

# *“The Art of Scientific Investigation”*

## The value of intuition as a research tool

**Summer school for PhD candidates in epidemiology, Bergen, May 29-30 2017.**

**A collaboration between EPINOR and the Department of Global Health and Primary Care (IGS),  
University of Bergen**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

**“No, no, you are not thinking, you are just being logical.”**

Niels Bohr, nuclear physicist

Scientific training emphasizes logic and sound methods. Such tools are of course essential to good research, but they are not enough. Intuition and conceptual leaps are just as important – and these creative tools get much less attention in our scientific training. The purpose of this course is to help PhD candidates develop their own natural capacities for intuitive thinking and perhaps learn new approaches, with the goal of making them better scientists.

We have chosen “The Art of Scientific Investigation” as the title for this summer-school course. This is the title of an excellent small book by William I.B. Beveridge. Beveridge was a laboratory scientist whose observations are relevant to all research, including epidemiologic and clinical investigations. Even more remarkable, many of his observations are as fresh today as they were 60 years ago. You can find a free PDF version through OpenLibrary.org. If you prefer turning pages, an inexpensive softcover version is available on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Art-Scientific-Investigation-W-Beveridge/dp/1517665469>). You may find a hard copy useful for underlining text and scribbling notes in the margins.

The course will consist of reflections by senior researchers, class discussions, TED talks and other videos, and references to relevant books and articles. Students will be encouraged to describe techniques they use to unlock their creativity, and to learn from others what works for them. Combining such skills with the objective tools of scientific methods is not just a strategy for solving important problems – it makes research fun.

To **register until 30<sup>th</sup> March**, please click the following link and follow the instructions: <https://skjemaker.app.uib.no/view.php?id=3228033>.

Attached is a tentative program of the summer school. *Participation will cost kr1000.*

Kind regards,

The EPINOR Bergen summer school program and arrangement committee  
Marianna Cortese and Carl Michael Baravelli, PhD candidates  
Trond Riise, Rolv Skjærven, Allen Wilcox, professors  
Elin Christine Gundersen, Daniel Gundersen, consultants