

NAM–NIVA Summer School 2007

A new concept. First announcement



The new NAM-NIVA Summer School will provide a stimulating surrounding for advanced training in working environment. It offers a unique opportunity for getting updated on working environment hot topics and learning about how to implement new knowledge. The programme consists of plenary key-note lectures by leading scientists and one round table discussion on hot topics, NIVA courses, NAM seminars, workshops and poster sessions.

Participants can register for combinations of NIVA courses and NAM seminar/workshops. The key-note lectures, round-table discussion, and poster sessions will be open for all registered. The poster sessions will provide an opportunity for discussions with a multidisciplinary audience and for networking. Poster presentations are invited particularly on the Summer School topics.

The new NAM-NIVA Summer School replaces the annual Nordic Working Environment conferences, NAM.

Key-notes

Intervention Research. 27 August

Health Economics. 27 August

Sickness Absence. 29 August

Safety Culture. 29 August

Round table discussion

Nordic Working Environment Research Aims and Strategies. 28 August

NAM seminars

Health Economics. 27 August. Seminar leader Eila Kankaanpää, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health.

Work and health issues have to compete with other issues both at a work place level and within scientific research. Practitioners have to prove that their recommendations work, and

even more, the recommendations should be profitable for the employer. Researchers have to demonstrate the importance of their research by showing the costs for the society if the problem is not solved. While judging the goodness of a research proposal also the benefits of the study could be evaluated in monetary terms. In addition to this, economics could be used in assessing the goodness of different means to enhance occupational health and safety, e.g. regulation, steering, policies, and monetary incentives.

This seminar will present key health economic concepts, their scientific and political aspects. This introduction will be completed with an economic assessment of different regulatory, steering and monetary incentives. There will be recommendations to assess both the costs of repetitive heavy work, inactive office work, and accidents, and the benefits of interventions. The seminar is suitable both for practitioners and researchers.

Physical Activity as a Means to Prevent or Reduce Musculoskeletal Pain. 27-28 August. Seminar leader Marie Birk Jørgensen, National Research Centre for the Working Environment, Denmark.*

The seminar will address the two scenarios

- Work characterized by both heavy physical load and being repetitive
- Office work, characterized by physical inactivity

The seminar will give a status on consequences for sickness absence, rehabilitation and health economics, and on ongoing research in the Nordic countries. The possibilities of the authorities in the Nordic countries for promulgating use of physical activity as a means to prevent or reduce musculoskeletal pain by means of regulation etc. will be presented and barriers and how to overcome them will be discussed.

NAM workshops

How to Measure Trends in the Working Environment. 28 August. Workshop organizer Hermann Burr, National Research Centre for the Working Environment, Denmark.*

The design of national working environment surveillance should not only be based on political and administrative agendas but also on scientific knowledge.

The aim of this workshop is to address core issues and challenges for working environment surveillance. The reason for not making specific recommendations is that there are several and often competing aims for working environment surveillance. Core issues are: What are the different national political, administrative and scientific needs for surveillance? How should these needs be expressed? Which designs have been chosen in various countries and which indicators of the working environment have been measured? Which challenges lie ahead when collecting working environment data? What are the potentials for international cooperation between surveillance agencies? What lessons can be learned and where to go in the future?

Sickness Absence. Contributing factors and methodological issues in studying sickness absence and its prevention. 29 August. Workshop organizer Prof. Stein Knardahl, National Institute of Occupational Health, Norway.

The workshop will identify sources of knowledge of factors that contribute to sickness absence and discuss methodological issues with the aim of elucidating factors that should be given priority in prevention and rehabilitation. Similarities and differences between the Nordic countries given the differences in national regulations and interventions will be addressed.

The workshop will produce a recommendation for information from the Nordic countries.

NIVA courses

Reading and Writing Review Articles in Occupational Epidemiology. 27-29 August. Course leader Ole Olsen, National Research Centre for the Working Environment, Denmark.*

The amount of scientific information available today is astounding; there is simply too much literature available for any one person to keep up-to-date. The need for the regular synthesis of this literature is also increasing in occupational health and safety research. Therefore, review articles, which summarize existing knowledge in a certain area, serve to fill this need. There is, however, a lack of instructions on how to go about writing such articles. Until recently, little or no attention was paid to teaching students the 'correct' way to carry out a review. A double standard has existed: whereas the scientific community has generally agreed on the elements of good quality primary research, we have not agreed on similar standards for reviews. The traditional review article has typically had no standard format and has often had no quantitative synthesis. Instructions for authors rarely specify the com-

ponents of review articles that editors would like to see.

The aim of the course is to enable participants to read and critically appraise reviews, and to be able to prepare, organize and publish reviews of well-defined problems in relation to occupational health.

*Second International Course on Intervention Research. 27-29 August. Course leaders Birgit Aust and Mari-Ann Flyvholm National research Centre for the Working Environment, * Denmark.*

In recent years, researchers as well as employers and employees have become interested in workplace interventions. These can focus on a specific health problem, or try to improve the work environment in general. Overall, the main goals of these activities are to advance the health and well-being of employees, to prevent diseases, and to reduce sickness absences and early retirement. Furthermore, some of these interventions aim to have a positive impact on work satisfaction and motivation, and thereby improve productivity. The measures taken to achieve these goals include individually oriented health promotion activities, physical and psychosocial improvements in the work environment, as well as organisational changes. Depending on the focus of the intervention, different approaches and methods are used. Nevertheless, the scientific methods and theories for ensuring successful planning, implementation, and evaluation of the effects and processes of the interventions should be developed further.

During the course we will discuss the current state-of-the-art in intervention research and compare and evaluate different intervention approaches, methods and theories. We will also critically review our own studies and the studies of others in order to point out shortcomings and

successes, summarise supporting and obstructing factors in intervention studies and point out research areas that need further improvement (i.e. theories, economic evaluations).

*Safety Climate Concepts and Measurement. 29-31 August. Course leader Kim Lyngby Mikkelsen National Research Centre for the Working Environment *, Denmark.*

Current occupational safety research now increasingly focuses on positive and proactive safety measures such as the safety 'climate', as opposed to negative measures such as accidents. Safety climate can be described as the shared safety perceptions in a social unit at a certain time, and recent research has found important relationships between safety climate and safety performance measures. This course is based on both previous and current research on the definitions and dimensionality of the safety climate concept, as well as on the current development, implementation and analyses from the Nordic Questionnaire on Occupational Safety Climate (NQOSC), carried out by the Nordic Network of Occupational Safety Researchers.

The main objective of the course is to provide participants with theoretical and practical knowledge on safety climate and the skills for measuring it. After completing the course the participants will be able to distinguish between safety climate and safety culture, think critically about the dimensions involved in measuring safety climate, the pros and cons of longitudinal versus cross-sectional studies, and to have an understanding of questionnaire scales and the ethics involved in carrying out questionnaire studies.

Proceedings

An issue of Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health Supplement (<http://www.sjweh.fi>) on the documentation presented at the NAM-NIVA Summer School will be published. Contributors are particularly invited to submit preliminary scientific findings, position papers, and workshop recommendations. Total length should not exceed 4 journal pages.

Information

The NAM-NIVA Summer School will take place at Lo-skolen in Elsinore, Denmark from 27-31 August, 2007. The fee for participation will be EUR 250 for 3 consecutive days, EUR 200 for 2 consecutive days, and EUR 150 for one day (accommodation and meals not included).

Deadline for registration

1 June 2007. The maximum number of participants per course, seminar or workshop is 30. Last minute posters can be submitted.

Organizer

National Research Centre for the Working Environment * and Nordic Institute for Advanced Training in Occupational Health, NIVA

Programme committee
Ari Kaukiainen, Helsinki
Mia Latta, Helsinki
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Future NAM-NIVA Summer Schools

NAM-NIVA Summer School 2008 will take place 25-27 August 2008 in Norway
NAM-NIVA Summer School 2009 will take place in Finland.

** former National Institute of Occupational Health*

More information on www.NIVA.org

**NAM-NIVA Summer School
27-31 August 2007, Lo-skolen, Elsinore, Denmark.**

Sunday August 26	Monday August 27	Tuesday August 28	Wednesday August 29	Thursday August 30	Friday August 31
Plenary session 8:30-10:30 *	Opening and introduction	Round table discussion: Nordic Working Environment Research Aims and Strategies		NIVA course: Safety Climate Concepts and Measurements	NIVA course: Safety Climate Concepts and Measurements
	Key note A: Intervention Research				
	Key note B: Health Economics				
Courses/seminars/ workshops 11:00-18:00	NIVA course: Intervention Research	NIVA course: Intervention Research	NIVA course: Intervention Research		
Courses/seminars/ workshops 11:00-18:00	NIVA course: Reading and Writing Review Articles in Occupational Epidemiology	NIVA course: Reading and Writing Review Articles in Occupational Epidemiology	NIVA course: Reading and Writing Review Articles in Occupational Epidemiology		
Courses/seminars/ workshops 11:00-18:00	NAM seminar: Physical Activity as a Means to Prevent or Reduce Musculoskeletal Pain	NAM seminar: Physical Activity as a Means to Prevent or Reduce Musculoskeletal Pain	NAM workshop: Sickness Absence		
Courses/seminars/ workshops 11:00-18:00	NAM seminar: Health Economics	NAM workshop: How to Measure Trends in the Working Environment	NIVA course: Safety Climate Concepts and Measurements		
Posters 18:00-18:30	Poster viewing with refreshments	Poster viewing with refreshments			
Dinner from 19:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
Get-together From 19:00					



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