



## 10,606: Inventive methods and research practices

### Subject information

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ECTS-Credits: 4

### Attached courses

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Timetable	Language	Lecturer
<a href="#">10,606,1.00 Inventive methods and research practices</a>	English	<a href="#">Grand Simon</a>

### Course information

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#### Course prerequisites

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This course forms a tandem with the course "Process theory and theorizing process in organization studies".

As preparation for the first seminar session, the study of selected papers is required. They are provided electronically, please send an email to [simon.grand@unisg.ch](mailto:simon.grand@unisg.ch). In addition, the seminar will work with selected chapters of two books, John Law: "After Method: Mess in Social Science Research"; Celia Lury & Nina Wakeford: "Inventive Methods: The happening of the social".

#### Course content

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In organization studies, and in social and cultural research more generally, we observe a growing interest in so-called process research, as well as in related process theories and process methodologies. Process research is characterized by an interest in studying phenomena as temporal, distributed, uncertain and fragile.

Thereby, we can distinguish three pre-dominant ways of conducting process research in practice: first, we see empirical studies describing how particular phenomena, activities and patterns unfold over time (Pettigrew, Burgelman, Langley); second, we see theories conceptualized as process theories (Weick, Hernes, Chia); third, we see approaches emphasizing that process research has fundamental epistemological and methodological implications (Law, Latour, Lury & Wakeford).

This course first introduces into some aspects of research methodology in this perspective, by emphasizing the importance of understanding research itself as a creation process (Day 1 of the block seminar); furthermore, the course emphasizes the importance of research methods as practices for working with heterogeneous empirical materials (on Day 2 of the block seminar, we will work with a series of exercises related to the PhD projects of the doctoral students); finally, we will explore how insights from the research process can be presented and displayed (Day 3).

#### Course structure

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The course is structured in four parts, including a preparatory task (see above), three seminar sessions (days 1 to 3), and a written essay:

- Preparatory task: As preparation for the first seminar session, the study of selected papers is required. They are provided electronically, please send an email to [simon.grand@unisg.ch](mailto:simon.grand@unisg.ch). It is not required to prepare any presentations on the selected papers, they will be discussed in class.
- Day 1: We will first work on the books by John Law: "After Method: Mess in Social Science Research" and Celia Lury & Nina Wakeford: "Inventive Methods: The happening of the social". The idea of this session is to elaborate an understanding of what it means to conduct process research and to understand the research process in this perspective, as well as to identify implications for research practice.
- Day 2: Second, we will work practically on heterogeneous empirical materials collected by the doctoral students in the context of their PhD projects. In a series of practical exercises, we will try out research practices, which are essential for (re-)assembling and (re-)presenting empirical materials in the perspective of process research, in order to practically explore what we discuss on Day 1.
- Day 3: In the third seminar session, the students will present their research projects based on the (re-)assembled materials and particular ways of relating them, as developed on Day 2. Thereby, the focus lies on exploring how heterogeneous research methods and materials can be related to telling at the same time a

convincing story and a "risky account" (Bruno Latour) in the context of the own PhD project.

- Final tasks: After the third seminar session, the students elaborate a short essay, in which they reflect the implications of the seminar and the various exercises and discussions for their PhD project and their research practice, referencing to the literature discussed in the seminar.

#### Course literature

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- Law, John. 2004. "After method : mess in social science research". London / New York. Routledge.
- Celia Lury & Nina Wakeford: "Inventive Methods: The happening of the social". London / New York: Routledge.

#### Course additional information

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### Information about the Examination

#### Examination type

#### **decentral - Active participation (40%)**

#### Examination aids

#### **no regulation necessary**

No rules for examination aids are required for this examination.

- For written examinations at home (term paper), courses without credits, etc., no specific rules for examination aids are required.
- The regulations of the University of St. Gallen and the rules of academic work (sources and aids must always be identified) are applicable in a subsidiary fashion.
- All written work must be accompanied by a declaration of authorship.

Question language: **English**

Answer language: **English**

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#### **decentral - Presentation (individual) (30%)**

#### Examination aids

#### **no regulation necessary**

No rules for examination aids are required for this examination.

- For written examinations at home (term paper), courses without credits, etc., no specific rules for examination aids are required.
- The regulations of the University of St. Gallen and the rules of academic work (sources and aids must always be identified) are applicable in a subsidiary fashion.
- All written work must be accompanied by a declaration of authorship.

Question language: **English**

Answer language: **English**

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#### **decentral - examination paper written at home (individually) (30%)**

#### Examination aids

#### **no regulation necessary**

No rules for examination aids are required for this examination.

- For written examinations at home (term paper), courses without credits, etc., no specific rules for examination aids are required.
- The regulations of the University of St. Gallen and the rules of academic work (sources and aids must always be identified) are applicable in a subsidiary fashion.
- All written work must be accompanied by a declaration of authorship.

Question language: **English**

Answer language: **English**

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#### Examination content

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See "course literature".

#### Exam-relevant literature

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See "course literature".

### Attention please:

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***We would like to point out to you that this fact sheet has absolute priority over other information such as StudyNet, faculty members' personal databases, information provided in lectures, etc.***

***When will the fact sheets become binding?***

***Information about courses and examination type (central/decentral and grading form): from the***

**start of the bidding process on 24 January 2013**

**Information about decentral examinations (examination aids, examination content, exam-relevant literature): after the 4th semester week on 18 March 2013**

**Information about central examinations (examination aids, examination content, exam-relevant literature): from the start of the enrolment period for the examinations on 8 April 2013**

**Please look at the fact sheet once more after these deadlines have expired.**