Social Construction: Theory and Practice

**Date:** May 15, 2017 09:00 AM - May 16, 2017 05:00 PM

**Location:** Dragvoll Campus, Paviljong B, room 156, Norway, https://www.ntnu.edu/dragvoll

**Course leaders:** *Sheila McNamee* (Professor at University of New Hampshire, USA) and *Ottar Ness* (Associate Professor at NTNU, Professor at University College of Southeast Norway, and Professor II at Nord University).

**Language:** English

**Grade:** Approved/not approved

**Compulsory:** Participation

**Entrance:** Priority given to students who have been admitted to PhD program

**Registration fee:** Free of charge. No fee. Travel and hotel must be paid by the participants.

**Deadline for application:** 1 May 2017.

**Contact:** Ottar Ness, ottar.ness@ntnu.no Phone: +4790125312.

**Credits:** 5.0 credits participation and paper. 2.5 credits participation (without paper)

**Learning objectives:**

- Students are able to articulate the different assumptions that guide research within a constructionist perspective.
- Students are able to assess the applicability and use of social constructionist practice in counseling, education, therapy and organizational development.
Students can draw up relevant research questions within the field of social construction and identify appropriate methods.

Content
Social constructionist ideas have been increasingly used to inform practice as well as inquiry. These ideas draw on a relational paradigm, which emphasizes the meaning-making process where interactions, as opposed to cognitive/mental processes, become the focus of concern. By examining what people do together, we will explore the ways in which our realities are created. Thus, our focus will be centered on relational processes, interactions, language and embodied practices. Additionally, focus will be on the practical application of constructionist ideas in a variety of contexts, such as therapy, organizations, healthcare, communities, and education.

Course materials: 500 pages.

Teaching methods and activities: lectures and seminars

Assessment: Paper/participation

ECC: 5,0 credits participation and paper. 2,5 credits participation (without paper)

Paper: 12-15 pages. Must be handed in before the June 19 2017. The research questions of the paper must be within the frame of the course and should relate to some of the course literature. Paper to be sent to Ottar Ness, ottar.ness@ntnu.no

Applications for participation are sent to Ottar Ness, ottar.ness@ntnu.no

Phone: +4790125312.

Deadline for application is May 1, 2017. The application must contain an abstract (app. 500 words) describing research interest and whether or not you intend to complete a paper for the seminar. The number of participants is restricted, and will be accepted on a first come basis.

PROGRAM

Day 1: NTNU-Dragvoll Campus, Paviljong B, room 156
9:00-9:30 Welcome
9:30-11:00 Formal Introductions
  o What are your interests in social construction?
  o What is your background with social construction?
  o What are your hopes and wishes for this workshop?
11:00-11:15 Break
11:15-12:00 An introduction to social construction and relational theory
12:00-12:45 Lunch
12:45-15:00 Language Practices and Constructed Communities
15:00-15:30 Group discussion
15:30-15:45 Break
15:45-16:30 Identity, Personhood, and Professional Practice
16:30-17:00 Group discussion

Day 2: NTNU-Dragvoll Campus, Paviljong B, room 156
08:30-09:00 Coffee
09:00-10:30 Social Construction and Forms of Inquiry
10:30-10:45 Break
10:45-12:15 Dialogue and Dialogic Ethics
12:15-13:00 Lunch
13:00-14:30 Group discussion
14:30-15:00 Social Construction and Forms of Inquiry
15:00-15:15 Break
15:15-16:00 Dialogue and Dialogic Ethics
16:00-17:00 Group discussion
17:00-17:30 Social Construction and Forms of Inquiry
17:30-18:00 Break
18:00-19:00 Dialogue and Dialogic Ethics
19:00-19:30 Group discussion
19:30-20:00 Social Construction and Forms of Inquiry
20:00-20:30 Break
20:30-21:00 Dialogue and Dialogic Ethics
21:00-21:30 Group discussion
21:30-22:00 Social Construction and Forms of Inquiry
22:00-22:30 Break
22:30-23:00 Dialogue and Dialogic Ethics
23:00-23:30 Group discussion
3:30-3:45 Break
3:45-4:30 Transformative Dialogue
4:30-5:00 Keeping the conversation going: Integrating social construction in your work

**Reading list: Social constructionist theory and practice**


Frank, A. (2005). What Is Dialogical Research, and Why Should We Do It? *Qualitative Health Research*, 15, 964-974. [http://qhr.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/15/7/964](http://qhr.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/15/7/964)


McNamee, S. (200?). Relational practices in Education: Teaching as conversation. In H. Anderson & D. Gehart, (eds.), *Collaborative therapy* (pp. 313-336)


**Suggested readings**


