Welcome to the exam in MEE115 Applied social science research methods.

The exam consists of 3 questions and sub-questions. *All questions are to be answered.*

You have 4 hours at your disposal, so you have more than an hour on each of the questions.

All questions are related to core material on the reading list and has also been focused upon in the lectures.

Use the time and do not panic!

No remedies allowed.

Good luck to all of you!

**Exam MEE115 Applied social science research methods**

**Autumn 2018**

All questions are to be answered

1. Describe and explain what is meant by an abductive research strategy, and discuss what the strengths and limitations of an abductive research strategy are.
2. Explain the Qualitative Comparative Analysis method and discuss how it relates to “small-N” case studies and “big-N” quantitative studies:

What is QCA and how does it work?

What is its advantage compared to analysing only a small number of cases?

What is its advantage compared to undertaking a statistical analysis?

1. In social sciences, we often rely on questionnaires (surveys) for measuring constructs. When you invite respondents to report on themselves, the reliability and validity of the answers is not always perfect. The construct measures contain error that we split in two parts; random error and bias.
2. What is random error and bias?

Multiple measures of constructs has been suggested as an important tool in social science measurement.

1. What are multiple measures, and what do we achieve by using multiple measures of a construct?
2. Describe (very) briefly steps involved in a construct validation process, e.g. discussions of:
   1. Face validity
   2. Reliability
   3. Convergent validity
   4. Discriminant validity
   5. Nomological validity