

SOS 2402 Family, gender and the welfare state

Course content

This course gives an introduction to family change from a gender and welfare state perspective. Theoretically the course is informed by gender perspectives on the welfare state and theories on personal relationships in modern societies, while the reading list is set up to highlight the Norwegian/Nordic experiences. Among the questions addressed are: What typifies the social-democratic welfare state approach to family, gender and work? The course examines a wide range of policies (e.g. parental leave, daddy quotas, state-sponsored day care for children, working time regulations). What are the effects of policy interventions on gender equality and fertility? To what extent are family forms and practices characterised by change and diversity, in particular in relation to gender and class? How can personal relationships in families be conceptualised and studied from a gender perspective in a Nordic context? The course literature contains analyses of comparative statistical data and national case studies, as well as qualitative studies.

Learning outcomes

The goal is to give students a theoretically based knowledge about family change from a gender and welfare state perspective, and to enable students to assess the significance of institutional contexts for change in family and gender relations.