

## Doctoral Regulations (*Promotionsordnung*) of the Faculty of Sociology of Bielefeld University (also Examination Regulations of the International Doctoral Programme) of 15 February 2012

Courtesy translation. Only the German is legally binding.

Pursuant to Article 2 Section 4 and Article 67 Section 3 of Universities Act of the State of North-Rhine Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz* – HG) of 31 October 2006 (GV.NRW. p. 474), as last amended by the law of 8 October 2009 (GV.NRW. p. 517), the Faculty of Sociology of Bielefeld University has adopted the following Doctoral Regulations in accordance with Article 1 Section 1 Clause 3 of the General Doctoral Regulations of Bielefeld University (*Rahmenpromotionsordnung*, RPO) of 15 June 2010 (official bulletin; *Verköndungsblatt der Universität Bielefeld – Amtliche Bekanntmachungen* vol. 39 No. 12, p. 98):

### Table of contents:

- Article 1 Scope
- Article 2 Doctoral degree
- Article 3 Purpose and forms of the doctorate
- Article 4 Doctoral Degree Committee (*Promotionsausschuss*)
- Article 5 Admission to the Doctoral Programme and the doctoral examination process (*Promotionsverfahren*)
- Article 6 Supervision
- Article 7 Obligations of doctoral researchers for a doctorate independent of a degree programme (*studiengangsfreie Promotion*) and in the structured doctoral programme (*strukturierte Promotion*)
- Article 8 Initiation of the doctoral examination process
- Article 9 Examination Committee (*Prüfungskommission*)
- Article 10 Doctoral thesis
- Article 11 Assessment of the doctoral thesis
- Article 12 Decision about the doctoral thesis
- Article 13 Oral examination
- Article 14 Overall grade of the doctorate
- Article 15 Award of the doctorate
- Article 16 Publication of the doctorate
- Article 17 Honorary doctorate
- Article 18 Revocation of the doctoral degree
- Article 19 Inspection
- Article 20 Doctoral examination process in cooperation with a foreign partner university or partner faculty
- Article 21 Entry into force of the Doctoral Regulations

### Article 1 Scope

This Doctoral Regulations shall apply to all doctoral examination process conducted at the Faculty of Sociology. It shall apply on the basis of the General Doctoral Regulations of Bielefeld University. Insofar as this Doctoral Regulations does not include specific provisions, the General Doctoral Regulations of Bielefeld University shall apply.

## **Article 2** **Doctoral degree (Article 2 RPO)**

(1) The Faculty of Sociology, hereafter Faculty, shall confer the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Dr. phil., doctor philosophiae) on the basis of a doctoral thesis and an oral examination.

(2) The Faculty may also confer the doctoral degree “honoris causa” in recognition of outstanding achievements in the social sciences or corresponding immaterial contributions to the social sciences (cf. Article 17 RPO).

## **Article 3** **Purpose and forms of the doctorate (Article 3 RPO)**

(1) The doctoral thesis and the oral examination shall prove the ability of the candidate to conduct independent scholarly work above and beyond the general goal of studies in accordance with Article 58 Section 1 HG.

(2) The doctorate shall consist of an academically substantial written work and an oral examination.

(3) The doctorate shall be awarded

- a) within the framework of the Doctoral Programme of the Faculty of Sociology or
- b) within the framework of other interdisciplinary Doctoral Programmes of Bielefeld University in which the Faculty of Sociology is involved on the basis of a relevant decision of the Faculty Committee (*Fakultätskonferenz*), or
- c) as a doctorate independent of a degree programme.

(4) The Doctoral Programme of the Faculty of Sociology shall be part of the doctoral training provided at the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS). The Faculty of Sociology, the Department of History, and the Executive Board of the BGHS shall cooperate closely in conducting the Doctoral Programme. The responsibility of the Faculty shall remain unaffected. The research training programme of the Doctoral Programme in Sociology shall be laid down in the Study Regulations (*Studienordnung*) of the Doctoral Programme.

(5) The Doctoral Regulations and the Study Regulations of the Doctoral Programme shall be adopted by the Faculty Committee at the proposal of the Doctoral Degree Committee.

## **Article 4** **Doctoral Degree Committee (*Promotionsausschuss*) (Article 4 RPO)**

(1) The Faculty Committee shall elect the Doctoral Degree Committee.

(2) The members of the Doctoral Degree Committee shall be: three members of the group of professors, one member of the group of academic staff holding a doctorate, one member of the group of students, and one member of the group of further staff. Only those committee members with a doctoral degree shall have the right to vote on decisions concerning the doctoral examination process. The Doctoral Degree Committee shall elect members of the group of professors as chairperson and deputy. The Doctoral Degree Committee shall take decisions with a simple majority of the voting members in an open vote; if the votes are equally divided, the chairperson shall have the casting vote. The student representative shall be elected for a one-year term; all other members of the Doctoral Degree Committee shall be elected for two-year terms.

(3) The Doctoral Degree Committee shall ensure that the provisions of the Doctoral Regulations are satisfied and shall ensure the correctness of the procedure. Applications for admission to the Doctoral Programme and to the doctoral examination process shall be directed to the Doctoral Degree Committee. It shall determine whether the criteria for admission have been fulfilled and shall take decisions regarding admission in accordance with Article 5. It shall initiate the doctoral examination process in accordance with Article 8 upon application by the doctoral researcher. It shall determine the members of the Examination Committee (*Prüfungsausschuss*) and its chairperson for each individual doctoral examination process. It shall monitor the time limits in accordance with these Regulations.

(4) The Doctoral Degree Committee may charge the chairperson with disposing of its duties. This shall not apply to negative decisions regarding objections.

(5) The Doctoral Degree Committee shall be responsible for the basic conception and control of the research training programme of the structured doctoral programme which are included in the area of responsibility of the Faculty of Sociology.

### Article 5

#### Admission to the Doctoral Programme and the doctoral examination process (*Promotionsverfahren*) (Article 5 RPO)

(1) The requirements for admission to the Doctoral Programme or the doctoral examination process independent of a degree programme include the following:

- a) Completion of a Master's Programme in Sociology or Social Sciences in accordance with Article 61 Section 2 HG, or
- b) Completion of a university degree programme in Sociology or Social Sciences with a standard period of study of at least eight terms and for which a degree other than "Bachelor" is conferred, or
- c) Completion of a relevant tertiary degree programme with a standard period of study of at least six terms, followed by studies in preparation for the doctorate (*Angleichungsstudien*) in Sociology or Social Sciences. A very good Bachelor's Degree (grade: 1.0) is a requirement for admission to the *Angleichungsstudien*. In the first term, the *Angleichungsstudien* encompass 30 credit points which are to be earned in the framework of the Master's Programmes of the Faculty of Sociology. The examinations required in the framework of the *Angleichungsstudien* must also be passed with a grade of 1.0. The *Angleichungsstudien* shall be completed with a written work encompassing an additional 30 credit points in the second term. The work must earn a grade of 1.0 if it is to be considered appropriate preparation for the doctorate.

(2) Foreign degrees must be recognised by the Doctoral Degree Committee, taking into consideration the equivalence agreements approved by the Conference of Ministers for Cultural Affairs and the Conference of University Rectors; in case of doubt concerning equivalence, the Central Office for Foreign Education may be heard.

(3) The Doctoral Degree Committee of the Faculty of Sociology shall take decisions concerning admission (admission as a doctoral researcher) to the Doctoral Programme in accordance with Article 3 Section 3a and 3b as well as admission to the doctorate independent of a degree programme (Article 3 Section 3c). The following shall be submitted together with the application for admission as a doctoral researcher (if the application and admissions procedure is conducted online, these materials are to be made available via the online admissions portal):

1. the prospective topic and an exposé of the planned doctoral thesis,
2. a description of core elements of studies to date,
3. copies of tertiary degrees obtained (proof of requirements for admission),
4. a curriculum vitae providing information about personal and professional development,

5. names of two references as well as a statement by a professor of the Faculty agreeing to supervise the doctorate,
6. a statement about current or previous attempts to earn a doctorate in accordance with Article 8 Section 1 Letter g Point 4 of the General Doctoral Regulations.

The Doctoral Degree Committee may require revision of the exposé and must explain the reasons for this requirement in writing. The exposé must make the scholarly quality and feasibility of the doctoral thesis clear and must convey the impression that the candidate will be able to successfully complete the doctorate. When the exposé is resubmitted, the Doctoral Degree Committee shall decide anew about admission.

(4) Admission as a doctoral researcher shall be limited to five years. Applications for extension shall be possible; reasons must be provided. The decision regarding admission shall be communicated in writing and shall include, as applicable, the extent of studies in preparation for the doctorate. The General Doctoral Regulations shall regulate further matters.

## Article 6 Supervision (Article 7 RPO)

(1) When admitting a doctoral researcher, the Doctoral Degree Committee shall name two supervisors, one of whom shall be the primary supervisor. The supervisors shall be reviewers of the doctoral thesis. The primary supervisor shall be responsible for continuous supervision. The primary supervisor and the doctoral researcher shall conclude a Supervision Agreement (*Beauftragungsverordnung*) which regulates rights and obligations. The model Supervision Agreement adopted by the Faculty Committee of the Faculty of Sociology shall be used.

(2) The supervisory relationship established by the Supervision Agreement may be terminated by the supervisor only on just and proper grounds.

(3) Members of the group of professors as well as habilitated members of the Faculty or authorised examiners (i.e. members of the Faculty holding a doctorate) may in principle be supervisors. Only members of the group of professors or habilitated members of the Faculty may be primary supervisors. Professors of other faculties and universities as well as other members of other faculties, universities, or research institutions who are authorised examiners may also be secondary supervisors. If a primary supervisor retires or becomes emeritus during the period of the doctorate, he or she may continue to supervise the doctorate until completion. He or she shall have the status of a retired or emeritus former member of the Faculty in the composition of the Doctoral Degree Committee. In this case, no further retired or emeritus member of the Faculty may become a member of the Doctoral Degree Committee. Former members of the Faculty may not be appointed as primary supervisors. (The relevant date for defining status is a candidate's date of admittance as a doctoral candidate). Co-opted members of the Faculty may be primary or secondary supervisors of a doctorate, provided the other requirements have been met. If a co-opted member or a habilitated member or another member of the Faculty who is an authorised examiner is appointed as a supervisor, the second supervisor must be a member of the group of professors of the Faculty of Sociology. A supervisor of a doctoral thesis who transfers to a different university may continue to supervise the doctoral thesis and be appointed as a reviewer, provided the doctoral researcher and the Doctoral Degree Committee agree. The agreement by each must be documented, is valid for two years, and must be confirmed anew thereafter.

## Article 7

### Obligations of doctoral researchers for a doctorate independent of a degree programme (*studiengangsfreie Promotion*) and in the structured doctoral programme (*strukturierte Promotion*)

(1) The obligations of doctoral researchers in the doctorate independent of a degree programme include in particular:

- a) once per year a presentation in the framework of a colloquium or a doctoral seminar with a relevant thematic focus; the presentation is intended, inter alia, to provide information about the process and progress of the doctorate;
- b) twice per year consultation with the primary supervisor about the doctorate, based on a report by the doctoral researcher on the status of his or her work.

(2) The obligations of doctoral researchers in the framework of the structured doctoral programme include participation in the current programmes of study. As a rule, it is intended that doctoral researchers participate in the research training programme during the first four terms. When admitting a candidate to the Doctoral Programme, the Doctoral Degree Committee determines, in consultation with the candidate, which academic work he or she is to perform in the framework of the Doctoral Programme, taking his or her individual course of study as well as the topic of the doctoral thesis into account. Proof of such academic work is a requirement for initiation of the doctoral examination process; the academic work to be performed is regulated in the Study Regulations of the Doctoral Programme.

## Article 8

### Initiation of the doctoral examination process (Article 8 RPO)

(1) The doctoral examination process shall be initiated by a decision of the Doctoral Degree Committee upon application by the doctoral researcher. The application shall be directed in writing to the chairperson of the Doctoral Degree Committee (if the application and admission procedure is conducted online, these materials – with the exception of the doctoral thesis and the summary – shall be submitted via the application portal).

(2) The following are to be submitted together with the application for initiation of the doctoral examination process:

1. the decision about admission as a doctoral researcher,
2. proof of participation in the Doctoral Programme of the Faculty of Sociology or proof of participation in the Doctoral Programme of another Faculty in accordance with Article 3 Section 3b, as applicable,
3. proof of successful studies in preparation for the doctorate, as necessary,
4. a curriculum vitae providing information about personal and professional development,
5. a list of the doctoral researcher's scholarly publications to date,
6. proposals for two members of the Examination Committee,
7. six copies of the doctoral thesis,
8. one electronic version of the doctoral thesis,
9. five copies of a summary of the doctoral thesis in German, as a rule no longer than 10 pages, which includes the goal, contents, and results of the doctoral thesis and should not be identical to parts of the doctoral thesis,
10. in the case of group work: a report prepared jointly by the authors detailing individual authorship of each part of the doctoral thesis,
11. a statement by the doctoral researcher
  - a) that the doctoral researcher prepared the submitted work(s) himself or herself, or – in the case of Article 10 Section 3 – a statement by each doctoral researcher that only the persons named contributed to the work,

- b) that the doctoral researcher prepared the doctoral thesis himself or herself, did not include text passages from third parties or from his or her own assessed papers without indication as such, and indicated all aids and sources used in the thesis,
- c) that the doctoral researcher is familiar with the effective Doctoral Regulations,
- d) that third parties have not received direct or indirect monetary payments or payments in kind from the doctoral researcher for work in connection with the contents of the submitted doctoral thesis or for acting as an agent to liaise with third parties performing such work,
- e) that the doctoral researcher has not yet submitted the doctoral thesis as an assessed paper for a state examination or another academic examination,
- f) whether the doctoral researcher has submitted the same paper, a paper that is similar in relevant parts, or another paper to another university as a doctoral thesis, and if so, with which result,
- g) that he or she agrees to an electronic review of the doctoral thesis (review for plagiarism).

(3) The application for initiation of the doctoral examination process may be withdrawn as long as no reviewer's report has been submitted.

(4) The Doctoral Degree Committee shall take a decision concerning initiation of the doctoral examination process with a simple majority. If the votes are equally divided, the chairperson shall have the casting vote. If initiation of the doctoral examination process is rejected, this decision must be immediately communicated in writing to the doctoral researcher; reasons for the rejection must be given, stating the procedure for appeal. If the initiation of the doctoral examination process is rejected, the doctoral researcher shall be heard; thereafter, the doctoral researcher may submit an objection in writing to the Dean within one month of the announcement of the rejection; the Faculty Committee shall take a decision regarding the objection.

(5) A failed attempt to obtain a doctorate may be repeated only once. Failed attempts at other universities and universities of applied sciences shall be taken into account.

### **Article 9** **Examination Committee (*Prüfungskommission*) (Article 9 RPO)**

(1) The Doctoral Degree Committee shall select a Examination Committee for each individual doctoral examination process.

(2) The Doctoral Degree Committee shall appoint a member of the group of professors who serve on the Examination Committee as its chairperson. The chairperson should not be a reviewer of the work.

(3) As a rule, the Examination Committee shall have four members. All its members must hold doctorates. At least two members must be members of the group of professors of the Faculty of Sociology. One member of the Examination Committee may be a retired or emeritus professor or a retired habilitated member of the Faculty. As a rule, one member of the Examination Committee shall be a member of the group of academic staff. The reviewers shall be members of the Examination Committee. In special cases, in particular in the case of interdisciplinary works, or if the subject of the doctorate is not sufficiently represented in the Faculty of Sociology, an additional voting member who does not belong to the Faculty may be appointed to the Examination Committee.

(4) The Doctoral Degree Committee shall appoint at least two reviewers, one of whom must be a member of the group of professors of the Faculty; as a rule, both supervisors shall be appointed as reviewers, provided they represent the subjects of the doctoral thesis; in the case of interdisciplinary works, a third report may be obtained. When selecting additional reviewers, priority



shall be given to representatives of the subject(s) of the doctoral thesis submitted, provided the subject(s) is (are) not already represented by previous reviewers.

(5) The Examination Committee shall have the following tasks:

1. it shall take a decision regarding acceptance and assessment of the doctoral thesis in accordance with Article 11,
2. it shall conduct the oral examination and assess it in accordance with Article 13,
3. it shall determine the overall grade in accordance with Article 14.

## **Article 10** **Doctoral thesis (Article 10 RPO)**

(1) The doctoral thesis shall address a topic within the expertise of the Faculty of Sociology of Bielefeld University. It shall be a contribution to scholarly research elaborated independently by the doctoral researcher or candidates. It shall be no longer than 300 pages. As a rule, it shall be written in German, English, or French; the Doctoral Degree Committee shall take a decision regarding permitting doctoral theses in other languages. Doctoral theses may be submitted in the form of a monograph by an individual or as cumulative works by an individual or as a monograph by a team. Cumulative works by a team shall not be permissible.

(2) A cumulative doctorate must fulfil the following criteria:

- a. The cumulative doctorate shall encompass at least four scholarly works following a common overall research question, even if they have already been published. The linkages between the works shall result from a particular research question and shall be sufficiently substantiated in a scholarly work which shall also serve as a summary (cf. Article 8 Section 2 No. 9). As a whole, this form of doctoral thesis must exhibit the scholarship of a monograph.
- b. In the case of a cumulative doctorate, at least four papers shall be submitted, at least two of which shall have been published in respected peer-reviewed journals in the relevant subjects, or which have been accepted for publication there in writing. At least one paper must have been authored by the doctoral researcher alone; the doctoral researcher should be the senior author of another paper.

(3) The (intra- or interdisciplinary) team effort must fulfil the following criteria:

- a. the theoretical or methodological substance of a team effort as well as the scholarly work actually invested must be significantly different from an individual effort; the contribution of each doctoral researcher must correspond to the scholarship of an individual effort, be distinctly delimited, and assessable;
- b. in the case of a team effort, the doctoral researchers must make individual authorship clear for particular dimensions or individual sections of the work;
- c. the doctoral researchers shall submit a joint report on the process of their collaboration which makes the substantive contribution of each doctoral researcher to the joint effort clear.

## **Article 11** **Assessment of the doctoral thesis (Article 10 RPO)**

(1) At least two reports on the submitted work(s) shall be prepared (cf. Article 9 Section 3).

(2) Each reviewer shall receive a copy of the doctoral thesis when appointed. One copy each shall be made available to the other members of the Examination Committee, a further copy shall be made available to the members of the Faculty holding a doctorate until the end of the period during which the reports are to be made available to the public in accordance with Article 11 Section 6.

(3) The reviewers shall submit their reports within two months of their appointment; if this includes the month of August, the period for submission shall be three months.

(4) The reports must recommend acceptance or rejection of the doctoral thesis or its temporary return for revision. In the latter case, the reports must define a timeframe for revision which must not be longer than six months. If there is no majority among the reports to accept or reject the doctoral thesis or to return it for revision, the Doctoral Degree Committee shall appoint a further reviewer who is an authorised examiner, who thereby becomes a member of the Examination Committee and shall prepare a report within two months. If the doctoral thesis is accepted, each reviewer shall propose a grade for it. The grades shall be:

With distinction (*summa cum laude*),

Very good (*magna cum laude*),

Good (*cum laude*),

Sufficient (*rite*).

(5) The reports shall be made available to the doctoral researcher. Within one week of delivery of the last report, he or she may comment on the reports. If the doctoral researcher waives his or her right to comment, the doctoral thesis may be made available to the persons mentioned [in Article 11 Section 6].

(6) The reports, together with the doctoral researcher's comments, if any, are to be made available to the members of the Faculty holding a doctorate, the members of the Examination Committee, and the doctoral researcher for one month. Each member of the Faculty holding a doctorate shall have the right to inspect the doctoral thesis and to object in writing to its acceptance, rejection, or grade. Reasons must be given for objections. The Doctoral Degree Committee shall inform all persons with the right to inspect about the fact that the relevant documents are on display. If an objection is raised, the Doctoral Degree Committee shall obtain a further report which is to be prepared within two months. The Doctoral Degree Committee shall take a decision regarding acceptance, rejection, or return for revision of the doctoral thesis, taking the recommendation of this review into account.

## Article 12

### Decision about the doctoral thesis (Article 10 Section 8 RPO)

(1) The Examination Committee shall come to a decision about acceptance, grading, rejection, or revision of the doctoral thesis after taking note of the reports. The additional reports in accordance with Article 11 Section 6 shall be taken into account in the decision. Each member of the Examination Committee shall have one vote. The vote shall be an open vote, there shall be no abstentions. If the votes are equally divided, the chairperson shall have the casting vote. Voting may take place in writing, as appropriate.

(2) The decision about the doctoral thesis must be taken at the latest two weeks following the end of the time during which the reports are made available in accordance with Article 11 Section 6; during the period when no classes are scheduled, the decision must be taken within six weeks.

(3) Acceptance of the doctoral thesis shall be communicated to the doctoral researcher immediately, together with the date and time of the oral examination.

(4) Rejection of the doctoral thesis and the reasons for rejection are to be communicated to the doctoral researcher immediately and in writing, together with an explanation of his or her rights to appeal. An objection to the decision of the Examination Committee may be filed with the Doctoral Degree Committee; the Faculty Committee shall take a decision regarding the objection.



(5) If the doctoral thesis is rejected, the doctoral researcher has not passed the doctorate. The doctoral researcher may attempt to obtain a doctorate a second time. A third attempt shall not be possible.

### **Article 13** **Oral examination (Article 11 RPO)**

(1) The oral examination shall have the form of a defence of the doctoral thesis before the Examination Committee. The oral examination shall take place at the latest two months after acceptance of the doctoral thesis. Each doctoral researcher shall be examined individually. Doctoral researchers whose doctoral thesis is a team effort may apply for the oral examinations to be held jointly. The duration of the examination shall be correspondingly longer.

(2) The defence shall serve to:

1. prove the ability of the doctoral researcher to orally discuss a scholarly problem; this shall refer primarily to the work presented and its hypotheses,
2. examine whether the doctoral researcher is able to substantiate, differentiate, and further explain the results he or she obtained as well as the theoretical and methodological principles of the subject in light of questions and dissenting arguments.

(3) The oral examination of doctoral researchers in accordance with Article 5 Section 1 c shall also extend to the areas of the studies in preparation of the doctorate.

(4) As a rule, the defence shall take place within two months (Section 1) following the decision about acceptance of the doctoral thesis and shall take 60 minutes.

(5) If the doctoral researcher fails to appear for the oral examination without a satisfactory excuse, he or she shall have failed the oral examination.

(6) The defence shall be open to members of the university, provided the doctoral researcher does not object to this in writing.

(7) Directly following the oral examination, the Examination Committee shall decide with a simple majority whether the doctoral researcher did or did not pass the oral examination. The oral examination shall be assessed with the following grades:

With distinction (*summa cum laude*),

Very good (*magna cum laude*),

Good (*cum laude*),

Sufficient (*rite*). In case of differing proposals for grades, a vote shall decide the matter. If the votes are equally divided, the chairperson shall have the casting vote.

(8) If the doctoral researcher does not pass the oral examination, he or she may repeat it once. The repeat examination may take place at the earliest after two months, and at the latest within twelve months, without the requirement to submit a new doctoral thesis.

## **Article 14** **Overall grade of the doctorate (Article 12 RPO)**

The Examination Committee shall determine the overall grade on the basis of both the doctoral thesis and the oral examination. The doctoral thesis shall fundamentally have greater weight than the oral examination. In case of differing proposals for grades, a vote shall decide the matter. If the votes are equally divided, the chairperson shall have the casting vote. The grades shall be:

With distinction (*summa cum laude*),  
Very good (*magna cum laude*),  
Good (*cum laude*),  
Sufficient (*rite*).

## **Article 15** **Award of the doctorate (Article 13 RPO)**

(1) Following the decision of the Examination Committee, the Dean shall deliver a preliminary certificate to the doctoral researcher confirming that he or she passed the examination. This preliminary certificate shall include the title and grade of the doctoral thesis, the grade of the oral examination, and the overall grade.

(2) The Dean shall award the doctorate by delivering the doctoral certificate (*Promotionsurkunde*). It shall include the title of the doctoral thesis, the degree “Doctor of Philosophy” (Dr. phil.), the grades given the doctoral thesis and the oral examination, as well as the overall grade of the doctorate. The date of the doctorate shall be given as the date of the oral examination.

(3) The doctoral certificate shall be delivered only when publication of the doctoral thesis in accordance with Article 16 has been secured or when a publication contract with a publisher has been presented.

## **Article 16** **Publication of the doctoral thesis (Article 14 RPO)**

(1) The doctoral researcher shall be required to make his or her doctoral thesis available to the scientific community in an appropriate manner by means of reproduction and dissemination. The reviewers shall provide consultation to the doctoral researcher concerning the version for publication.

(2) The doctoral thesis shall have been made available to the scientific community in an appropriate manner when the author has made three copies, in the case of d) six copies printed on permanent wood- and acid-free paper and in a permanent binding, available to the University Library free of charge, in addition to the copies required for archiving in accordance with Article 8 Section 2 Clause 7, and furthermore guarantees dissemination by one of the following means:

a) delivery of another 50 copies, in letterpress or photocopied and bound form  
or

b) proof of publication of the doctoral thesis in full in a journal  
or

c) proof of dissemination via a commercial publisher through the book trade with a minimum print run of 150 copies. In this case, the publication as a doctoral thesis and the place of the doctorate shall be indicated on the reverse side of the title page.  
or

d) delivery of an electronic version whose data format and data carriers shall be agreed with the University Library.

In the case of a), the University Library shall be required to retain an appropriate number of surplus copies for exchange for four years. In the cases of a) and d), the doctoral researcher shall grant the University the right to produce and disseminate additional copies of his or her doctoral thesis within the scope of the statutory duties of the University Library, or to make additional copies available on data networks. If a doctoral thesis is disseminated by a commercial publisher, and if a grant from public monies is made available for printing costs, then an appropriate number of copies shall be provided to the University Library for purposes of exchange.

### **Article 17** **Revocation of the doctoral degree (Article 15 RPO)**

(1) As a rule, the Doctoral Degree Committee or the Dean shall declare the academic work performed for the doctorate invalid, after hearing the doctoral researcher, if it becomes apparent before the awarding of the doctorate that the doctoral researcher has committed deception concerning the academic work performed for the doctorate or concerning relevant requirements of the doctoral examination process.

(2) As a rule, the doctoral degree shall be revoked if  
a) it becomes apparent after the fact that it was obtained by means of deception concerning the academic work performed for the doctorate or by means of deception regarding relevant requirements of the doctoral examination process,  
b) the person awarded the doctorate has been convicted of a wilful punishable act, whereby he or she misused the doctoral degree in preparing or committing the act.

(3) If the requirements for admission to the doctoral programme were not fulfilled, but the doctoral researcher did not intend to commit deception about this fact, and if this fact becomes known only after delivery of the doctoral certificate, then passing the doctoral examination shall rectify this flaw.

(4) The Faculty Committee shall take a decision regarding revocation after the Dean has heard the affected party.

### **Article 18** **Inspection (Article 16 RPO)**

The doctoral researcher shall have the right to inspect the files concerning his or her doctorate following conclusion of the doctoral examination process.

### **Article 19** **Honorary doctorate (Article 18 RPO)**

Upon application by two members, the Faculty Committee shall take a decision with a majority of three-quarters concerning conferral of the doctorate honoris causa. All members of the Faculty Committee who hold a doctorate, regardless of their academic position, shall have the right to vote. The provisions of the General Doctoral Regulations of Bielefeld University shall apply.

### **Article 20** **Doctoral examination process in cooperation with a foreign partner university or partner faculty (Article 19 RPO)**

(1) The Faculty of Sociology may also confer the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Dr. phil.) jointly with a partner university or partner faculty abroad. It shall also cooperate with the conferral of an analogous academic degree by the partner faculty abroad.

(2) Proof of the academic qualifications necessary for the doctorate shall be provided by the doctoral researchers via the requirements for the doctorate. These shall consist of an academic thesis (doctoral thesis) and an oral examination in the form of a defence.

#### **a) Agreement**

Realisation of the doctoral examination process in accordance with Article 20 Section 1 shall require an agreement with a partner university or a partner faculty abroad in which both faculties undertake to enable a joint doctorate and to arrange the details of their cooperation.

#### **b) Corresponding application**

The provisions of this Doctoral Regulations shall apply to the doctoral examination process in accordance with Article 20 Section 1 Clause 1 unless stipulated otherwise in the following. The provisions of the agreement in accordance with Article 20a shall apply to cooperation in accordance with Article 20 Section 1 Clause 2.

#### **c) Admission to the doctoral examination process**

(1) Article 5 Section 1 shall apply with the proviso that the doctoral researcher must prove that he or she has obtained a degree qualifying him or her to obtain a doctorate at a university in the country in which one of the two partner universities or partner faculties is located.

(2) Article 5 Section 3 shall apply with the proviso that the following materials are submitted with the application:

- a. a statement by the partner faculty supporting initiation of the doctoral examination process,
- b. a statement by a member of the partner university or partner faculty that he or she is willing to assess the doctoral thesis.

#### **d) Doctoral thesis and supervision**

(1) The doctoral thesis shall be written in German, English, or French, or in a language mentioned in the partnership agreement. Summaries in German and English shall be provided.

(2) One authorised examiner who is a member of the Faculty and one who is a member of the partner university or partner faculty shall be the supervisors of the doctoral thesis.

#### **e) Reviewers**

(1) The doctoral thesis shall be reviewed by one reviewer determined by the partner institution and one member of the Faculty, both of whom shall be authorised examiners.

(2) As a rule, the Doctoral Degree Committee shall determine the supervisors to be reviewers of the doctoral thesis.

(3) Article 20 d Section 1 Clause 1 shall apply accordingly regarding the language of the reports.

#### **f) Subject of the oral examination**

(1) The oral examination shall consist of the defence of the hypotheses presented in the doctoral thesis.

(2) Article 20 d Section 1 Clause 1 shall apply accordingly regarding the language of the defence.

### **g) Examination Committee**

The Examination Committee shall have four members. Two examiners shall be authorised examiners of the Faculty, and two shall be authorised examiners of the partner university or partner faculty. Each Faculty shall be represented by at least one member.

### **h) Realisation of the oral examination**

(1) The examination shall be an individual examination.

(2) The duration of the examination shall be in accordance with the provisions of the agreement in accordance with Article 20a.

### **i) Conclusion of the doctoral examination process**

Article 11 Section 1 shall apply to the conclusion of the doctoral examination process with the proviso that the certificate shall be in two languages. The transboundary doctoral examination process shall be mentioned in the certificate. The Dean of the Faculty shall sign and seal the German part. The doctoral researcher shall be informed in an explanatory letter that the title may be used only in German or only in the foreign language version. The partner university or partner faculty shall prepare its part of the doctoral certificate according to the regulations which apply there.

## **Article 21**

### **Entry into force of the Doctoral Regulations**

These Doctoral Regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the official bulletin; *Verkündungsblatt der Universität Bielefeld – Amtliche Bekanntmachungen*. At the same time, the Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Sociology of 1 September 2009 (official bulletin; *Verkündungsblatt der Universität Bielefeld – Amtliche Bekanntmachungen* vol. 38 No. 17, p. 310) shall cease to have effect; it shall continue to apply to all doctoral researchers who were admitted prior to this Doctoral Regulations entering into force. Upon request of the doctoral researcher, the present Regulations may be applied in such cases as well. Such requests are irrevocable.

Issued on the basis of the decision of the Faculty Committee of the Faculty of Sociology of Bielefeld University of 21 December 2011.

Bielefeld, 15 February 2012

The *Rektor*  
of Bielefeld University  
University Professor Dr.-Ing. Gerhard Sagerer