

“Socio-technical theory and analytical methods”

Ph.D. Course: 5 ECTS Credits.
DTU Course No. 42742

Offered in two parts:

Part 1: June 7-8th, 2010. (2 days)

Part 2: August 17-18th, 2010. (2 days)

Location:

Technical University of Denmark (Lyngby Campus) and
Aalborg University, Denmark, respectively.

A Ph.D. course in Socio-technical Theory and Analytical Methods will be offered in collaboration between Aalborg University and the Technical University of Denmark. The course is open to both students within as well as outside of the Doctoral Program in Design & Innovation, and will draw upon the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS) as a fruitful venue for addressing innovation and design (broadly conceived). The course is intended for beginners as well as students already familiar with STS. Supervision during course work will emphasize the individual participants' Ph.D. projects in relation to the course's subject matter.

Course structure and content

The course is divided into two interrelated parts, where the first will provide a brief, yet focused introduction to STS, delimited to the approaches: Actor-Network Theory (ANT); Social Construction of Technology (SCOT); Domestication of Technology; and Symbolic Interactionism (through the notion of 'boundary objects'), with particular emphasis on the first two.

In the second part, these STS approaches will be treated more specifically in relation to how the theoretical constructs and frameworks for analysis serve toward the understanding of innovation and design. The course underscores the notion of actor engagements, as well as the material, symbolic and discursive aspects in the configuration of design and innovation processes and practices, in its examination of design and innovation through STS. The course will also address issues such as activities of the firm and networked collaborations, and design-use relationships in innovative undertakings, etc.

Preparations and assignments

Participants are expected to prepare a brief project description as part of the application (see further details below, in connection with the application procedure). This will also help the organisers in their course preparations.

For the first part of the course, participants will be given a syllabus and a brief assignment to prepare a short case presentation (power point) for when we meet for the course, and to be critiqued and further discussed with the instructors and fellow participants.

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In the interim between Parts 1 and 2 of the course, the participants will be asked to develop a working draft (on the order of 10-15 pages). This is to draw on relevant aspects of the course's subject matter in relation to the participant's work, depending on how far into the project the work is situated at that time. It may be writing which aims to address the dissertation's theoretical scope and orientation and/or work concerning the actual analytical treatment of empirical material.

The course instructors will provide constructive critique and suggestions for improvement on the submitted draft, when the course meets again for the second module in August. The motivation for focusing course work on this working draft is so that the individual participants may consider including this work in the dissertation as part of a relevant chapter, following the completion of the course.

How to apply and register

Please register by sending in your application by e-mail to Yutaka Yoshinaka: yosh@man.dtu.dk

Deadline for application is **Monday, April 12, 2010**.

The application should contain a brief document (2-3 pages), submitted in Word, comprising of a project description, including a delineation of your tentative research questions and empirical domain of inquiry for the project at hand. Please indicate also, to the extent possible at the time of your application, your motivation for wishing to enrol in the Ph.D. course. Here you may relate the course's subject matter (STS) to any main theoretical and methodological challenges or concerns you may have at present, and are keen on addressing and working with during the course.

Applicants will receive notification of acceptance shortly after the application deadline.
The maximum number of participants is 15.

Course instructors

Prof. Arne Remmen, Aalborg University (AAU) ar@plan.aau.dk

Assoc. Prof. Søren Løkke, Aalborg University (AAU) lokke@plan.aau.dk

Assoc. Prof. Yutaka Yoshinaka, Technical University of Denmark (DTU) yosh@man.dtu.dk