

Advanced Psychedelic Science Journal Club & Factory

Level: PhD

Qualifications: PhD student in psychology or related disciplines

Credits: 4.5-7,5 ECTS points

Dates: Monthly two-hour meetings from Fall semester, 2023 (third Tuesdays of each month, 10 am to noon), then marching on continuously.

Location: Björnbär, House 4, 3rd floor, Albano, Department of Psychology, Stockholm University.

Course leader and organizers:

- Pehr Granqvist and Joel Gruneau Brulin (shared)

Registration: Please contact pehr.granqvist@psychology.su.se or joel.gruneau.brulin@psychology.su.se

Overview and contents:

This advanced course is intended for PhD students who have already acquired basic knowledge in psychology. The course covers literatures related to psychedelic science in the broadest sense, ranging from neural processes, via phenomenology, cognitive, and emotional processes to social psychological, clinical, and even cultural aspects of psychedelics. It cuts across disciplinary boundaries and will feature both medical/natural science and humanities approaches.

The course stands on two legs – journal club and factory, respectively. Regarding the journal club, students read peer-review journal articles and handbook chapters representing the current frontlines of psychedelic science and featuring important theoretical/conceptual issues. Students are responsible for nominating, presenting, discussing, and leading the discussion of this literature, under guidance of the course leaders. Regarding the factory, students are responsible for handing in written assignments related to psychedelic science (e.g., manuscripts before peer-review), make revisions based on feedback from their course peers and course leaders, and to read and provide feedback to their peers' written assignments. As part of the factory, students will also present and discuss research ideas with their course peers and the course leaders.

Course goals:

After completing the course, students should:

- Have breadth *and* depth of knowledge of the current states-of-art in psychedelic science,
- be well-read on cutting-edge perspectives, problems, and research endeavors dealing with psychedelic science, and

- be able to present (in verbal and written form), analyze, and critically discuss the current frontline of psychedelic science, as well as to benefit from peer feedback on their own presentations.

Examination: To reach the course goals, students must attend and fully participate in at least 20 seminars to gain 4,5 hp, and at least 30 seminars to gain 7,5 hp. In addition, as part of the journal club, students are required to nominate literature, present and select discussion questions, and lead the discussions across two different seminars (for 4,5 hp) or three seminars (for 7,5 hp). Finally, as part of the factory, students are required to present written compositions of their own and to revise these compositions based on peer feedback.

Literature: The literature of the journal club comprises peer-review journal papers and handbook chapters representing the current frontlines of theory and research within psychedelic science. Although the literature can, in principle, be drawn from any peer-review journal or handbook in psychedelic science, most papers should be selected from high-impact journals and state-of-the-art handbooks*. The minimum number of pages for all students to read is 450 (for 4,5 hp) and 750 (for 7,5 hp), respectively. Additional background reading is required for the students assigned the task of presenting a written composition.

*Beyond peer-review articles, we will use these books as our general background sources:

M. van Elk & D. Yaden (Eds.)(forthcoming) *Oxford Handbook of the psychedelic science of religion and spirituality*. Oxford University Press.

Pollan, M. (2019). *How to change your mind: What the new science of psychedelics teaches us about consciousness, dying, addiction, depression, and transcendence*. Penguin.

Additional information: This “subject course” (ämneskurs) is expected to run as a series more or less continuously at the Department, with novel literature for each semester. PhD students may take this course for credit at a maximum of 7,5 hp.