

Workshop on Supervision - University of Vienna, June 24–25, 2010

The University of Vienna has been trying to stress the importance of supervision of doctoral candidates and the institutional responsibility through various measures such as the introduction of the doctoral thesis agreement, the appointment of a doctoral advisory board and the compulsory public presentation at the faculty. At the same time the answer to the question of what makes good supervision is still widely discussed. A supervisor's rights, obligations and expectations are often vague, and supervision practice is often mainly based on a supervisor's personal experiences.

The workshop organized by the Center for Doctoral Studies aims at highlighting the importance of supervision as a core element of doctoral training and giving scientists a platform for discussion about and reflection of supervisor's roles and responsibilities. Whilst the European debate is mainly promoted by the management of the universities, graduate schools or organizations like the Council for Doctoral Education of the EUA, this event of the Center for Doctoral Studies focuses on the supervising scientists' perspectives and self-image.

Starting point of the one and a half day event is an introductory lecture on doctoral studies and supervision from the viewpoint of the university in the afternoon of the first day. The second day is dedicated to three practice-oriented sessions that mirror the three phases of doctoral studies, entry phase, research phase and finishing. In this context the following points will be discussed: differing demands put on supervisors in each stage, general differences between supervision in various disciplines (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences) and differences within the international scientific community. Each session opens with a keynote-speech, followed by one contribution to the discussion; furthermore enough time for open discussion is scheduled. The evening of the first day will offer opportunity for networking and informal exchange. Main target group are scientists from the University of Vienna, at the same time the event is open to guests from Austria and abroad, partner and neighboring universities, the UNICA network, EUA-CDE, etc. One desirable outcome of the workshop is the creation of the basis for a code of Good Practice for Supervision at the University of Vienna.

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Temporary program:

Thursday, June 24, 2010

17.00-18.00

Registration at the Palais Clam-Gallas (Institut Français), Währingerstraße 30, 1090 Vienna

18.15-19.00

Opening and introduction:

Heinz Engl, Vice-Principal of the University of Vienna

Reinhold Grimm, Member of the University board, University of Vienna

Lucas Zinner, Head of the Center for Doctoral Studies

19.00-19.30

Keynote Speech

Andreas Frijdal (European University Institute)

ab 19:30

Poster presentation by doctoral candidates in the foyer

Buffet, Palais Clam-Gallas

Friday, June 25 2010

Moderation: Andreas Frijdal (European University Institute)

9.30-11.00

I. Session: *Getting Started: The supervisor's role in the entry phase of doctoral studies*

Establishing of a productive relationship – expectations - establishing rules - division of responsibilities

Chair: Karin Preisendanz

Speaker: Andre Gingrich

Discussant: Renée Schroeder

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

11.30-13.00

II. Session: *Pushing through: Supervision in the research phase of doctoral studies*

Keeping balance between optimism and realism - management of advice and criticism –

Chair: Sylvia Kritzinger

Speaker: Ruth Wodak

Discussant: Christian Köberl

13.00 Lunch at the Palais Clam-Gallas

14.00-15.30

III. Session: *Handing over: The supervisor's tasks throughout the finishing phase and in the context of future career development and entry into the post-doc period*

Help to write – help to stop writing – providing career guidance – and opportunities for professional qualification

Chair: Robin Golser

Speaker: Mitchell Ash (tbc)

Discussant: Maarten Janssen

15.30-16.00

Plenary discussion

16.00-16.30

Summary through the moderator and future perspective
Andreas Frijdal (European University Institute)