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Master's Programme

Research Master CAST year 1

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Entering the field. The state of the art in studying the cultures of arts, science and technology

Full course description

In this introductory CAST course, the students immediately 'plunge in deep water' and are introduced to the current frontlines of research in the field of CAST. They will interview researchers in the institute about their latest article, their current research project, and about their views of where the international research agenda will be moving in the near future. Choices of leading research question, research site, methodology, and theoretical framework will be explicated. A state of the art cannot be grasped, however, without relating the current situation to the historical development of the field. Therefore, students will review the last decade of leading international journals. Each student will then complete the module by writing a review article in which a specific methodological issue, or theoretical approach, or set of research questions is elaborated.

Course objectives

This course aims to - teach students how to write a review article - introduce students into interdisciplinary research methodologies - familiarise students with analysing disciplinary research styles - train students in conceptual analysis - train students in qualitative, semi-structured interviewing - train students in using bibliographical search engines (Web of Science, Google Scholar)

Prerequisites

Admission to CAST

Recommended reading

Krzys Acord, Sophia & DeNora, Tia (2008). Culture and the Arts: From Art Worlds to Arts-in-Action. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, 619(1), 223-237. Rogers, Richard A. (2006). From Cultural Exchange to Transculturation: A Review and Reconceptualization of Cultural Appropriation. *Communication Theory*, 16(4), 474-503. Bono, James J. (1990). Science, discourse and literature. The Role/Rule of Metaphor in Science. In S. Peterfreund (Ed.), *Literature and Science: Theory & Practice* (pp. 59-89). Boston: Northeastern University Press.

RCA5000

Period 1

4 Sep 2017

27 Oct 2017

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

Research Master Cultures of Arts, Science and Technology

12.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [J.D. Lachmund](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Skills, Training(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Presentation

Keywords:

• STS, art studies, interdisciplinarity, sociological perspective, philosophical perspective, historical perspective, review article, bibliographical search, interviewing

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Research colloquia STS and AMC

Full course description

The research programs “Science, Technology and Society studies” (STS) and “Arts, Media and Culture” (AMC) each organize colloquia, every 4th Wednesday afternoon, in which researchers from inside and outside the programs present their work. CAST students participate in these colloquia. At the end of the first year students reflect on how the colloquia inform their research choices for the second year.

Course objectives

To get an ‘insider’s view’ of doing research in CAST domains and on CAST issues.

Prerequisites

Being registered as CAST student

Recommended reading

Various preparatory reading depending on the colloquium program

RCA5961

Period 1

4 Sep 2017

30 Jun 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

3.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [H. van Lente](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

The Rules of the Game. CAST Research Methods

Full course description

Although its name may suggest otherwise, this is no 'methods and techniques' course in the traditional sense. Instead, the course is a combination of small research-learning projects (in Dutch: leeronderzoek) with lectures and workshops by researcher-teachers who elaborate on topics relating to the research methods in which they are experts. The course thus consists of two, closely related, parallel lines. The first concerns the research-learning projects in which small groups of 2-3 students do research, and discuss their progress weekly with each other and the senior researcher- teachers. The second line is formed by (1) a series of lectures about methodological issues and dominant methodological approaches, and by (2) small training workshops to learn research skills such as interviewing, ethnographic observation, narrative analysis, and archival studies. The explicit confrontation of the research-learning projects with the methodological reflection and training allows to address the variability in cultures among different scholarly styles, including styles of writing, reviewing, referencing, and arguing in for example historical, sociological, literary or philosophical studies. Each research-learning project will result in a paper, to be presented at a symposium that may also be attended by staff, societal partners and students beyond CAST.

Course objectives

This course teaches students - How to write a research paper - How to present a research paper at a scholarly conference - How to do the research leading to that paper - How to choose the research methods relevant to one's topic, problem definition and research questions from a rich variety of methods relevant to the field of CAST at large, and how to realize these methods, notably archival and ethnographic methods.

Prerequisites

Being registered as CAST student

Recommended reading

- Clive Seale, *Researching Society and Culture* (2013, 3rd Edition). London: Sage.
- Howard S. Becker, *Tricks of the Trade. How to Think about Your Research While You're Doing it* (1998). Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press

RCA5001

Period 2

30 Oct 2017

22 Dec 2017

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

12.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C.C.M. Mody](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Skills, Training(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Presentation

Keywords:

• Methodology, research design, research diary, qualitative versus quantitative research, ethnography, philosophical argumentation, conceptual analysis, historical analysis, discourse analysis, art analysis, scholarly presentation, research paper

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Changes in the Research System and training "Writing a Research Proposal"

Full course description

The purpose of this course is two-fold. First, it introduces students to recent changes in the relationships between science, technology and society, and notably changes in the research system. Second, it teaches students to write a research proposal, following a common format for such proposals. This proposal has to focus on a topic that has a clear link with the subject of the course, should draw on literature mentioned in the course book and on discussions in class. At the same time, these requirements leave ample room to develop students' own interests.

Course objectives

The course teaches students - to apply the concepts and skills taught in the CAST courses 1A and 1B to a new area of research - to understand recent changes in the relationships between, science, technology and society, most notably changes in the research system, and related normative and political issues - to develop their own problem within the context of a wider research area, and to develop their own perspective on that problem - to collaborate within a research team, by sharing intellectual and material (re)sources and by commenting on the progress of fellow students - the basic outlines of the funding structures of scientific research and where to find research funds for projects in the CAST domains - the basics of skills for writing research proposals - to orally present research ideas in a convincing manner

Prerequisites

Being registered as CAST student

Recommended reading

Funtowicz, S. O., & Ravetz, J. R. (1993). Science for the post-normal age. *Futures*, 25(7), 739-755.
Stilgoe, J., Owen, R., & Macnaghten, P. (2013). Developing a framework for responsible innovation. *Research Policy*, 42(9), 1568-1580.

RCA5007

Period 3

8 Jan 2018

2 Feb 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [T.E. Swierstra](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Skills, Training(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Presentation

Keywords:

• Research system, research ethics, normative and political aspects of science and technology, philosophical analysis, research funding structures, research proposal grant writing.

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Preparation Research Internship

Full course description

In one plenary and various bilateral meetings students will prepare their research internship for the fall semester, September-December.

Course objectives

To have a concrete internship plan ready before the summer, comprising hosting institute, hosting researcher, research topic, work plan, travel and lodging arrangements, financial plan.

Prerequisites

Being registered as CAST student

Recommended reading

none

RCA5006

Period 4

5 Feb 2018

30 Jun 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

3.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [H. van Lente](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

Participation

Keywords:

Researching the Cultures of Arts, Science and Technology

Full course description

This course focuses on teaching students how to analyze the arts in their relationship with science and technology. Notwithstanding persistent claims to aesthetic autonomy, this module shows how the arts have proven to be powerful forces that shape and are shaped by surrounding socio-technical, scientific and cultural contexts. It offers students concepts, theories, and methods to unravel the cultural position and practices of the arts by focusing on the confluence of the arts and sciences in everyday practices of "self-fashioning" the performance of specific identities on (semi-) public fora.

Course objectives

This course teaches students - how to analyse the arts in their relationship with science and technology - discourse, narrative and rhetorical analysis

Prerequisites

Being registered as CAST student

Recommended reading

See course book

RCA5008

Period 4

5 Feb 2018

6 Apr 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

12.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [E. Wesseling](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Presentation

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Joint Research Project

Full course description

The purpose of this project is to learn to collaborate, and to manage your own research.

Course objectives

To learn to define and self-manage a research project, and to learn to collaborate in scholarly research.

Prerequisites

Being registered as CAST student

RCA5960

Period 5

9 Apr 2018

8 Jun 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

12.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [A.M.C. Swinnen](#)

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

- Research project, research collaboration.

Research Master CAST year 2

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Research Internship

Full course description

During the internships in the third semester the students work as research assistants, supervised by an experienced researcher at the institute or university where they are 'employed'. This introduces the students to the specific challenges of contract research and research assignments in non-academic institutional contexts. There are two types of research internships: 1. Research internships in knowledge-intensive institutes or NGOs that are related to science, technology and culture 2. Research internships in universities and other academic research institutes. In both kinds of internships students are 'employed' as research assistants in projects that they have not primarily defined themselves. They do research in real-life settings on problems that typically have a clear external, societal relevance. The internships are not ready-made and off-the-shelf. During the second semester of the first year the CAST Director of Studies engages in a gradual process with each student: formulating research and societal interests, selecting potential internship institutions, contacting these institutions, and formulating with student and intended local supervisor the internship research project. Students organize their own funding for these internships, assisted by the Director of Studies.

Course objectives

The purpose is to learn to collaborate with other researchers and support staff, and learn to cope with (sometimes very different) national and institutional cultures. They learn to meet deadlines and to adapt their standards of completeness to what is reasonably possible within a given timeframe. They learn to balance 'external' demands of timeliness and relevance with 'internal' criteria of scholarly quality.

Prerequisites

Admission to 2nd year of CAST

RCA6990

Period 1

4 Sep 2017

22 Dec 2017

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

24.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [H. van Lente](#)

Teaching methods:

Research, Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

Research internship

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Thesis seminar and research colloquia, master classes

Full course description

In addition to the individual supervision, students meet regularly in a thesis seminar with each other, facilitated by the Director of Studies. They present their work in progress and discuss common methodological, practical, theoretical, and ethical problems. Some of these seminars are turned into master classes—when a particular issue asks for a more thorough treatment, or when a visiting scholar can contribute to the students' training. The thesis seminar also allows the Director of Studies to closely monitor the students' progress in their master thesis research. In addition, students participate during both years of CAST in the weekly research colloquia of the STS and AMC Research Programmes.

Course objectives

The purpose of the thesis seminar is to help students define their research topic for the master thesis and to provide some generic extra reflection and supervision. The purpose of the research colloquia STS and AMC is to experience 'real life' participation in a research institute.

Prerequisites

Admission to 2nd year of CAST

RCA6000

Period 3

8 Jan 2018

30 Jun 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

6.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [H. van Lente](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

Participation

Keywords:

Preparing for the thesis, participation in research colloquia

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Thesis

Full course description

During their thesis project the students deliver their 'master piece', closely guided by an experienced researcher-teacher, and assessed by both the supervisor and a second assessor. In addition, the Director of Studies monitors the process through the thesis seminar. To make this possible, not every thesis topic is allowed: only projects that are relatively close to the research practices of the faculty will be supported in order to give the student the full benefit of the staff's experience. The thesis reports on a piece of original individual research. Both the research and its presentation in the thesis are required to meet high quality standards. The aim is to reach the level of a peer reviewed journal article. The thesis itself is longer (25,000-30,000 words) than a regular journal article, because this allows for a more comprehensive testing of competencies: to shape a longer argument, to critically discuss theory, to present empirical material, and to present and reflect on methods. Nevertheless some theses and essays have led to conference presentations and publications, testifying to the high level of the delivered work. The quality level is evaluated by internal peer review amongst the researcher-teachers of CAST, supported and monitored by the second assessor and the advisory board. Students participate during both years of CAST in the weekly research colloquia of the STS and AMC Research Programmes.

Course objectives

The purpose of the master thesis research is to combine all that has been learned in one final comprehensive research accomplishment

Prerequisites

Admission to 2nd year of CAST; completion of first semester of CAST

Recommended reading

Not relevant

RCA6800

Period 3

5 Feb 2018

30 Jun 2018

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

30.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [H. van Lente](#)

Teaching methods:

Research

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

Thesis