

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

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Advisor Information

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Office Hours	Please make an appointment by email

Research & Advising Profile:

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

My general academic field is public administration, public management and public policy.	

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

My research focusses on politico-administrative relations, public sector change dynamics and comparative public administration. I am interested in structures and processes of government coordination, decision-making and policy formulation, the organization and dynamics of policy advice and the governance of wicked problems and public sector digitalization both with a focus on single country cases and in a comparative perspective. I am very happy to supervise topics in these areas and I highly encourage students to develop their own research question and design.

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

I supervise projects with a qualitative designs and mixed methods and cover the collection and analysis of qualitative data such as interviews in my colloquium.

Supervision Style: Please include information on what your advisees can expect from you in terms of supervision format (for instance, are you supervising by colloquium only; are you offering individual meetings; are you supervising team projects?) Please be informed that there will be both onsite/online options according to your availability:

I will meet students inside and outside the colloquium. I expect regular and active participation in the colloquium. Besides advisees are welcome to contact me for individual appointments. I am happy to provide comments on thesis outlines, research questions and designs as well as table of contents, i.e. the overall approach and structure of the thesis.

Examples of Previously Supervised Thesis Topics:

- "Coordination of EU circular economy policy in transnational city networks: Insights from EUROCITIES";
- "The effect of government fragmentation on broadband diffusion in OECD countries";
- "The mines and energy sector of Colombia: Coordination in the auction for long-term renewable energy contracts";
- "Dual Leadership Models in German Federal Ministries";
- The roles of Delivery Units in the Brazilian local level The Experience of the Municipality of Jundiaí (2017-2020);
- "What Factors Have Shaped the Policy Designs of the Conflict-Ridden Policy Problem of Climate Change in the US? A Comparative-Historical Analysis of US Climate Change Policy Since 1992";
- "Innovative Public Private Partnership for Marine Conservation: Case Study of an Entrepreneurial Marine Protected Area in the Dominican Republic".

Recommended General Readings: (if applicable)

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

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Bell, Judith/Waters, Stephen (2018): Doing your research project. A guide for first-time researchers. Seventh Edition. McGraw-Hill Education.

Flick, Uwe (2015): Introducing research methodology. Los Angeles et al: Sage.

Proposed Projects: (if applicable)

Project Title	Practice Partner (if applicable)
Coordinating digitalisation in government	
Government organisation in and for the digital age	
Case studies on the use of knowledge/advice in bureaucracy	
The role of political advisors (impact, accountability, scandals, demographics)	
Changing politico-administrative relations (causes and consequences)	
Case studies on governance mechanisms for selected wicked problems	

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—whether in the form of a colloquium or an individual meeting—is compulsory. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in each session, and to adhere to deadlines set for assignments.

In case of an excused absence, students must notify their supervisor. Absence must be compensated with an additional assignment.

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

Participation & Milestones:

Fully-Fledged Thesis Proposal

Students are expected to draft a proposal of their thesis including (I) elaboration of the research problem/research question, (II) brief outline of the relevant literature, (III) core concepts/theoretical approach, (IV) research design and data, (V) draft table of content and (VI) preliminary list of references.

The proposal should be no longer than 2000 words (+/- 10%). The thesis proposal is due on the 26th November 2019. Please submit your thesis proposal by email.

Literature Review

Students will prepare a review of the literature that they use in their thesis and will summarize, discuss, criticise and reflect on the extant literature to arrive at concise depictions of the state of the art of the particular strands of research students want to contribute to with their MA thesis. The literature review should be no longer than 1800 words (+/- 10%). The literature review is due one week before the fourth session of the colloquium. Please submit your thesis proposal by email.

Thesis presentation

Students will present their thesis outline in sessions 5 and 6 of the colloquium. Students will prepare individual presentations of about 10 minutes. Presentations will take place in a conference-format, i.e. a discussant will be assigned to each presentation and is expected to provide detailed comments to the outline and presentation before all classmates are invited to provide feedback. Accordingly, every student will present his/her own thesis and take the role of the discussant for a classmate's presentation. Every student will prepare a one-/two-pager of the outline and send to the discussant and the supervisor two days before the presentation.

Colloquium & Meeting Information:

	Colloquium Dates	Session Title
Meeting times	Session 1: November/December 2020	
(suggested)	Session 2: November /December 2020	
	Session 3: Early February 2021 (online)	
	Session 4: Mid-February/Beginning March 2021 (online)	
	Session 5: Late March 2021 (online)	
	Session 6: Beginning/Mid-April 2021 (online)	

I will be on sabbatical in the spring term 2021.

Colloquium Sessions:

Session 1: xx.xx.2020	
Thesis outline: Organizing a research process	
Aim	How to organize a research process and structure a thesis
Assignment (e.g. thesis proposal)	Elaborated thesis proposal (see above)
Readings (if applicable)	Bell, Judith/Waters, Stephen (2018): Doing your research project. A guide for first-time researchers. Seventh Edition. McGraw-Hill

Education, chapters 1 and 2. (Available in the top section of the
Moodle page or in the reserve collection for this Master Thesis
Colloquium.)

Session 2: xx.xx.2020 Problem definition: Form	ulating a research question
Aim	How to elaborate, justify and formulate a research problem and question
Assignment (e.g. literature review)	
Readings (if applicable)	Gerring, John (2012): Social Science Methodology. A Unified Framework. Second Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 37-57.

Session 3: xx.xx.2021 Individual appointments	
Aim	To discuss your thesis proposal on an individual basis
Assignment (e.g. empirical findings)	
Readings (if applicable)	Your own thesis proposal

Session 4: xx.xx.2021	
Literature review: Why and how to work with extant literature	
Aim	How to relate your thesis to the extant literature
Assignment (e.g. first chapter)	Write a literature review (see above)
Readings (if applicable)	Bell, Judith/Waters, Stephen (2018): Doing your research project. A guide for first-time researchers. Seventh Edition. McGraw-Hill Education, chapter 7. (Available in the top section of the Moodle page or in the reserve collection for this Master Thesis Colloquium.) Flick, Uwe (2015): Introducing research methodology. Los Angeles et al: Sage, chapter 5.

Session 5: xx.xx.2021 Presenting your thesis I	
Aim	Present your thesis and receive feedback
Assignment	Brief presentation of your thesis (5-10 minutes), role of the discussant, feedback to others (see above)
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 6: xx.xx.2021 Presenting your thesis II	
Aim	Present your thesis and receive feedback
Assignment	Brief presentation of your thesis (5-10 minutes), role of the discussant, feedback to others (see above)
Readings (if applicable)	