

Minutes - PhD committee meeting

Date: 04.03.2025, 2.30-3.30 p.m.

Place: room 221, Harriet Holter Building

Present: Alexi Gugushvili (PhD leader, Sociology), Hilde Solli (representative for external Human Geography candidates), Maja Feng Mikalsen (representative for external Sociology candidates), Katalin Varga (PhD adviser)

Not present: Terje Wessel (PhD leader, Human Geography), Marieke van der Star (representative for internal Human Geography candidates), Russell Stone (representative for internal Sociology candidates)

Agenda with minutes

1. Information about upcoming seminar: 29.04.: Pizzaseminar - Writing Up the PhD Thesis

Alexi presented the plans for the next PhD seminar and encouraged the representatives to send in ideas who to invite from younger scholars by Friday, 7th March. Katalin sends out the invitation asap.

2. Brainstorming – topic ideas for the Supervisor workshop at Staff seminar, Fornebu 11-12.06.

Alexi presented the plans for the supervisor workshop. PhD candidates and supervisors first going to have separate sessions, probably divided up in smaller groups, then a joint session where representatives from the smaller groups can present and discuss. The agenda is still open and evolve around mapping of problems.

Alexi also informed about that the department is planning a revision of the PhD program in the second half of 2025. A committee of 3-4 persons, including a PhD candidate, is going to be set up by the leadership to do this work. The stuff meeting offers a good opportunity to gather issues to be later discussed in the revision process. Hilde: results of the revision should be communicated well.

3. Discussion: Updating the guidelines on article based thesis

Should we change the current set of rules? Hilde: same rules should apply for the whole faculty. Maja: candidates should be able to cooperate with each other, this is difficult with the present rules. The issues, both length of introductory part (kappa), the question of authorship, co-authors, first- and sole authors, are going to be discussed by the revision committee. These issues need systematic approach. Own rules can be made by the department, as long as they don't contradict the general faculty rules.

4. *Notice on upcoming discussion on evaluation of the educational component (opplæringsdel) and thesis work (avhandlingsarbeid) at ISS and at the faculty.*

Alexi has informed on the upcoming quality control which the faculty sets in motion every third year. This is also going to be a part of the revision committee's work.

We, at the PhD committee, discuss all aspects in detail at the next meeting, 6th May.

5. *Follow up from last meeting - Social workplace: result of mapping of need by the PhDs and result of discussion with the department's leadership by the PhD leaders*

The PhD representatives are working on the nettskjema and the time schedule of the mapping. A formal framework, the mandate of the PhD committee, can support the survey and help to increase the answer percentage. Katalin finds the link to the mandate and also sends out a list of the past PhD seminars (pizzaseminarer) which can be included in the nettskjema.

6. *Topics from candidates:*

Access to ISS: External candidates can get access to the department's building. They need to get in touch with Katalin who can apply for access for them.