

## **PhD Course.**

### **Comparative Welfare Policy Analysis. How to study contemporary welfare state reforms?**

#### **Course responsible:**

Professor Per Læg Reid, Department of administration and organization theory and University lecturer Paola Mattei, University of Oxford

#### **Time and place:**

October 3-5 2012, Department of administration and organization Theory, University of Bergen

#### **Course description:**

The aim in this course is to explore the link between welfare state organizations and democratic governance. Political legitimacy is a precondition for the sustainability of the welfare state, and this course addresses how recent welfare state reforms have affected political governance and the relationship between the state and its citizens. A key concept to develop an understanding of the relationship between welfare state administration and democracy is accountability. Reforms of welfare state administration have often focused on the establishment of managerial accountability, neglecting the critical issue of how to maintain and develop mechanisms for political accountability. Converging trends towards New Public Management have affected the balance between managerial autonomy and political accountability across welfare sectors and countries. To what extent has it been possible to combine the various modes of accountability? In what way, for what and to whom are public managers in the various welfare services held accountable?

The course will cover the dynamics between accountability and reforms, and will assess these dynamics in different sectors of the welfare state. Moreover, the course has a distinct comparative ambition and will cover the different level of governance form a multi-level perspective and within an institutional and organizational theory framework.

#### **Target group:**

Priority will be given to Norwegian, Nordic and European PhD students working on or planning a thesis related to comparative welfare state policy or contemporary welfare state reforms. Also younger researchers on the topic are welcome to apply.

Students are expected to present their PhD project or relevant topical cases or papers related to the course topics.

#### **Contributors:**

Associate Professor Haldor Byrkjeflot, Oslo University  
Professor Anne Lise Fimreite, Bergen University  
Professor Werner Jann, Potsdam University  
Professor Per Læg Reid, University of Bergen

University Lecturer Paola Mattei, Oxford University  
Post.doc. Lise Hellebø Rykkja, University of Bergen  
Director of Research Karsten Vrangbæk, Danish Institute of Governmental Research

### **Reading list**

500-700 pages

### **Tuition Fee:**

No tuition), but the students cover their own travel, accommodation, food and syllabus( my be some funding on meals and food)

### **ECTS Credits**

10

### **Exam**

Paper of 4000 - 6000 words. The essay should be completed by November 1 2012

### **Application**

The course will accept up to 15 participants. Application deadline: June 1 2012

### **Organizer**

Department of administration and organization theory, University of Bergen

### **Course plan**

#### **Wednesday**

0915-1000 Introduction to the course (Per Læg Reid and Paola Mattei)  
1015-1200 Per Læg Reid: A transformative approach on welfare state reforms  
12-13 Lunch  
13.15-1500 Karsten Vrangbæk: Accountability and changing governance forms.  
Theoretical perspective.  
1515-1900 Student presentations, 6 presentations 30 minutes each (Chair: Paola Mattei)  
2000 Dinner

#### **Thursday**

0915-1100 Paola Mattei: Comparative research methods  
1115-1300 Werner Jann: Labour Market Reforms and Accountability: Changes in internal and external accountability  
1300-1400 Lunch  
1415-1600 Haldor Byrkjeflot: Hospital reforms in a comparative perspective  
16-15-1900 Student presentations, 5 presentations 30 minutes each (Chair: Karsten Vrangbæk)

#### **Friday**

0915-1100 Lise Rykkja: "The Governance of 'wicked problems': Emerging Coordination Practices in Public Administration"  
1115-1300 Anne Lise Fimreite: Integrative Reforms. Lessons from multi level governance.  
1300-1400 Lunch

1400-1600 Student presentations, 4 presentations, 30 minutes each (Chair: Werner Jann)  
1600-1700 Course papers requirements