

EUPRERA 2018 PhD-Workshop, Aarhus

Many PhD-students feel that it is a struggle to write a PhD-thesis. It truly is a struggle! Furthermore, many feel that they are alone in this struggle. While it is true, that in the end, every student has to write his/her thesis alone, nevertheless the process is a team-effort. They are in this together with their advisors, colleagues and friends. To get a clear idea of what the project should be and how it should be tackled, feedback, endless discussions and self-reflection are invaluable. The goal for the first day is to convey the idea, that science in general is a team- and a community-effort and that each student is not left alone in this struggle. Before getting to the presentations of each single project, we think it is indispensable to form a common workshop-spirit that allows everyone to think freely and engage in discussions with their peers.

The PhD-workshop is not supposed to be just another colloquium organized in a conference style. While the standard approach would be to present the project, get feedback followed by a short discussion, i.e. center around the content of the project, we would like to try a more process-oriented approach. That means, the part of each participant is not done once the presentation and subsequent discussion is over. We would like to get the participants to engage in small group conversations over the course of the days. Therefore, the engagement of the participants with more than just one project of a fellow student, is crucial. The input from the presentation should be a starting point for more discussions during a walk, dinner and in private during the seminar.

We will be using the so-called box-format:

- Since everyone has read the paper in advance, the presenter gives a very brief introduction (no powerpoint), more like a reminder of what the RQ is (in advance he or she also indicate what type of feedback is wanted).
- This is followed by some quick clarification questions from the group.
- The presenter then moves away from the table and sits with his or her back to the rest.
- The group discusses the paper as if the presenter was not there, a designated respondent takes charge, but we then do a roundtable thing where everyone is expected to partake. Comments are expected for research questions, theory, method, and analysis.
- Enough time is set aside for a back and forth discussion after the round is completed.
- The presenter is brought back to the table and can choose to respond and/or ask for clarification.
- If there is enough time left, we will have a roundtable discussion with everyone participating — questions and problems that the presenter has could be placed here.

The advantage of the box is that the presenter can concentrate on listening and taking notes, rather than having to conduct a lot of face work, look at respondents, nod, etc. or get all defensive. The format also helps to move things along faster.

We will also use the seminar to hone an elevator pitch for each PhD student and their projects. What are you going to do and why is this interesting? What is the theoretical contribution? Will there be practical implications?

There will be a special session at the main conference where it is possible to present this elevator pitch and get further feedback from the EUPRERA community.

25. September, Day 1 – Get-to-know and Get-to-think, discuss and inquire

- 1100: Welcome by the organizers
 - Introduction round to get to know each other
 - Elevator pitch, prepared short statements from all participants about their project
 - Sarah Marschilch and Zhao Huang talk briefly about their experience with the previous year's seminar
- 1200: LUNCH
- 1300:
 - Input 1: Ups and downs in the process of writing a PhD-thesis (Chair: Jens Seiffert-Brockmann)
 - Input 2: The relationship between PhD-student and advisor (Chairs: Winni Johansen & Jens Seiffert-Brockmann)
- 1430:
 - Walk 1: Pre-Dinner-Promenade
 - Students talk in pairs or small groups about their experiences with their advisors
- 1500-1600 Albisser, Matthias (main respondent: Umansky, Dimitrji)
- 1600-1700 Barroso, Maria Belen (main respondent: Ongenaert, David)
- 1900: Dinner
- Hang-out together

16. September, Day 2 – Get-to-think, discuss and inquire

- 09-10 Bridge, Gemma (main respondent: Mohammadadreza, Marjan)
- 10-11 Ekmekcigil, Begum (main respondent: Marschlich, Sarah)
- BREAK
- 1115-1215 Huang, Zhao (main respondent: Malczok, Melanie)
- LUNCH
- 1300-1400 Malczok, Melanie (main respondent: Huang, Zhao)
- 1400-1500 Marschilch, Sarah (main respondent: Ekmekcigil, Begum)
- WALK 2: Project-Promenade: Students discuss their projects with their peers while the workshop is taking a walk
- 1600-1700 Mohammadadreza, Marjan (main respondent: Bridge, Gemma)
- 1700-1800 Visit to the Viking Museum, <https://bit.ly/2Q5VwY2>
- 1900: Dinner
- Hang-out together

27. September, Day 3 – Get-to-reflect

Thinking about a problem takes time. Thus, we want to give the participants time to think about their presentation, the discussion and the feedback. In a second short presentation, the participants are asked to reflect on the progress (or not) they made during the workshop and what has changed for them with regard to their project.

- 0900-1000 Ongenaert, David (main respondent: Barroso, Maria Belen)
- 1000-1100 Umansky, Dimitrji (main respondent: Albisser, Matthias)
- BREAK
- 1115: Reflection-Session
 - Refined elevator pitch, prepping for the special session at the EUPRERA conference
 - take away points, individual reflection, then pairs, then plenary
- 1200: Lunch and Farewell

Conveners

Ihlen, Oyvind; U of Oslo, Norway

Johansen, Winni; Aarhus U

Seiffert-Brockmann, Jens; U of Vienna

Participants

Albisser, Matthias

Fribourg

Barroso, Maria Belen

Malaga

Bridge, Gemma

Leeds Beckett

Ekmekcigil, Begum

Ankara

Huang, Zhao

Paris

Malczok, Melanie

University of Applied Sciences Osnabrueck

Marschlich, Sarah

Fribourg

Mohammadadreza, Marjan

Aarhus

Ongenaert, David

Ghent

Umansky, Dimitrji

University of Applied Sciences Osnabrueck

Website

<http://mgmt.au.dk/research/corporate-communication/ccc/euprera-2018/phd-seminar/>