

PRESENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

During the six semester duration of the PhD programme students are required to present their thesis project on at least three occasions. The project presentations are compulsory for all doctoral candidates and take place during the main doctoral colloquium, the work groups, the PhD conference in spring and the Summer School.

General Tips

1. Two to three days before presentation a handout is sent to all participants; in the work groups this is organized in conjunction with the lecturer leading the group. The handout should be three to five pages long and should contain the following information:

- title of the dissertation, supervisor, the start date of the research, the progress of the thesis and, if relevant, how the research is connected to a wider project.
- subject area of research, theme, the question being asked,
- an overview of academic research concerning the topic,
- thesis hypothesis,
- open questions, problems, difficulties,
- tip: please do not send a power-point presentation itself, but rather a separately organized hand out.

2. The presentation should last twenty minutes, leaving enough time for discussion.

3. With regard to the use of visual aids (Powerpoint, overheads) the following points should be noted:

- the print size should be at least 18,
- no full, extensive text, but rather bullet points with the central arguments, questions and problems,
- the presentation should be supported with charts and graphs (where relevant)

- tip: Overhead and Powerpoint are not to be used in order to display the text of the presentation itself, but should, rather, compliment the presentation by giving extra information, illustrations and graphs, concise wording of hypothesis etc..

4. The presentations during the study programme should be used to discuss questions and problems, in order to utilize the research expertise of the listeners. The presentation should:

- introduce research in a problem oriented fashion,
- test hypothesis still being worked on, interview questionnaires, etc.,
- acquaint listeners with open questions arising from the research.

The First Year of Study

The project presentation during the first year of study concentrates upon the conception and methodology of the dissertation. The following should be mentioned:

- the main question and aim underlining the thesis,
- the placing of the project within the research context,
- an overview of research concerning the topic to date,
- what research gaps does the thesis cover? What is original or new about the work?
- methodology and theoretical frame,
- information about the planned empirical research (type of sources/ field research)
- structure and time plan.

The Second Year of Study

The presentation in the second year is given either before field research or directly after field research. In the first instance the presentation should be used explicitly for preparatory purposes, in which e.g. questionnaires, interview methods, critical approaches to document research etc. can be introduced and discussed. Presentations after field research should deal with the analysis of results. The presentation should incorporate the following points:

- a contextualization of the field research in relation to the thesis as a whole, research questions and interesting points of knowledge,
- a description of the research trip i.e. where, how long it lasted, what you did (e.g. archival study, extended visit to a library, field research)?



- Analysis: what are the results of the field research, how will the collected material be analyzed as a whole, what problems have occurred? Has the original concept of the project changed? -Give examples.
- the formulation of the first hypothesis as a result of the empirical research,
- optional: assessment of your research trip (preparation, length, etc.)

The Third Year of Study

The presentation in the third year should give an overview of the recently completed dissertation with:

- the structure and an explanation of the division of chapters,
- the presentation and explanation of the central argument and hypotheses of the thesis.

One can also discuss how the dissertation evolved during its writing (was the starting theme kept or did it have to be changed, what difficulties arose and how were they overcome?). This development can be exemplified with reference to a specific chapter, without losing sight of the whole conception of the thesis.