

The Nordic Baltic Doctoral Network in Social Work

Evaluation Summary of NBSW research course in Helsinki

Focusing Research on Practices: Methodologies, Knowledge Production and Ethics in Social Work

Practice Research, from 17th to 19th of November 2011, at University of Helsinki.

Altogether 17 PhD students sent their evaluations (3 participants didn't fill in the form)

Respondents' opinion on the course	Disagree	Neither	Agree
1) I really enjoyed the course			18
2) I had a lot of exchange with PhD-students from the other countries		3	15
3) I had a lot of exchange with PhD-students from my country	3	6	9
4) The course gave me new perspectives			18
5) The lectures was very interesting		6	12
6) The presented papers were very interesting		6	12
7) The seminars was very interesting		4	14
8) The literature was very interesting	2	4	12
9) I read all literature for the course	8	3	7
10) I think the course was well organized		1	17
11) The course fulfilled my expectations		1	16
12) The course made me more aware of a Nordic-Baltic perspective	2		16
13) The course made me more aware of an international perspective		1	18
14) I would recommend attending the course to my PhD-student-colleagues			17
15) I hope to participate in more courses	1	2	15

The best with the research school

The highlight of the course was the international perspective to social work practice research; international lectures and interaction with the PhD students from other countries. Paper seminars offered an opportunity to discuss about research papers and gave important feedback from other PhD students and experienced group leaders. All this gave new information and perspectives on the topic of the course, as well as new ideas, support and professional advices to ones own research.

The most problematic with the research course

The course schedule was a little bit too tight and gave too little time for discussions. More time was needed also for the interaction with PhD students from other paper groups. Participants wished for more initiative from the lecturers to invite the students into the dialogue rather than talking with other senior researchers.

What they would like the coming organizers to think about

Timetable and program:

The participants would like organizers to reserve enough time to breaks and to group works, comments, to discussions and to other interaction.

Pauses and organized meals:

Participants wished that there were an organized party which would give possibility to get to know the other participants. There were organized dinner for all participants, but it was on a first evening of the course. The joint dinner would be better on the last day of the event. First day's evening is quite hard, if to have in mind long journey. The participants felt that the organized dinner could have been less expensive. The participants commented that the arrangement regarding coffee breaks was not very good. Some snacks and drinks would be nice to have during the pauses.

Ideas for the future courses:

It would be the best to have hands-on course – i.e. some course where you can learn to use some kind of method in social work research (backgrounds are very different and it would be great to really exercise our researcher abilities).

Students could be engaged more in discussion of the lectures given by doing group work in relation to the lectures in smaller groups.