

**Guide to evaluation of papers in PSYPRO4414 Applied Social Psychology
Autumn 2021. Course responsibility prof. B.-M Drottz Sjøberg**

This applied social psychology course has three major applied parts: planning, carrying out and reporting results of a survey, participation in focus group work and writing of a paper. The focus group exercises were replaced with an individually written essay in the spring of 2021.

The theme of the theoretical paper, including the specific problem area, is chosen by the student and may focus on any issue relevant to social psychology research, but especially literature in the courses PSYPRO4414 and PSY4314 was already available. The chosen theme and a few central references have been approved and commented on by the course responsible in the spring semester. The spring semester also included zoom-seminars where most students presented ideas and chosen literature for 5-10 minutes, followed by comments from a small group. It could not be made obligatory to give such presentations, but most students enrolled in the semester did so voluntarily. The students' work has included: choosing a theme, specifying a central problem area, finding relevant theory and literature, structuring and writing the paper.

The requirements for the paper are: a theme related to social psychology issues and research, length of paper approximately 5000-8000 words (approx.10-15 pages), including first page with candidate number, all text and references. An abstract is optional. The APA-style is recommended. A previous lecture highlighted the APA writing style including reference presentation, as well as informed about ethical rules for writing and publishing.

The exam paper is graded as "Approved" or "Not approved" (see separate information). The evaluation could use a normal manuscript review routine as a template while considering that the papers are the result of a first attempt to write a full paper (students have previously had writing tasks of short summaries of presented subject areas or questions). Thus, central aspects are clarity of ideas, use of theory and literature, structure and presentation format. However, novelty of ideas is not a central aspect. It is a plus if all references follow one standard, preferably the APA-format. Since it is a theoretical paper the standard APA-style for an empirical study is not required. The students have been told that a theoretical paper may follow the structure of an introduction, main part, discussion and conclusion, but that it is also common in this type of papers that an introduction is followed by various subheadings including both theoretical framework, empirical studies and commentary related to the own theme before an optional general discussion and conclusion. The course literature list has included the below listed two theoretical papers that could have been used as templates by the students. A report on ethical conduct has been available as well, see below.

Beatson, R., & McLennan, J. (2011). What applied social psychology theories might contribute to community bushfire safety research after Victoria's "Black Saturday". *Australian Psychologist*, 46, 171-182.

Haslam, S. A. (2014). Making good theory practical: Five lessons for an applied social identity approach to challenges of organizational, health, and clinical psychology. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 53, 1-20.

Vinter, T., Enebakk, V., & Hølen, J. C. (red) (2016). *Vitenskapelig (u)redelighet*. Oslo: Cappelen Damm Akademisk.