

# Scientific Theory in Informatics A1N

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Seminar tasks, socio-technical systems lectures

Organisation and management theory seminar

organizational analysis: identifying people problems, management action: taking action to solve them

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# Scenarios (choose 1)

## 1. GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

- Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General\\_Data\\_Protection\\_Regulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Data_Protection_Regulation), EU: <http://www.eugdpr.org/>, Combitech (security consultancy): <http://combitech.se/nyheter-inspiration/blogg/450-dagar-till-nya-dataskyddsförordningen-gdpr--racker-det/>
- Came into operation May 2018
- Many consequences for the University, as for all other European organisations

## 2. Virtual University

- Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual\\_university](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_university), Changing the landscape of higher education: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/15228053.2017.1345214> (or see link on assignment page)
- The University of Skövde considers becoming a virtual university. For most students lectures and seminars will be given on line, whether live or pre-recorded, the physical lecture rooms will be removed to save money, and staff-student communication will also be mainly on-line, either through email forums or video-conferencing. Current assessment techniques will be replaced by digital friendly assessment, for instance multiple choice questions with automated marking.

## 3. SUN, S., CEGIELSKI, C. G. & LI, Z. 2015. [Amassing and Analyzing Customer Data in the Age of Big Data: A Case Study of Haier's Online-to-Offline \(O2O\) Business Model](#). *Journal of Information Technology Case and Application Research*, 17, 156-165. (see also assignment page for link)

## 4. Your independent group choice of scenario – usually an IT system implementation or digitalisation project that you (or one of you) have experienced or been associated with.

# Seminar task 1 (organisation theory)

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- ◆ Organizational analysis (understanding people problems)
- ◆ Open task: not an exercise with definitions and pre-defined solutions – make the necessary decisions for useful analysis
- ◆ Identify a potential problem or serious risk with the organizational or people side of your chosen scenario
- ◆ Match the problem or risk to one of Morgan's metaphors and a particular theory
- ◆ Research the theory by reading on the net (you need a deeper understanding than the overview in these slides)
- ◆ Make an analysis with four elements:
  - Outline the major components and propositions of the theory
  - Relate each component or proposition to your assignment or case
  - Provide the evidence which justifies your analysis – don't just speculate
  - Make a problem definition which summarizes the major elements of your analysis
- ◆ Prepare a presentation with (ideally) one slide for each element

# Seminar task 2 (management theory)

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- ◆ Define management action to fix your problem
- ◆ Starting point is your problem definition from task 1
- ◆ Identify a management approach or approaches from Mintzberg's schools of thought that can contribute to solving your problem
- ◆ Identify and research a theory within that school
- ◆ Identify a strategy for action
  - Justify the choice of the theory by referring to your problem definition
  - Outline the major components and propositions of the theory
  - Provide a strategy for action which translates those components and propositions into actions in your scenario situation
- ◆ Prepare a presentation with (ideally) one slide for each element

# A good solution has....

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- ◆ A fairly detailed theory description, not just headlines from the slides
- ◆ A match between theory and the evidence in the case, such that its easy to understand that the case matches the theory
- ◆ A clear and well-justified problem
- ◆ An appropriate managerial solution, clearly explained and theoretically based
- ◆ Prepare your solution as a slide show or short (two sides max) text and submit as a .pdf file, one submission per group