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# Writing a PHD in an unexpectedly changing time

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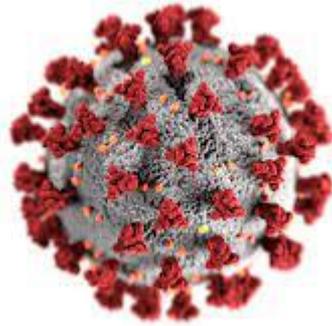
RESEARCHING CITIZENSHIP IN CHANGING TIMES, INTERNATIONAL  
DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

December 2-3, 2021

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# Content of the lecture

- The general impact of the Covid 19 pandemic



- The research topic under change
  - Educational Module course works
  - Research and thesis writing phase
  - Additional opportunities
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# The general impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on education and social science research

- ❑ dramatic changes in the general pattern of life and work
  - ❑ PHD studies and academic working conditions are changing dramatically
    - **lock down**, The COVID-19 pandemic quickly led to the closure of universities
      - ❑ „social distancing” or “physical distancing” has attempted to reduce interpersonal contact and thereby minimize the kind of community transmission
    - **Rise of Digital Technology** for eLearning and Virtual Education
    - **home office, home study**, change in research environments
    - **Personal capacities** and difficulties
      - ❑ students can have less ability to self-regulate or study autonomously
      - ❑ time management
      - ❑ mental health problems, isolation, frustration, depression, lack of motivation, bad time management
      - ❑ financial difficulties
      - ❑ There is a vast “digital inequality”
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# The research topic under change

- **Rethinking our research problem**: the impact of crisis situations on social phenomena and social relations can give a **new perspective** to our research topic
  - Just as the Covid 19 pandemic is a global and complex phenomenon, our thinking about it can help us **to rethink the complexity of our own subject**, emphasizing the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to research
    - **Directly**: the human and social consequences of the epidemic
    - **Indirectly**: to treat it as a new aspect of a previously decided research problem
  - **adaption behavior**, to amplify the benefits of the situation and compensate for the disadvantages that arise
  - **Social sciences research methods** often require face-to face interactions: Replacing the personal with the possibilities of digital communication
  - **Post-pandemic focus** on specific research areas and their Implications
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# Educational Module course works

- this Covid 19 pandemic as an abrupt change has been an **unusual experience** in many ways on in-person courses, often tied to in-person tutorials, group work and other
  - **interaction-intensive tasks**. Now these go to the online space
    - classes and exams carried out online
    - individual online consultations with teachers
  - attitudes towards online teaching are highly dependent on **institutional factors**, as tenured faculty members
  - **quality concerns**, as online teaching is seen as time consuming and demanding in preparation, making adaptations hard especially when it comes to smaller, interactive classrooms where ongoing student evaluation and interaction are key
  - **educators** are forced to adapt their teaching content to an online teaching environment
  - **Learning supports** adding audio commentary to slide sets, holding interactive online seminars and live broadcasting of lectures
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# Research and thesis writing phase

- **adaptation of the theoretical foundation** of the changing research opportunities
- theoretical and methodological **literature** needed for research is available online: online libraries, data basis
- **Survey methods**: qualitative studies will double or even triple since the field experiment is limited; mixed method study is going to be more preferable than large scale survey
- more frequent **supervision**, using a diverse array of meeting platforms help
- supervisors should ensure that the students **receive emotional support** during challenging times
- **online small teams** work opens new opportunities in research work
- **universities** have a lot to offer students in times of crisis: learning should continue; course revisions should abide by academic programme integrity; students should be given choices; and information should be communicated clearly and in a timely manner
- confinement offers the opportunity **to think intensively about the scientific problems** that interest us, to concentrate on writing and to successfully complete print-ready texts, fulfilling
- **the publication** requirements of the PhD study and also laying the foundations for a scientific career

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# Additional opportunities: be optimistic

- Get ready for the post covid period
  - Language skills
    - online language courses, online language exams
  - Building career in academia: CREATIV SOLUTIONS
    - participation in **online conferences, workshops**
    - available **online academic course in other universities**
  - Social network building,
    - **interactions with other students**, social media, Facebook groups
    - **building academic community** online
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Thank you for your attention!

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