

# “Professional and Practical Aspects of Doctoral Study in Political Science”

*A doctoral seminar for the Netzwerk Norddeutsche Demokratieforschung (NND)*

**Friday, May 22, 2009**

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Zentrum für Demokratieforschung (ZDEMO)  
Leuphana Universität Lüneburg*

This seminar will examine a range of professional and practical dimensions of doing a PhD in political science. Its focus will be on speaking openly about the challenges of completing a doctorate as well as the broader context of such an endeavor. Although doctoral study generally means producing an original piece of scholarly work in the form of a dissertation, these days this task is compounded by the need to apply for grants, think about publishing, acquire teaching skills, scout out job prospects, become more international, and compete with fellow students. How to orientate yourself in this range of pressures?

In the space of just one day, we can not cover all of these topics. However, we will address many of them within three individual seminar blocks.

- I. What Is a Political Science Dissertation?
  - a. Types of dissertations
  - b. Planning and managing a dissertation
  - c. Examining good and bad dissertations
  
- II. Publishing
  - a. The publishing world: books vs edited volumes vs peer-reviewed journals
  - b. The world of indices, rankings and bibliometry
  - c. How to publish in political science
  
- III. Internationalization
  - a. International political science
  - b. Harmonization or competition?
  - c. European-level changes: EHEA and ERA

A more detailed schedule and list of readings will be announced in April.

The instructor, **Prof. Dr. Vello Pettai**, is DAAD Guest Professor at the Zentrum für Demokratieforschung, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, and Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Tartu (Estonia). He is originally from the United States, where he received his PhD from Columbia University. He has worked in Estonia for 15 years, where he has been involved in a range of curricular development issues, most importantly at the doctoral level. He specializes in post-communist democratization and has published in *World Politics*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Studies in Comparative International Development* and *Nations and Nationalism*. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Consortium for Political Research.

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