

Minutes - PhD committee meeting

Date: 06.05.2025, 1.00-2.00 p.m.

Place: room 221, Harriet Holter Building

Present: Alexi Gugushvili (PhD leader, Sociology), Terje Wessel (PhD leader, Human Geography), Anniken Hagelund (Head of Department, ISS), Hilde Solli (representative for external Human Geography candidates), Marieke van der Star (representative for internal Human Geography candidates), Vilde Blix Huseby (representative for internal Sociology candidates), Maja Feng Mikalsen via Zoom (representative for external Sociology candidates), Katalin Varga (PhD adviser)

Agenda with minutes

1. *Evaluation of the educational component (opplæringsdel) and thesis work (avhandlingsarbeid) is done every third year at the faculty. The department needs to submit a report on both by the end of the year. We start the discussion in ph.d. utvalg.*
 - A committee is going to be set up late summer-autumn to revise the PhD program at the department. The evaluations are going to be based on the findings of this committee. Anniken introduced her thoughts on the committee's work and asked for input from the representatives. Her main concern is using the departments resources wisely, especially regarding PhD courses.
 - There were improvements since the last evaluation three years ago: new theory course was set up, pizzaseminars are running.
 - Offered courses are unpredictable at ISS. I bigger research environment should work on a courses jointly.
 - The peer-review course is a good and useful course and should be continued.
 - Methodology courses are general courses which maybe could be offered by the faculty or can be replaced by more specialized courses at other institutions (OsloMet f.eks.)
 - Midway assessments: some experienced that the opponent wasn't a good professional fit, while others are very satisfied. We recruit externals as well when we see it fit. A structural approach is recommended to find opponents.
 - Any ideas for future pizzaseminars?
2. *Information on:*
 - Adding proof of English proficiency requirement to Doctoral Fellow job advertisements from Spring 2025.
 - Exception to the two-year master's degree requirement.

3. Topics from candidates:

- *Kartlegging av fag-sosialt behov (presentere funn og diskutere videre oppfølging)
v/Maja, Hilde og Vilde.*

Vilde presented the note on survey and suggestions for follow up of survey.

- After the evaluation of the committee, we will look at maybe setting up a body with formal institutional powers.
- PhD candidates earlier had access to 100.000 kr/year to organize professional/social events which was never used.
- Suggesting setting up monthly PhD seminars. PhD candidates can get 10 hrs in timeregnskap for organizing. The four representatives could start a group, start planning before summer and start with the seminars themselves in Autumn.
- It is possible to apply Småforsk midler for events.
- Anniken asks for suggestions to PhD representatives for the committee. One from Sociology and one from Human Geography.

- *Office space at ISS.*

Office 245, second floor at Harriet Holters Building is available for external candidates to use. We have a clean desk policy.