Scientific discussions on sex and gender differences, 2 hp

The course will be run during the autumn of 2019 and consist of 8 - 9 weekly seminars during September and October.

The course is aimed for PhD students within natural sciences, but will also be open to participants from other research areas.

Examination arrangement
For passing the course the participant should
i. Actively participate in discussions held at the course seminars.
ii. Give an overview of the chapter to be discussed and lead the discussions at at least one seminar.
iii. Give a brief presentation of a complementary scientific study of the topic.

Examinators: Jenny Hagenblad and Hanne Løvlie

Grade: Passed/Failed

Course content
To become familiar with historical scientific perceptions of sex and gender differences through reading and discussing the course literature. The course will cover topics such as scientific studies of differences between men and women with regard to health, intelligence and sexuality; innate and social gender differences; evolutionary basis for labour division and dominance relationships and menopause.

Learning outcomes
After completing the course the participant should be able to:
- account for how differences between men and women have been presented from a scientific perspective during the past centuries.
- evaluate to what extent perceived differences between men and women are supported by scientific evidence.
- present evolutionary hypotheses for intellectual and behavioural differences between men and women and account for to what extent these are supported by anthropologic and biologic data.
- evaluate consequences of gender stereotypes in science.

Learning methods and activities
Reading literature and group discussions in a seminar format.

Recommended previous knowledge
A basic understanding of scientific inquiry through testing of hypotheses is recommended.

Course book
Angela Saini; Inferior - The true power of women and the science that shows it.