

Master Thesis Supervision Plan Academic Year 2020-2021 MIA/MPP

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Advisor Information

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Research & Advising Profile:

General Academic Field: What is your academic field, and what are your areas of supervision?

Mark Hallerberg is Professor of Public Management and Political Economy. His research covers fiscal governance, fiscal institutions, and policy responses to financial crises. He has recently written on public innovation labs and has done several interviews at labs in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Germany, and Uruguay.

Specific Expertise: What is your specific area of expertise, and what topics are you supervising?

This thesis colloquium will focus on the evaluation of public innovation labs. This is a real policy problem. Public innovation labs are relatively new in most countries (though there are related precedents that go back decades). They often employ different methods than are common in the public sector, such as design thinking, behavioural economics, and co-creation with citizens. There are existing ways that governments evaluate policies. National audit courts focus on value for money. National evaluation agencies may focus on results that are not strictly financial. Labs themselves struggle with the question about how their work should be evaluated. They report different numbers from different types of activities. But they complain that the standard evaluators do not "get" innovation or how to evaluate it.

Methodology: What methodologies and methods are you able to supervise?

See below on the details, though both qualitative and quantitative social science methods possible.

Supervision Style: Please include information on what your advisees can expect from you in terms of supervision format.

I expect thesis students to work in teams of two people. Each team will write a true monitoring and evaluation report on a specific public innovation lab. The initial sessions will focus on how to

write a monitoring and evaluation report. We will also discuss what public innovations lab do. Important—this means that you will do more guided reading than in most thesis colloquia. The idea of this reading is for you to learn about evaluation, and about how labs work. I will then pair you with specific innovation labs. Those will be based in Latin America, Europe, and/or the US. You will then write a monitoring and evaluation report on a specific project that a given lab is doing/has done. Ideally, you will then share your reports with your policy partners.

I will also take students who want to write on other topics, but I cannot offer the same level of support. In this case, I will serve primarily as a grader of the thesis. These students should be highly motivated and should know what they want to do already. They should also know what methodology they plan to employ. In this case (only), I would accept single author theses and not joint theses. Note that grades for single authored theses are usually, on average, four percentage points lower than joint theses. The reason is simple—co-written work is, on average, more likely to be complete, proof-read, and include more empirical material than a single authored thesis.

Recommended General Readings: (if applicable)

The following texts are general readings material relevant for all advisees:

Note that this thesis colloquium combines elements of two project courses I have co-taught in the past, one on public innovation labs and one on monitoring and evaluation. It is not possible that any one student had both classes. However, some of the readings intentionally overlap, and students who had those classes with be familiar with the methods and themes. At the same time, if you have not had this material, you will have an opportunity to learn it.

Required (preliminary list—more coming):

Tõnurist, Piret, Rainer Kattel and Veiko Lember 2017. "Innovation labs in the public sector: what they are and what they do?" Public Management Review, DOI: 10.1080/14719037.2017.1287939. pp. 1-25.

Dassen, Nicolás, and Sebastián Acevedo. 2016. "Innovation for Better Management: The Contribution of Public Innovation Labs." TECHNICAL NOTE Nº IDB-TN-1101. Inter-American Development Bank.

The Goldilocks Challenge: Right Fit Evidence for the Social Sector, by Mary Kay Gugerty and Dean Karlan, Oxford University Press. 2018.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an infringement of § 11 Good Academic Conduct, 2a: "Infringements of the standards of good academic conduct include for instance to use wordings, ideas or other intellectual work of others in an academic work without clearly indicating the author. The obligation to indicate the authorship of others shall apply irrespective of whether or not the sources used are protected by copyright" (See: Exam Rules, § 11 Good Academic Conduct for more information).

It is vital to keep track of your sources and to cite all material properly.

The Library will offer a session available to all students on resource management and proper citation.

Extra (individual) note on plagiarism

Attendance:

Students receive 8 ECTS for the Master's thesis colloquium. Attendance for supervision for students who work on the common project—whether in the form of a colloquium or an individual meeting—is expected. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in each session, and to adhere to deadlines set for assignments. For students doing individual projects, attendance is expected only depending upon the topic.

Students on an academic exchange programme in the Fall Semester should be given the opportunity of remote supervision.

Participation & Milestones:

It is critical that you attend the colloquia meetings. Not only will we discuss readings that will become part of your theses, we will also have group work in the colloquia. You will learn more from your colleagues than you will from me. That only happens if you come. Note that it is possible that one or more meetings will take place on Teams.

Colloquium & Meeting Information:

	Colloquium Dates	Session Title
Meeting times (suggested)	Session 1: November/December 2020	Initial Meeting
	Session 2: November /December 2020	Introduction to M & E Plans
	Session 3: Early February 2021	Theory of Change
	Session 4: Mid-February/Beginning March 2021	Assumption and Indicators
	Session 5: Late March 2021	Connecting M & E to Labs
	Session 6: Beginning/Mid-April 2021	Evaluation of Innovation

Colloquium Sessions:

Session 1: December 2020 Initial Meeting	
Aim	Introduction to the Topic
Assignment (e.g. thesis proposal)	What is a public innovation lab? Identifying a short list of labs you may want to serve as your lab for the thesis.
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 2: February 2021 (First week of classes)	
Aim	Introduction to M & E Plans

Assignment (e.g. literature review)	Gugerty and Karlan TBA
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 3: February 2021	
Aim	Theory of Change
Assignment (e.g. empirical findings)	What is a theory of change? Working through examples.
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 4: March 2021	
Aim	Assumptions and Indicators
Assignment (e.g. first chapter)	Why assumptions are important. What indicators are key, and why
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 5: March 2021	
Aim	Connecting M & E to Labs
Assignment	TBA—focus on existing approaches to labs.
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 6: April 2021	
Aim	Evaluation of Innovation
Assignment	What have you learned thus far? Important to hear what other groups have found
Readings (if applicable)	