

Writing Your PhD Proposal in English

Objective

Writing the proposal for your PhD project is the first step into the research process. It is a crucial and fundamental step, which is necessary not only for enrolling as a PhD student and for applying to funding institutions (e.g. political foundations) for scholarships, but also for the PhD project itself. The amount of time and work necessary for a good proposal is often underestimated. If your proposal is good, if the research problem is put well and adequately translated into a realistic research plan, a lot of the work necessary to solve it, is already done. The workshop will support PhD students in the first year of their doctorate in mastering this complex task. It will address the requirements of a good proposal, including problem statement, research question, hypothesis, state of the art, theoretical approach, research methods, outline and timeline. Participants will be given the chance to present, discuss and revise their own proposals as well as to give and receive peer feedback.

Description

The workshop will address the following issues:

- Identifying and adequately formulating a precise research problem or question
- Presenting and explaining a clear approach to solving/answering the problem/question
- Showing the relevance and importance of your problem/question
- Framing the problem/question with reference to the 'state of the art' of the discipline
- Contextualising the problem/question within theoretical and empirical literature
- Devising a realistic research plan and timeline for your PhD project
- Specificities of the English language in academia (as opposed to German)

Methodology

The workshop will take place on two days. On the first, participants will be introduced to the general purpose, structure and content of a PhD proposal.

Participants who already have a draft proposal should send it in by **6 Nov 2017** to workshops@grade.uni-frankfurt.de. These proposals will be discussed on the first morning and revised in between sessions. Those who do not have a proposal yet will be given the chance to develop their ideas in the first session, then write and submit their draft by **4 Dec 2017** to workshops@grade.uni-frankfurt.de. On the second morning, draft and revised proposals will be presented and further discussed in the group. Participants will receive peer feedback as well as specific feedback by the trainer on the overall quality of the PhD proposal, including language and style.

Organizational Information

Language	English
Target group	First-year Doctoral Candidates from Humanities and Social Sciences
Date	Friday, 17 November 2017, 10:00–14:00 Friday, 15 December 2017, 10:00–14:00
Registration	For registration click here

Trainer



Dr. Felix Hauf

Goethe University, Frankfurt

Research Associate,
Department of Political Science,
Goethe University Frankfurt
Book: *Beyond Decent Work. The Cultural Political Economy of Labour Struggles in Indonesia*, Frankfurt/New York, 2016