

Thesis supervision practices of the disciplines in the COS programme

Global Development Studies

Students choose their own topics in the first seminar, but they could also do so in the second seminar if, for some reason, the latter is taken first. Seminar teachers supervise some, but not all theses. It is also possible for students to be supervised by non GDS staff. Thesis topics usually come from internships, projects in the discipline, other projects in which students are employed, and course units like theories of development and the COS seminar.

Social and Cultural Anthropology

The supervisor is a member of staff, allocated by the discipline. Students may choose topics freely, with guidance from peers and the teacher in the first MA seminar. Topics related to a traineeship/internship or on-going research projects are also possible.

Social and Public Policy

Supervisor is the teacher of the master thesis seminar. In addition, another faculty member with substance and/or methodology expertise can be the second supervisor. The student will take the initiative and get in touch with the faculty member to ask for supervision. The student decides the thesis topic, preferably before starting the thesis seminar. The topic can be linked to an internship or an on-going research project at the discipline of Social and Public Policy. The student can use readily available data sets and/or collect own empirical data for writing the thesis.

Social Data Science

Supervisors are the teachers of the master's thesis seminars and supervision takes place collectively in the seminars. Topics may be chosen freely by the students based on the support from peers and teachers in the first seminar. Topics related to the possible traineeship/internship or on-going research projects are also possible. Using readily (and openly) available data sets is strongly encouraged.

Social Psychology

The supervisor of a master's thesis is typically a staff member. However, a faculty member or a PhD student with relevant expertise may also serve as a second supervisor. While the supervisor is not necessarily the teacher of the first master thesis seminar, the decision is made during this seminar. The students are expected to be active in familiarizing themselves with staff members' research fields and topics.

Once a preliminary idea for a thesis topic emerges, students should take the initiative and get in touch with the staff member to ask for supervision (ideally before taking part in the first seminar). The student decides the thesis topic, but the topic should be linked to the research areas or ongoing research at the discipline of Social Psychology. Furthermore, the supervisor should be knowledgeable about the topic and/or method. It is highly recommended to use existing data – students can ask staff members whether they have data available on the topics that they are interested in. Although collecting own empirical data is an option, it is not recommended.

The COS-students participate in the first master thesis seminar on the spring term (3rd period) of their first study year and to the second seminar on the spring term (3rd period) of their second year of study.

Sociology

Students work to develop their topics during Part I of the Masters Thesis seminar (periods 3 and 4 of the 1st year of studies). Supervisors are allocated by the discipline towards the end of Period 4. Students may suggest supervisors but allocation of those is not guaranteed.