**HGO4605**

**Exam questions HGO 4605, Spring 2023**

Answer one of the two questions. The answer shall not exceed 4000 words, excepting the list of references.

Either

What explains regionalization and shortening of global chains and networks? In what ways does it affect upgrading and downgrading? Use empirical examples and explain why you have chosen the respective examples. Argue shortly whether, or not, you think that globalization is being reversed and the concepts of global value chains and production networks are losing analytical value.

Or

Discuss possibilities and barriers for workers to exercise power and improve their working conditions in global value chains, production, and destruction networks. How are different concepts (understandings) of institutions, embeddedness structures, and attention to context useful in analyses of such possibilities and barriers? Use empirical examples and explain why you have chosen the respective examples. Comment very shortly on what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the chains and networks perspective in analyzing the power of labour.

**Guidelines for examiners**

**Examination HGO 4605, Spring 2023**

The students shall write a paper that answers one of the two exam questions. Each of the two exam questions contains sub-questions to guide the students into the respective topic.

The guidelines here are course specific and subject specific. They come in addition to the general grading system of the department.

The following applies to both questions (papers):

-The paper shall not exceed 4000 words, excepting references

-The students shall demonstrate good knowledge of the relevant literature in the syllabus. In addition, they may include material from other scholarly publications if this helps them in highlighting their points

- The empirical examples could be from the syllabus, other academic sources or cases that have attained media attention

- Reflections over theoretical stands (or points of departure) in the literature that they use and over the empirical data that they present should be honored

-It is of course an advantage if the students include more aspects than those that are mentioned below, but these aspects must be clearly relevant to the exam questions

**NB! For use of Artificial Intelligence, see separate instructions**

**Exam Questions and more specific guidelines**

Either

What explains regionalization and shortening of global chains and networks? In what ways does it affect upgrading and downgrading? Use empirical examples and explain why you have chosen the respective examples. Argue shortly whether, or not, you think that globalization is being reversed and the concepts of global value chains and production networks are losing analytical value.

The concepts of regionalization and shortening should be explained. ‘Shortening’ is used to a limited extend in the course literature, but the literature distinguishes between global, regional, and domestic chains and networks. Explanations of regionalization and shortening at different the scale of geopolitical and geoeconomics to the firm level should be lauded, even if the student does not apply the concepts or terms of geopolitics and geoeconomics per see. The student should define economic and social upgrading and downgrading but is free to delimit the answer to either the economic or social. Concepts such as decoupling and reshoring are a useful in discussing causes of regionalization and shortening and outcomes in terms of upgrading and downgrading. If the student uses empirical cases from both the global north and the global south it should be lauded. The last question is open, but it should be lauded if the student refers to the notion of entwined processes of globalization and regionalization.

Or

Discuss possibilities and barriers for workers to exercise power and improve their working conditions in global value chains, production, and destruction networks. How are different concepts (understandings) of institutions, embeddedness structures, and attention to context useful in analyses of such possibilities and barriers? Use empirical examples and explain why you have chosen the respective examples. Comment very shortly on what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the chains and networks perspective in analyzing the power of labour.

The student is expected explain different forms of power such as associational /organizational power, structural power, symbolic power, and institutional power. Institutions in the form of norms and values, regulatory frameworks and national /local labour relations should be mentioned. Neilson and Pritchard’s (2009) chapter on institutions may serve as a theoretical point of departure for different levels of understanding institutions and the importance of attention to context. There are several examples of possibilities and barriers for workers to exercise power in the course literature. If the candidate also demonstrates possibilities and barriers for workers to exercise power from other scholarly literature or public media, it should be lauded. The last question is open.

**HGO4010**

**EKSAMENSOPPGAVE/INNLEVERING OG SENSORVEILEDNING**

**HGO4010 Assessment Exercise 1: RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

Your assignment is to write a research proposal, based on a self-determined research topic.

The purpose of a research proposal is to account for methodological choices prior to conducting data collection and analysis. Consequently, you will use phrases like “I will..” and “I intend to..”, in contrast to the language of a research report, which accounts for these choices in retrospect.

The research proposal will give you an opportunity to show your ability to apply your methodological competence to a self-determined topic. You will be assessed on your ability to make methodological choices, and to reflect and communicate these choices in a convincing manner. In other words, this is not a test of your understanding of a particular research topic, but you will still need to offer a minimum of background information and theoretical context to let the reader assess the suitability of your research design.

The text **cannot exceed 2000 words**. It can be structured as you see fit, but should include the following elements:

* A brief background to the topic
* Some indication as to how your proposed research can be located in the academic literature
* A problem statement or research question
* A description of the overall research design and a justification of its suitability
* An account of your data collection strategy and a justification of why this is the best way to investigate your question
* An account for your data analysis strategy and a justification of why this is appropriate given your research question, empirical material and theoretical context
* A reflection anticipating and acknowledging practical challenges and ethical dilemmas and discussing how these are best solved
* An evaluation of the rigour of your proposed research design

You do not need to specify timeframe or budget in this proposal, but you should design a research project that can be carried out by a single researcher with resources comparable to an MA student. Follow department guidelines for academic citations.

## Exam question (announced at the start of the exam period)

Your assignment is to demonstrate your ability to tackle a practical methodological situation.

You tackle the case problem by writing a 2000-word text written as a retrospective reflection the choices you have made in a hypothetical situation. Write as if you evaluate your research process in hindsight, using the same writing format and retrospective style that is common in the methods chapter of a master thesis.

BRIEF

You decided to write your thesis about climate change policies and their impact on a local community, which depends on a carbon-intensive workplace. You were motivated by the relevance of the topic – both academically and politically. You were particularly interested in how workers at such a workplace perceive and act upon the climate debate and climate policy targets of zero carbon emissions – which will change the conditions of work. You chose a case study on Company X in Community Z. Your research questions was: “How do workers in Company Xperceive and act upon the climate change policies?”.

You started by acquainting yourself with the relevant literature, including on labour, just transition and climate change. For your methodological design, you decided upon a data collection strategy based on interviews with 10-15 workers at Company X. The research topic – is a sensitive issue enveloped in a polarised public debate, where interests are vested and feelings strong. Therefore, as a first step in data collection, you have established direct contact with the trade union leader at Company X. You have met once and communicated through social media. You have presented your research plans, and the union leader has agreed to act as your gatekeeper, by reflecting on issues and research design and by helping to get access to other workers.

CASE PROBLEM

When reading news about climate change and labour, you come over an opinion piece in a newspaper, written by a nationally well-known climate activist. You find the piece thought-provoking and share it on a social media platform. The following day, your union contact/gatekeeper calls you. Referring to the post you shared, the union leader expresses doubts. S/he does not consider you a neutral researcher and withdraws his/her cooperation with you.

Describe how you dealt with the situation, in retrospect, and in particular the following considerations: How did you evaluate the situation? What kind of measures did you take? How did you relate to the gatekeeper? Did you revise your research questions, design and/or data collection strategy?

## Examiner’s guide

As the exam is a test of the students’ ability to combine knowledge from different parts of the curriculum and seminar series, and explicitly asks students to demonstrate practical methodological abilities, it is very hard to assess exactly what the best assignments would look like. Students would have to think creatively and independently, and I think this ability is more important in the overall assessment than detailed knowledge of particular issues. The best assignments would solve the case problem with a combination of alternative methods and provide an honest assessment of the thought exercise.

The students from 2019 through 2023 have suggested criteria for evaluating rigour retrospectively in a report on conducted research:

* **The best reports show clear and open reporting of methodological choices and practices**
	+ This could include being clear on what kind of interpretation framework is used This could include clear and critical reporting on data collection methods
	+ This could include clarifying alternative choices based on issues of access
* **The best reports should demonstrate reflexive management, including by showing how the researcher reflected on and adapted to dilemmas (cf. the ‘case problem’)**
	+ This could include being open about the researchers’ positionality
	+ This could include relevant checks and balances with your interpretative community and your research field
	+ This could include referring to memos, a research diary or other techniques documenting flexibility and reflexivity along the process
	+ This could include reflcting on ethical issues and demonstrating how ethical dilemmas were dealt with through open reporting
* **The best reports should demonstrate flexibility and sensitivity to emergent themes throughout the process**
	+ This could include accounting for the experiences of agents that it portrayed in the research
* **The best reports should be explicit on issues of rigour, not assume these virtues implicitly**
	+ This could include recognising researcher influence
	+ This could include showing how perspectives and/or sources were triangulated
	+ This could include demonstrating transferability by contextualising the case in the field of study
* **The best reports combine creativity and rigour**

HGO4203

**Guidance for sensorship – HGO4203 spring 2023**

Per Gunnar Røe, 16.05.2023

**Exam:**

Research paper, where the students choose theme, in dialogue with the course coordinator and the internship host (if the student has chosen an internship option)

**Description of course:**

This course aims to explore challenges, transformations and policies related to urban sustainability. Particular emphasis is placed on the social, cultural and spatial aspects of these challenges and policies. The course involves the in-depth analysis of traditional and contemporary theories about urban sustainability and policy transformations. The course relates to urbanization and urbanism as a global process, and includes literature, insights and perspectives from different parts of the world, including the global south. The main themes covered by the course are:

* Urban sustainability challenges (emissions, energy, climate and inequality)
* Urban structural transformations (urbanization, land use, infrastructures, energy, spaces and flows)
* Transition in urban practices and cultures (social world views, life styles, practices, institutions and path dependencies)
* Urban policy transformations (policies, planning and co-creation, global, national and local)

The course offers two study options:

1. Internship-based option (available only for students with admission to the master’s programme in Human Geography)
2. Desk study or academic option (open for students of relevant master’s degrees programmes).

**The research paper:**

The research paper should address a research question related to two of the four themes of the course. The empirical basis for the paper may be (i) collected data or information for the academic option, or (ii) experience and information gathered during internship for the internship option. The course coordinator has assessed and approved the research question and the empirical basis for the paper within a set deadline, and the students have received individual supervision. The literature list may be based on the list of recommended readings and other literature. Two examples of previously submitted papers have been available for guidance (one for each study option).

The expected length of the research paper is 5000 words (plus notes/reference list) for the academic option and 4000 words (plus notes/reference list) for the internship option, using 12 point letter size and a spacing of lines 1 ½. Students may write in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

**HGO4940 Marking Criteria**

Not exhaustive and generally judge each of the three sections as a whole given the sub-criteria and other thoughts…e.g., if an otherwise perfect map (e.g., colour, scale bar…) but it’s too overcrowded that it cannot be interpreted then it can be marked as a B/C/D for example.

**33%** allocated based on the quality of the maps, for example, based on:

* Appropriate types of maps for the data
* Appropriate colours/symbology schemes
* Appropriate inclusion of data (e.g., not overcrowded)
* Appropriate inclusion and/or formatting of north arrows, scale bars, legends, titles
* Appropriate inclusion of inset maps (or alternatives) if appropriate

**33%** allocated to the methods used based on:

* Quality (difficulty) of spatial methods used
	+ Give some/limited credit to non-spatial methods, including if there are some minor flaws (this is not a quantitative methods assessment)
* Quantity of spatial methods used
	+ Give some/limited credit even if not fully cohesive
	+ Give some/limited credit even if they do not fully outline what they did if you can confidently work out what they did
* Explanation and justification of the methods and data used (the **Methodology** section)

**33%** allocated to the write-up:

* **Introduction/Literature Review:** They explain the literature/backdrop for their study to the level a layman (in many cases we will be that layman) can understand
* **Introduction/Literature Review:** Pose clear research question; the research question is supported in terms of previous studies; and supported in terms of its relevance/importance
* **Results/Discussion:** Appropriate write-up of the results, limitations of their analysis (including around error and uncertainty) and conclusions (particularly in reference to other studies and their research question
* **Throughout**: sufficient references (e.g. ~10) and use of them. Here: we should not be expected to know every literature, but you reasonably judge and penalize if you believe they are out-of-date (e.g., if all studies are 20 or more years old)