD candidates through a pilot systematic literature review that is relevant to their own programs of study. Systematic reviews have long been used in medical disciplines to aggregate findings across multiple empirical studies. They are rapidly growing in importance in the social sciences. The purpose of the series is to strengthen the literature reviews conducted by PhD candidates. The seminar series is conducted in collaboration with the Library. The library will provide the training and support that PhD candidates require for any PhD level literature review.

Target group and learning outcomes
PhD candidates in WASS designing a literature review.
Participants will know:
• why a systematic approach to reviewing literature in the social sciences is increasingly expected
• where in their PhD trajectory systematic reviews make sense
• which type of review is appropriate for each research question they have
• what time and resources each type of review will require
• what can and can not claim to be known as the result of a given review
• how to design and, in the most practical terms, execute a review

Assumed prior knowledge
Library information literacy course or equivalent.

Course fees
For PhDs of WASS there is a fee of 300 euros. For all other participants and for staff members (fellows/post docs), there is a fee of 600 euros for the whole course (including drinks, lunches, course materials).

Session Times
Session 1: September 20 morning
Session 2: September 25 whole day
Session 3: October 4 morning
Session 4: October 11 morning
Session 5: November 1 morning

Outline of the Course in Hours
20 hours classroom seminar
80 hours preparatory reading and setting up a literature review

Teaching methods
Seminar

Requirements and ECTS
3.7 credits (28 study hours amount to 1 credit according to ECTS)

Course Schedule
Preparatory assignment (Sent out 30 August) (approx.20 hours total effort)

Session 1: Background and getting started (1/2 day – Friday 20 September)
8:45-10:15 Background (required reading chapters 1,2,3)
  • Kinds of reviews, what they are (not) good for, what they require and what they produce
  • What makes review systematic...why bother and at what expense
  • Linking differences in assumptions, methods and conclusions
10:45-12:30 Getting started (required reading: chapter 4,7)
- Scoping
- Refining a research question
- Screening articles

Session 2: Searching (25 September)
8:45-12:30 Background (required reading chapters 5,6)
- Information management
- Findings relevant studies

13:30-15:15 Finding relevant studies
- Open lab with instructors finding relevant studies

Session 3: Analysis and Synthesis introduction (1/2 day) (4 October - 15 hours preparation)
8:45-10:15 (required reading: chapter 8)
- Discussion of questions arising from previous session
- Describing
- Assessing

10:45-12:30 Making sense of what you have found (required: chapter 9, 10)
- The varieties of syntheses
- Choosing a synthesis approach
- Interpreting and communicating findings

Session 4: Analysis and Synthesis practicum (1/2 day) (11 October - 20 hours preparation)
8:45-10:15 Review of submitted questions
10:30-12:30: Small group workshops

PAPERS DUE: 25 October 0900 (34 hours preparation)

Session 5: Colloquium (1/2 day) (1 November)
- Submission of final assignments
- Review of what has been learned

Location
The sessions will be held in building “De Leeuwenborch”, Hollandseweg 1 in Wageningen, The Netherlands. The exact rooms will be announced later.

Registration
Registration is possible electronically via the WASS courses page:
http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/Graduate-Schools/Wageningen-School-of-Social-Sciences/Courses/Registration.htm
The maximum number of participants is set at 20, the minimum at 10.

Please make sure that you provide the most recent contact details so that in case of any changes you will be notified promptly. After your internet registration you will receive a short notification that your name has been registered. At least two weeks before the course you will receive a confirmation about the location and the schedule. WASS will also send an invoice to the address indicated in the registration form.

Please e-mail to Marcella.Haan@wur.nl in case you have not received the second confirmation two weeks before the course.
Cancellations
Cancellations may be made free of charge until 1 month before the start of the course. Cancellation fee of 100% applies if participants cancel the course less than 1 month prior to the course. The organisers have a right to cancel the course not later than 1 month before the course starts. The participants will be notified of any changes at their e-mail addresses.

Further information
On course content please contact the course organiser, Dr. Peter Tamas. He can be reached through peter.tamas@wur.nl

On WASS: www.wageningenur.nl/wass

For details about the logistics, accommodation, registration, fees, study materials, etc. please contact Marcella Haan, Tel +31 317 484126, Marcella.haan@wur.nl

Contact addresses: Wageningen School of Social Sciences, Wageningen University
Hollandseweg 1, 6706 KN WAGENINGEN, The Netherlands

Useful information on accommodation for participants from outside Wageningen

Wageningen International Centre,
Hof van Wageningen: 75 euro for 1 person room, 98.50 euros for 2 persons room (including breakfast) http://www.hofvanwageningen.nl/

Hotel de Wageningseberg: 62.50 euro 1 person room, 97.50 euro for 2 persons room (including breakfast) www.wageningseberg.com

Hotel Nol in ’t Bosch: 83.50 euro for 1 person room, 110 euro for 2 persons room, also including breakfast; http://www.nolintbosch.nl/

Hotel de Nieuwe Wereld (Hotel School): 50-60 euro for a 1 person room. http://www.denieuwewereld.nl (only in Dutch)

Bed&Breakfast De Heksenspeeltuin:
25 euro for a 1 person room
Einthovenstraat 15, 6706JA Wageningen
Phone: +31 317-418161
E-mail: callyd@zonnet.nl
www.heksenspeeltuin.nl

Villaria Bed en Breakfast:
32-38 euro for a 1 person room
Nassauweg 21, 6703CG Wageningen
Phone: +31 317-419636
Email: villaria@hari.demon.nl

Ons Bakhuus Bed & Breakfast:
25 euro for a 1 person room
Dolderstraat 64, 6706 JG Wageningen
Phone.:+31 317-411994
E-mail: janny.wijbo@chello.nl

Knollywood Bed & Breakfast:
35 euro for a 1 person room
L. Roggeveenstraat 39, 6708 SL Wageningen
Phone: +31 317-420970
E-mail: Knollywood@hetnet.nl

De Herbergh Bed & Breakfast:
45 euro for a 1 person room
Generaal Foulkesweg 8, 6703 BR Wageningen
Phone: +31 317-410747
E-mail: glindenbergh@wanadoo.nl

Het Torentje Bed & Breakfast:
60 euro for a 1 person room
Nassauweg 19, 6703 CG Wageningen
Phone: +31 (0)6 55 802 865
e-mail: info@het-torentje.nl
website: http://www.het-torentje.nl
From Schiphol Amsterdam Airport to Wageningen

At the Airport you can buy a train ticket in the ‘arrivals’ area by the baggage claims. You will see the sign "Train tickets" near the exit. Then follow the signs 'Nederlandse Spoorwegen' (NS) or 'Trains and buses' to the railway station.

Purchase a one-way ticket to the Ede-Wageningen train station, this will cost €14.10 (plus a service charge if you buy the ticket at the ticket counter). It is also possible to buy the ticket from the ticket vending machines in the station.

There are direct connections from Schiphol Amsterdam Airport to Ede-Wageningen every 30 minutes. Additionally, twice an hour there is a connecting service from Schiphol to Ede-Wageningen where you have to change trains in Utrecht. The destination boards on the platform will indicate the different stations where the train will stop. Check for the names Ede-Wageningen or Utrecht and board the train and when necessary change in Utrecht. The trip from Schiphol to Ede-Wageningen takes you a bit more than one hour.


The train station is not located directly in Wageningen. This lack is fully compensated by fair means of transportation by buses and taxis. From railway station Ede-Wageningen you can take a taxi (approx. 15 min.). Taxis leave at the north side of the station. You can also come by bus: line 52 (direction Wageningen/Arnhem) departs from the north side of the station or bus line 88 (Valleilijn, direction Wageningen) leaves from the south side of the station. You have to purchase a ticket from the driver in the bus, which will cost about 2 euros.