



## MINUTES OF MEETING

10 DECEMBER 2024

**Forum** Board of Studies for Social Data Science

**Meeting date** 10 December 2024, 11.00AM - 01.00PM

**Place** 1.1.12 – SODAS Large Conference Room

### Attendees

Samantha Dawn Breslin, Gregory Eady (11:10AM), Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen, Csilla Duray, Janis Beginen, Sofia Noor Steensma, Valentina Yepes Montes and Simon Durstewitz

### Absentees

Rosa Lavelle-Hill and Nikolaj Arpe Harmon

### Guests

Simone Thorsen, Kristoffer Langkjær Albris, Kristine Hemme, Signe Staun Kelly and Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm

### Minute taker

Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm

### Agenda

- 1. Approval of the minutes and the agenda / Andreas (5 minutes, 11:00AM-11:05AM)**

*Decision: The members of the board must decide whether to approve the minutes of the last Study Board meeting, 5 November 2024 (See appendix 1.1).*

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*Furthermore, the board must decide whether to approve the meeting agenda.*

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The agenda was approved. The minutes of the last meeting was approved.

**2. Briefing on the results of the elections for the Study Board / Andreas (5 minutes, 11:05AM-11:10AM)**

**Orientation:** Due to a mistake in the elective system, the five areas of representation has been applied in the 2024 elections, and Samantha, Nikolaj and Gregory has been re-elected for the study board to represent Anthropology, Economy and Political Science, respectively. Rosa Lavelle-Hill will resign from the board, but Lau Lilleholt Harpviken has been elected in her place to represent Psychology. Chairperson Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen has, due to the abovementioned mistake, not been elected for the study board, but the study leadership is working on a solution to this misfortune. In the meantime, former head of studies, Friedolin Merhout, has been elected to represent Sociology.

In the future the study board is aiming for a constitution with one spot designated for SODAS whilst the four remaining spots should be designated for the staff at the Social Science Faculty.

The following five students have been elected for the board for the coming year: Janis Beginen, Sofia Noor Steensma, Valentina Yepes Montes, Simon Durstewitz and Rebecca Schmieder. This also means that Csilla will step down as student representative and vice-chairperson.

Study leadership thanks all present members of the board for their efforts in the board and welcomed the new members of the future board.

**3. Election of student representative for the sub-committee for exemptions and credit transfer / Andreas (5 minutes, 11:10AM-11:15AM)**

**Orientation and decision:** *The former student member of the sub-committee for exemptions and credit transfers has graduated. As a result, the board must elect a new member, who will join Nikolaj until the constitution of the new board of Studies (February 2025).*

**Orientation:** Formerly, the sub-committee has been constituted by Nikolaj (Staff) and Semra (Student). Semra has graduated from the

programme, and the students have nominated Sofia to represent the students in the committee.

**Decision:** the board approved of the nomination, and Sofia was elected as student representative of the sub-committee.

**4. Processing of pre-approvals / Simone (10 minutes, 11:15AM-11:25AM) CLOSED DOOR ITEM**

**Orientation and decision:** The board discussed the case as presented by Simone and agreed to have the new subcommittee do the final processing of the pre-approval.

**5. News from the Students / Csilla (10 minutes, 11:25AM-11.35AM)**

**Group work and the assessment of group examinations:**

Csilla informed that students find that group examinations are not being assessed on an individual basis, resulting in overall lower grades, and students would like more transparency on how group assignments are being assessed individually (cf. [common curriculum, paragraph 6.8.2](#)). Furthermore, students remark that in the case that a group assignment is being assessed individually, as is the case for ASDSII, it affects the group dynamics negatively if student expectations to the grade are not aligned.

Kristoffer noted that group examinations at SDS are continuously brought up as a frustration in the board of studies. Kristoffer will address and examine the need for group examinations in the development of the reformed MA in Social Data Science, and he will put this subject on the agenda for the upcoming SDS teachers retreat in January. Until then, the board of studies could propose that more examinations are being conducted individually, and it could be addressed if group work could be sustained through group assignments as exam prerequisites prior to the exam.

**Assessment of ESDS, 2024:**

Students noted that the assessment of ESDS was lower than expected. Kristoffer informed that assignments of ESDS are being assessed individually, but that they have been assessed lower in 2024. This might be a result of a change in external censors and subjectiveness in the assessment process. However, all external examiners assess assignments according to the learning outcomes of the course. Kristoffer will remind teachers to remind students on how to mark out individual contributions in group assignments.

**6. News from the Student Advisors / Kristine Hemme (10 minutes, 11:35-11:45AM)**

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**Info meeting, Master's Thesis:** Kristine informed that Signe, Kristoffer and herself has held a info meeting for the upcoming Master's Thesis students. The event was evaluated positively, and the Student Advisory will continue with the initiative in the future.

**Semester check-in:** Due to the scarcity in staff, it has not been possible to offer the semester check-in with the first-year student cohort. It is uncertain whether the Student Advisory will have sufficient resources in the future, reformed educational administration, but if so, the offer will be planned in accordance with the student evaluations.

**7. News from the Student Administration / Sidse (10 minutes, 11:45AM-11:55AM)**

1) **Course descriptions in the programme curriculum:** Course descriptions will be removed from the programme curriculum, and from September 1, 2025, they will only be available at kurser.ku.dk. The programme curriculum will, however, contain a table with links to each course offered by the programme.

2) **New template for course descriptions:** The template for course descriptions has been updated, and with this follows a new, common procedure for changes to existing courses. As of December 2024, changes to existing courses and set-up of new elective courses should be processed in the study board in February with effect the coming academic year.

**8. Lunch (30 minutes, 11:55AM-12:30PM)**

**9. News from Head of Studies / Kristoffer (15 minutes, 12:30PM-12:45PM)**

**MA-reform:** Kristoffer informed the board on the MA-reform. The MSc in Social Data Science, Global Development and Security Risk Management will have to reform their two-year master's programme into new 1 ¼-programmes. Students will be heard in the development of the new SDS-programme through their participation in the study board, but it's still uncertain how the future process will be.

Due to the short lifespan of the reformed MSc some challenges are expected regarding student representation in both the teaching and the

study board of the programme. These and other challenges will be addressed in the development of the programme, and Kristoffer will continue to inform the board on the MA-reform.

**Staff at SDS:** Rosa Lavelle-Hill has accepted a professorship in Basel, and the Department of Psychology might offer a permanent replacement. Postdoc Stephanie Brandl will join the teaching staff at SDS from February. Furthermore, a position as teaching assistant professor has been announced.

Morten Axel Pedersen is stepping down as Head of Center for SODAS. Professor Ingo Zettler will take over as of 1 March 2025.

**10. The recent and future work of the Study Board / Andreas (10 minutes, 12:45PM-12:55PM)**

- a. *What accomplishments of the current study board would you like to highlight to the future study board?*

Students remarked that they have received more feedback from teaching staff due to the work of the study board.

Andreas noted that the board has taken the first steps of qualifying the group work aspect of the programme.

- b. *What should be the focus of the SB during 2025, and how should these items be planned for the next year (appendix 10.1)?*

Andreas noted that the focus of the future study board will be the reform of the master's programme. The use of group work and group examinations will continue to be a topic in this regard.

**11. AOB / Andreas (5 minutes, 12:55PM-1:00PM)**

**Deadline for course evaluations, fall 2024:** Kristoffer reminded the board on the course evaluation, and he encouraged students to evaluate the courses prior to the deadline 15 December and to spread the word to fellow students. Furthermore, he encouraged course coordinators and teachers to set aside time in class for students to evaluate.

The course evaluations form the basis in the study board's quality assurance and development of the courses of the programme - and the programme in its entirety.

Yours sincerely,

Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm  
Programme Coordinator