

UNIVERSITY OF GÄVLE

Department of Humanities

Education Board for Masterprogramme in Religious Studies 2019

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1. Information

Jari Ristiniemi informed about the steps taken in internationalization: contact with the University of Gdansk is established and presuppositions of a possible Erasmus + agreement are investigated. A further contact will be taken with another university in Poland: the University of Krakow.

Ristiniemi also informed about the information work for the program: we plan to make short films with interviews with teachers, students and alumni. The films are made in cooperation with the university communication department.

The program could send information to Facebook, Youtube and Instagram. Sara Duppils in the Religious Studies Department is in charge of the Instagram contact, she will help us with this part of information.

The program shows good application figures: 130 students have applied to the programme this far, 73 of these has the program as the priority 1.

2. Program content and course literature

There is a wish that the Sociology of Religion might come through more during the program: Foucault and Weber should get a more visible space. There is also a wish that the Psychology of Religion might get a larger role in the program than is the case today. The philosophical part could also be emphasized more. There were no comments considering the course literature.

3. Student points of view

The different parts of the program are functioning well and courses fulfill the program intentions and goals. Some courses, like Religion, Power and Violence 15 credits might be understood as rather upsetting; the course might introduce the global conflicts in the classroom. In today's world, there is the growing interest for

spirituality and a decline in the interest for religion, this should also come through more in the program.

4. Cooperation in research and education

There is the intention, when it comes to the development of the program, to integrate research and education with each other. Students think that this would be a good idea, both for their future work life and for their eventual research interests.

The psychiatry is collapsing in Sweden, churches and other organizations step in to help people with psychological and social malfunctioning; the whole person is in focus. Within the area of helping people in need, Religious Studies as researching education might be done so that students do their master thesis in those governmental and non-governmental organization that work with people in need. Coping and internal healing, perhaps through socio drama, might be central topics within the program. In general, the role of religion in dealing with life is a theme that interests the participants.

A student expressed the view that the cooperation between research and education might help to connect more deeply with the real world outside the seminaries.

5. After the studies?

There are both research interests and teaching interests among the students.

6. Other questions

No other questions.

With kind regards

Jari Ristiniemi