

SOS 2402 Course content

This course gives an introduction to the Scandinavian/Norwegian welfare state focusing on family policies, gender equality and family change. Theoretically, the course is informed by gender perspectives on the welfare state and on families/personal relationships. Among the questions addressed are: What typifies the Scandinavian/Norwegian welfare state approach to family, gender and work? What are the effects of family policy interventions on women's employment 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 equality perspective in a Scandinavian/Norwegian context?

The course examines a wide range of family policies (e.g. parental leave, daddy quotas, publicly subsidised childcare services, cash for care benefits). The course literature highlights the Scandinavian/Norwegian experience through analyses of comparative statistical data and national case studies, and by contrasting the Scandinavian experience with that of other European countries.

This course is intended for both Norwegian and international students.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

- obtain knowledge about main features of Scandinavian/Norwegian family policies
- acquire understanding of the importance of institutional contexts for changes in family and gender relations

Skills

- skills in using sociological concepts and theories to analyse the relationships between family change and gender equality in the Scandinavian/Norwegian welfare states
- discuss and make use of central sociological theories to discuss concrete political reforms, institutions and processes

Competences

- awareness of the highly complex relationships between family change, gender equality and welfare state policies