How can we best support doctoral candidates?

ViDSS Supervisors' Day, 14 June 2022
Kolingasse 14–16, 1090 Vienna (ViDSS Meeting Room, SR11)

mental health

self-regulated learning

Vienna Doctoral Schools

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Supervisors' Day 2022 of the
Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences

The establishment of the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ViDSS) has allowed the Faculty of Social Sciences to increase its support of supervisors in the doctoral programme. The Doctoral School has introduced training and networking opportunities for supervisors with the aim of strengthening close supervision.

The **ViDSS Supervisors' Day** facilitates the exchange of experiences among supervisors by addressing topics that are relevant for the supervision of doctoral candidates across social science disciplines. This year's event asks how PhD students can best be supported in their endeavour to complete a dissertation, also with regard to the manifold challenges and concerns that the COVID-19 Pandemic has entailed.

The workshop **How can we best support doctoral candidates?** focuses on the motivation and self-regulated learning of PhD students. For the successful completion of a doctorate (and also for a possible further scientific career) early stage researchers need to be able to motivate themselves and to have the competence to organise, structure and evaluate necessary tasks within the framework of the doctorate on their own. However, the great autonomy and the responsibility for the own doctorate can trigger excessive demands and cause motivation problems. Anxieties can lead to a pessimistic evaluation of one's own competencies ("I can't do it!", "Others are much better than I am") or of the work itself ("I don't know why I am doing all this!", "Is it really worth all this effort?"). Supervisors are faced with the challenge of how to best motivate doctoral candidates and strengthen competencies for self-regulated learning.

Building on impulse lectures, group work and discussion, the following questions will be addressed: What is motivation, how does it arise and how is it related to self-regulated learning? What are the starting points from an educational psychology perspective on how supervisors can support motivation and self-regulated learning of their doctoral candidates? How do you support your doctoral students? What else could you do? What are particular challenges (and limitations) for you as supervisors?

Programme

09:00 Introduction
Markus Wagner
Deputy Director of Studies and Vice-Dean for Career Development and International Affairs

09:15 Workshop: How can we best support doctoral candidates? Part I
Monika Finsterwald
Postdoctoral researcher at the Faculty of Psychology (Vienna) and the University of Zurich, trainer at non-university research institutions
Elisabeth Pelikan
Praedoctoral researcher at the Faculty of Psychology (Vienna)

10:45 Break

11:00 Workshop: How can we best support doctoral candidates? Part II
Monika Finsterwald and Elisabeth Pelikan

12:30 End

The ViDSS Supervisors' Day is open to all supervisors in the doctoral programme in Social Sciences. Please register for the event by sending an email to **vds-sosci@univie.ac.at** no later than 30 May. Attendance is limited to first-come, first-served with a maximum of 25 participants.

The Doctoral School

The establishment of the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ViDSS) has been part of a university-wide initiative of providing structured doctoral education in many different disciplines. At the Faculty of Social Sciences, the establishment of the doctoral school was led by a faculty-wide task force comprising representatives of all disciplines and a student representative. Between 2019 and 2020, the task force developed the profile and the governance structure of the doctoral school and designed activities and funding programmes for doctoral candidates in the social sciences. In October 2020, the ViDSS was launched.

The ViDSS aims at:
- attracting ambitious and highly qualified doctoral candidates in the social sciences,
- increasing the exchange of experiences among doctoral candidates and supervisors within and across departments,
- enhancing the doctoral candidates' international experiences and
- improving completion rates.

In addition to a range of activities and funding possibilities for students, the ViDSS regularly organises onboarding workshops as well as networking and information events for supervisors.