

Notes on supervision of PhD theses

1. Inquiries about supervision

We are generally happy, within reasonable bounds, to consider the supervision of PhD theses. Given the extremely high number of inquiries in that matter, please however note the following guidelines.

A PhD dissertation is a piece of work in which you are to show your ability to function as an independent researcher who demonstrates her or his ability to contribute something new to scientific knowledge. In general, we welcome PhD proposals which fall into my areas of research and which are backed-up by credentials which a potential candidate has earned through her/his academic studies. If there are good reasons for it, we are also willing to consider proposals which thematically are more on the fringes of our own research. In any case, however: **quality is decisive**.

So if you consider approaching any researcher within the Political Science section for possible PhD supervision:

- a. Please submit a first draft proposal of 8-12 pages, detailing your theme, how it stands in relation to previous research already done in the field, and your methodology, accompanied by a CV and a writing sample (MA thesis or similar)
- b. If you already have a proposal, but are uncertain whether the theme is appropriate, please drop a quick mail before sending the proposal.
- c. Please do not, under any circumstances, approach any of us if you have no fixed and elaborated idea about a dissertation subject which falls into one of the existing areas of expertise. Inquiries of that kind will not be answered.

2. Secondary supervision (“Zweitbetreuung”)

When approaching any of us for possible secondary supervision or external examination it is assumed that this has been discussed with the supervisor beforehand.