



A National PhD School

Funded by the Norwegian Research Council

Run by a consortium of all faculties of Law and Humanities in the four major Norwegian universities, and the two major national theological institutions

Coordinated by the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo

ATTR Guide for PhD Fellows

There are two formats for PhD and post doc. fellows to participate in ATTR seminars: with and without earning ECTS credits. The respective requirements for each of the two formats are specified below. Participating in an ATTR seminar means engaging with interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research, which is becoming increasingly important, both within in the academia and in the dissemination and use of academic insights in society. Different academic fields have specific traditions and ways of writing, which implies challenges with regard to giving and receiving feedback. Respondents will be respectful towards other fields, while at the same time trusting that they are able to contribute valuable perspectives from their own fields and expertise.

1. PhD Seminars

All participants (with or without ECTS credits) are expected to participate fully in the PhD seminars. That means, all present a specimen from their ongoing research and they are assigned two papers to respond to. We aim to distribute the papers along with the list of groups/presenters/respondents approximately three weeks before the seminar.

Members are expected to have read all papers in their seminar group and to prepare written responses to two of these. These written responses are submitted to the ATTR administration in advance of the seminar. An adjusted version of the response would preferably be communicated (perhaps in edited form) in writing to the presenter after the seminar.

Discussion during the seminar will primarily focus on methodological matters and interdisciplinary insights. This is meant to develop writing and presentation skills, abilities to identify and critically discuss issues of method and analytical perspectives, and also to help prepare for future work-life within and outside of the academia. The seminars also provide opportunities to build interdisciplinary networks.

Paper presentation sessions

Each session in the PhD seminar lasts up to 75 minutes. The time is provisionally divided in this way:

- Presentation of PhD paper, 10–15 minutes
- Two prepared responses, 5–10 minutes each
- Open discussion for the remaining time

Presenting a paper

Your paper should not be too long, preferably between 15 and 25 pages, all inclusive. You should provide a precise abstract, and you may also provide a “Reader’s Guide” informing your audience about the background for the paper, and also about any theme for which you would appreciate feedback.

Points to consider when preparing your oral presentation: It is good to introduce your project in a way that lets the audience easily see its main points and challenges, especially with regard to method. Remember that time is limited; the more precise you are, the more

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time for valuable responses from your interlocutors. It might be a good idea to time your presentation before the seminar, in order to keep the time limits. If you wish to use a power point presentation or handouts, please contact the ATTR administration.

Offering a response

Please provide affirmative as well as critical comments as you see reasonable. If possible, be specific in your praise as well as in your challenges. Try to approach your interlocutor on her or his own terms, but also to establish an outside view of the presented paper. You are expected to focus on method and analytical approaches.

2. Plenary sessions

PhD members earning ECTS credits are expected to read all mandatory reading assignments and write a short reflection on one of the reading items. Members participating without earning ECTS are exempt from the requirements, but still encouraged to engage with the literature and the themes of the presentations.

Mandatory reading

The lecturers and presenters during the seminar will provide short lists of mandatory reading for each theme. PhD fellows will reflect on how the research, and especially the methods and analytical frameworks presented there, might be relevant for their own thesis work.

Short written reflection on one reading item

PhD fellows earning ECTS credits are obliged to select one item from the list of mandatory reading, and to write a short text reflecting on how the research, and especially the methods and analytical frameworks presented there, might be relevant for their own thesis work. The document should be 1, maximum 2 pages long. It shall be submitted to the ATTR office along with the written responses (above), a few days before the seminar starts. These reflections will be distributed to the presenters in the plenary sessions, who may choose to relate to them during their presentations.