



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

SC30023, Far-Right Publics and Anti-Migrant Mobilisation, 7.5 credits

Ytterhögers offentligheter och främlingsfientlig mobilisering, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Sociology and Work Science on 2026-02-12, and is valid from Spring semester 2026.

Responsible Department

Department of Sociology and Work Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Qualifying applicants are persons admitted to postgraduate studies within the social sciences or humanities at the University of Gothenburg or another university.

Very good knowledge of English, both in speech and writing, is required for being able to take the course.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of theoretical and conceptual approaches to far-right publics, digital counterpublics, as well as anti-migrant mobilisation and violence.
- explain how transformations in media ecologies and platform infrastructures have reconfigured the conditions for radicalization, dissemination, and mobilisation on far-right issues.

Competence and skills

- critically analyze case studies of digital far-right activity and its offline consequences, using

theoretical frameworks related to communication, media logics, and social movements.

- link theory with appropriate methodological approaches in the design of research projects on counterpublics, mobilisation, radicalization, and violence.

Judgement and approach

- evaluate the broader societal and democratic implications of digitally mediated far-right publics.
- identify and assess ethical problems and dilemmas associated with research on extremism, online media, and migration.

Course content

This course explores the contemporary conditions under which far-right publics are formed, mobilized, and legitimized, as well as their societal consequences, in terms of nativist and authoritarian attitudes, and anti-migrant mobilisation and violence. The course interrogates the “soil” of far-right engagement: the evolving digital and sociopolitical landscapes that enable new publics, discourses, and affective communities to flourish.

Through an interdisciplinary approach grounded primarily in sociology, students will engage with key concepts such as counterpublics, online radicalization, affective circulation, algorithmic visibility, and hybrid media ecologies. The course explores how digital platforms shape far-right narratives and social dynamics, as well as how these dynamics translate into offline consequences, including various forms of anti-migrant mobilisation and violence, including protest campaigns, “stochastic terrorism”, “hive terrorism”, and other forms of diffuse, networked aggression.

The course also considers the broader societal consequences of far-right publics and anti-migrant violence: how they influence public discourse, institutional responses, and democratic resilience. The ways in which far-right publics and mobilisation have developed during the last decades creates both opportunities and challenges for scientific study. For example, the proliferation of digital platforms have increased the availability of some types of data, while at the same time making mechanisms of diffusion and violent escalation more diffused and obscure.

Alongside theoretical approaches and research findings, key components in the course are therefore study designs and methodological considerations in the research area. The course combines theoretical inquiry with methodological reflection, supporting students in developing empirical research that links digital ethnography, discourse analysis, or mixed methods to pressing questions of radicalization, publicness, and violence.

The course is seminar-based and includes lectures, student-led discussions, practical workshops, empirical case studies, and assignments that encourage students to apply theories and methods to their own research areas.

Types of instruction

If the course is offered to more than five doctoral students, the forms of instruction are lectures and seminars. If the course is offered to five or fewer doctoral students, the forms of instruction may consist of readings, application and supervision.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English

Grades

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

Types of assessment

If the course is offered to more than five doctoral students, the learning outcomes will be examined by 1) an individual exam paper dealing with the themes of the course, and 2) an extended comment on the exam paper of a fellow student, in which its strengths and weaknesses are discussed in a constructive manner. If the course is offered to five or fewer doctoral students, the learning outcomes will be examined by an individual written assignment.

Course evaluation

The course will be evaluated both orally and in writing.