



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 Presenters and Seminar Leaders

ATTR is a national, interdisciplinary PhD school funded by the Research Council of Norway. PhD fellows come from disciplines in law, the humanities, and religious studies from five different university institutions. The RCN objectives for the national research schools are to enhance the quality of the PhD dissertation work, to contribute to timely completion of PhD education, and to help PhD fellows prepare for work-life after their PhD – within the academia as well as outside. To help obtain these objectives, the ATTR research seminars are set up to combine research seminars with cutting edge research with PhD seminars focusing on the individual PhD's research.

Research Seminars

- As preparations for attending the presentations, PhD fellows are required to *do mandatory reading* related to each presentation.
- The PhD fellows will select one or two items from the collected list of mandatory readings and write a short reflection on how the research, the methods, and analytical frameworks presented there, might be useful for their own thesis work. If relevant, these reflections will be communicated to the individual presenter, who may use them as resources for engaging the audience during the presentation.
- You have up to 90 minutes for your presentation. Please make sure that there is ample time for feedback and questions from the audience during this time (preferably half of the time is dedicated to this). When in a digital format, please remember that online monologue beyond ca. 20 minutes is considered to be pedagogically less effective. During your presentation, you may use sections of Q/A, plenary discussion, or group discussion; we will facilitate all these formats if you let us know in advance. (A separate guide for zoom and technical matters is available.)

PhD Seminars

Central to all ATTR seminars are the PhD fellows' presentations of papers based on their dissertation work, with prepared responses by fellow PhD researchers. The seminars aim to develop writing and presentation skills, ability to identify and critically discuss issues of method and analytical perspectives. Given the interdisciplinary nature of ATTR, the focus of the discussions will be primarily on methodological matters and interdisciplinary insights.

The seminar groups normally hold 5-7 participants plus one seminar leader, and they offer sessions dedicated to each participant's work. Each participant will be assigned two papers to respond to. We aim to distribute the papers along with the list of groups and their presenters/respondents approximately three weeks before the seminar. Participants submit their written responses to the ATTR Head of Administration a few days before the seminar. These responses are distributed to the seminar leader, to be available as a backup option for response, should the respondent be prevented from participating (for instance during a digital seminar). Normally, however, the response is orally presented by the respondent during the discussion.

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Each session in the PhD seminar lasts for 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