

# Welcome to STOCKHOLM SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Courses in English  
Spring Semester 2017 - with International Students



- Theology of Necessity
- Urban Theology
- The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities
- Queer Theology

[www.ths.se](http://www.ths.se)





## Challenges of Nationalism, Gender and Historical Crisis in Theology and Public Life

**The wheels of modern life are spinning fast, and our lives are filled with both opportunities and challenges. This semester gives you the chance to explore a number of these, particularly those related to sexuality, urban areas and biblical texts. The questions addressed include:**

- What do human rights mean for ethnic minorities in times of globalization and nationalism?
- In which way is an urban setting a challenge for the church?
- How has the understanding of each sex been linked to sexuality, where heterosexuality has been the norm?
- What are the historical crises behind fundamental changes in the theology of biblical texts and their interpretations?

**Each spring semester we offer a full-time program in English for which international students are invited to apply. In particular, students from our international academic partners are invited. The courses will be examined either at the master's level or at the bachelor's.**

### HOW TO APPLY?

Detailed information can be found on [www.ths.se](http://www.ths.se).

For enquiries, contact the Study Counselor Marianne Källberg: Phone: +46(0)8-564 357 03.

Email: [marianne.kallberg@ths.se](mailto:marianne.kallberg@ths.se). Read also [www.studyinsweden.se](http://www.studyinsweden.se)

Last day to complete the application for overseas students is September 15<sup>th</sup> and for Swedish students October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Urban Theology

What does it mean to be a church in the city, especially in the suburbs of megacities? Multi-cultural and multi-religious urban areas are significant challenges and possibilities for churches today. In large cities we find huge dilemmas caused by segregation, tensions between different cultures, and high mobility.

This course is grounded in the concrete reality in which the churches live and carry out their mission. Identification and analysis of this reality using theological and sociological theories and methods enables it to be studied in a way, which is both critical and constructive. The course includes web-based studies, four seminars at Stockholm School of Theology, and five days of field studies in Stockholm.

Following the course, the student will be expected to (master's level):

- display advanced skills in identifying and interpreting the presence and manifestations of Christian communities in urban settings from different perspectives, e.g., socio-political context, segregation, gender, religious pluralism and dialogue
- display greater insight and improved skills in using theological and sociological theories in the analysis of the life and mission of churches in an urban context
- demonstrate independent thinking, and competence in undertaking research on churches' relationship to urban population and culture
- improve their skills of community leadership in pastoral and social missions in an urban context.

## Theology of Necessity: Change, Crisis and Development in Biblical Theology

Biblical texts have often been occasioned by profound theological crises. These in turn have a background in historical events or processes that force different and more appropriate theological constructions. This course analyzes the mechanisms of change in such processes. The purpose is to illustrate how a theology can result from a particular situation, and how texts in such situations often change both in scope and interpretation.

The course covers a number of examples where these mechanisms of change have been particularly transformative in text and theology, such as the exile and the absence of the temple, hellenistic influence, the Roman occupation, Jesus' crucifixion, the so-called delay of the parousia, and the growing gap between early Judaism and the early Christian movement. The course also emphasizes the responsibility of the interpreter in the light of these changes.

Following the course, the student will be expected to (master's level):

- demonstrate knowledge of the historical crises behind fundamental changes in the theology of biblical texts and their interpretations
- demonstrate an ability to formulate and discuss issues and tasks that contribute to the understanding of how biblical texts have been shaped
- demonstrate an ability to speak and write clearly about and account for the relationship between social crises and theological developments of biblical texts
- demonstrate a basic understanding of research in mechanisms of social change underlying the formation and re-interpretation of religious texts and biblical texts in particular, and demonstrate an ability to present research with both theological and ethical implications.



## Queer Theology

The "masculine" and "feminine" – as determined by cultural, historical, and also theological conventions – have been emphasized in both society and research during the past half century. These issues have also highlighted how the understanding of each sex has been linked to sexuality, where heterosexuality has been the norm.

In this course the aim is to discuss problems related to the context mentioned, and a deepening of these different aspects of a theological perspective. The aim is also to analyze boundaries between theology, gender studies, and queer theory. The course is implemented towards constructively critical study of the mutually different theologies, which has emerged under the name queer theology.

After the course the student is expected (master's level):

- have a good overview and in-depth knowledge of gender and queer theory
- be familiar with the implications from Queer theory towards Systematic Theology
- demonstrate an ability to identify and with an adequate method analyze the theological positions expressed in the literature, and also to demonstrate ability to explain and discuss the findings of the analysis orally and in writing.
- have a reflective and informed view of how Christian theology in a constructively critical manner can respond to androcentric and heteronormative structures in both church and society.

## The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities

Dilemmas related to human rights are often at their most problematic in relation to indigenous peoples' and ethnic minorities' traditions and religious practises, as well as their social and political circumstances.

This course addresses the human rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, taking in contemporary tensions between national sovereignty and collective and individual rights, as well as questions of identity. Significant emphasis is placed on the arguments that have been asserted by actual minority groups.

Following the course, the student will be expected to (master's level):

- display a detailed understanding of how indigenous peoples, as well as ethnic and national minorities, are defined in international law, and also what rights minorities have and how they are distinct from the rights of indigenous peoples
- display a good understanding of the theoretical framework defining the relationship between ethnic minorities, the nation state, and democracy, and also be prepared to analyse specific situations and construct arguments based on this framework
- demonstrate independent thinking and competence in undertaking research on indigenous peoples' relationships to majority populations and cultural frameworks
- display a comprehensive understanding of the situation of indigenous peoples in both Scandinavia and the wider world.

Stockholm School of Theology/Teologiska högskolan Stockholm (THS) offers programs at both undergraduate (bachelor's) and postgraduate (master's) levels in both theology and human rights. Through cooperative agreements with other universities in the Nordic countries, THS also offers PhD studies. THS is the major provider of religious and human rights education in the Stockholm region.



THS is one of the country's leading institutions for training ministers for various denominations. Studies in human rights provide tools to enable justice and to fight against various forms of discrimination and oppression. THS is also active in various parts of the world, supporting work towards democracy and peace.

The university college has a unique study environment and is one of the country's most distinguished theological and human rights institutions, where students from various backgrounds, different faith traditions and convictions meet.

Located in Bromma, a few kilometres from the center of Stockholm and close to the Castle of Åkeshof and its nature reserve, THS is a place for intensive study and reflection. In addition, there are convenient connections to central Stockholm within a few minutes' walk, via the Metro system.

PHOTO: Patrik Svedberg, Matton

### Stockholm School of Theology

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