

Proposal Writing and Scholarly Publication

- Preliminary Syllabus -

Course for Doctoral Students in Economics or Business Economics

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Uschi Backes-Gellner
Teaching Assistant: Yvonne Oswald

Fall Term 2010
Seminar: November 29 - December 3, 2010

Aims of the course

We will discuss topics related to writing a dissertation or working papers and publishing them in high quality refereed journals. We focus particularly on how to find a topic, how to structure the argument (paper) and how to sell a paper (idea) as well as how to handle revisions and resubmissions.

The aim is pursued by three different course elements. Firstly, each student presents a piece of the required literature and thereby works out general guidelines based on their text. Secondly, students present and discuss their own work and receive feedback from the audience in general and from one fellow student in particular in form of a referee report to their work. During the discussion, we will put special emphasis on the quality of the structure of the text (research questions, style, argumentation, clarity). As a third element of the course, there will be inputs and presentations by leading researchers and experts on a small selection of crucial issues.

Target audience and preconditions for participation

The seminar is particularly designed for doctoral students in economics or business economics pursuing an academic career. The seminar will take place en bloc in order to enable external PhD students to attend. Students are required to read all the literature before the course starts. Full attendance is mandatory.

Course registration **until October, 8** is mandatory. Individual assignments will be sent out latest by **November, 5**.

For further details and questions please contact Yvonne Oswald
yvonne.oswald@isu.uzh.ch, +41 (0)44-6344276).

Credit Requirements

In order to obtain a "Doktorandenseminarschein", all of the following requirements have to be met:

- Presentation of general guidelines on scholarly writing from an assigned piece of required reading (20-30 min)
- On the spot discussion of another piece of required reading (5-10min)
- Narrative table of content of dissertation project or working paper (2 pages)
- Presentation of dissertation project (working paper) based on narrative table of content (20-30 min)
- Referee report on one fellow students' working paper/dissertation chapter based on narrative table of content with respect to style, clarity of argument etc. (2 pages)
- On the spot discussion on one fellow student's research project (5 min)

Literature

Literature (except books) will be posted on the course web page (password-protected, password will be distributed after final registration)

1. Learn from the Big Shots: How to Find a Topic

Dixit, A. (1994): My System of Work (Not!)

Mankiw, N.G. (1994): My Rules of Thumb

2. Style Guide for Economists

Cochrane, J.H. (2005): Writing Tips for Ph.D. students.

Huff, A.S. (1999): Writing for Scholarly Publication. Sage Publications.

Reid, N. (2010): Getting Published in International Journals, NOVA – Norwegian Social Research ISBN: 978-82-7894-338-0.

3. Binge Writing or How to Overcome your Writing Block

Silvia, P.J. (2007): How to Write a Lot. A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing. American Psychological Association. Washington D.C.

Kleist, H. v. (1965): Über die allmähliche Verfertigung der Gedanken beim Reden. F. a. M.: Büchergilde Gutenberg, S. 319 – 324.

Weber, Max (1995) Wissenschaft als Beruf. Reclam-Verlag.

Translation: The Vocation Lectures: 'Science as a Vocation' (Paperback) by Max Weber (Author), David S. Owen (Editor), Tracy Strong (Editor), Rodney Livingstone (Translator); or online: http://www.ne.jp/asahi/moriyuki/abukuma/weber/lecture/science_frame.html

4. Which Journal?

Choosing your Target Journal (Learning from Experienced Researchers):

Journal Rankings

Mission Statements

Review Statistics and Processes, Editors' Reports

5. Refereeing and How to Deal With Referee Reports

Hamermesh, D.S. (1992): The Young Economist's Guide to Professional Etiquette. The Journal of Economic Perspectives, 6(1), pp. 169-179.

Chilton, S.: The Good Reviewer

Baruch, Y., Sullivan S.E., and Schepmyer H.N. (2006): Winning Reviews. A Guide for Evaluating Scholarly Writing.

Harrison, D. (2002): Obligations and Obfuscations in the Review Process. Academy of Management Journal, 26(6), pp. 1079-1084.

Ireland, R.D. (2008): Revisiting AMJ's Revise-And-Resubmit Process, *Academy of Management Journal*, 51(6), pp. 1049-1050.

Lepak, D. (2009): Editor's Comments: What is Good Reviewing? *Academy of Management Journal*, 34(3), pp. 375-381

Colquitt, J. A., and Ireland, R. D. (2009): Taking the Mystery out of AMJ's Reviewer Evaluation Form. *Academy of Management Journal*, 52(2), pp. 224-228.

6. The Reviewing Process: Empirical Facts

Gans, J.S., and G.B. Shepherd (1994): How Are the Mighty Fallen: Rejected Classic Articles by Leading Economists, *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 8(1), pp. 165-179.

Blank, R.M. (1991): The Effects of Double-Blind versus Single-Blind Reviewing: Experimental Evidence from the *American Economic Review*. *The American Economic Review*, 81(5), pp. 1041-1067.

Van Dalen, H.P., and A. Klamer (2005): Is There Such a Thing Called Scientific Waste? Tinbergen Institute Discussion Paper

7. Your Dissertation as a Research Project

Davis, D.: Ph.D. Thesis Research: Where Do I Start?

A lot of hints (writing, refereeing, how to incorporate referees' advices)

on the *Review of International Economics'* web page: <http://www.roie.org/how.htm>

Another page with lots of advice: <http://www.iies.su.se/~masa/tips4economists.html>

Always a good idea to start is The Economist's Style Guide:

The Economist Style Guide. Profile Books, ISBN-13: 978-1861979162.