Get Finished

**Objective**

After mountains of subject-specific literature, numerous formulated and then discarded hypotheses, perhaps also after experiments or fieldwork, the doctoral thesis is finally complete. But the end of the road has not yet been reached: now follows the oral examination. After completion of the thesis, personally defending it presents a new challenge for the doctoral candidate. For many, oral examinations are associated with nerves and worries about blackouts. However, they quickly lose their horror if systematic preparation is started in good time. If the process is known, one has found one’s own presentation style and can also deal with difficult situations in discussions, one can go into the examination more relaxed and is then able to present one’s competencies in an optimal light.

**Description**

In this workshop participants have the opportunity to strategically engage with the upcoming oral examination. They develop individual strategies for preparing themselves and learn techniques so they can direct the discussion even at critical points. The following topics are envisaged:

- What is obligatory and what is freestyle? The expectations of an oral examination
- Selecting topics: What do I have to consider when choosing my examination subjects?
- All to plan? Self and time management in the preparatory phase
- The optimal presentation: How do I present myself and my work?
- The show must go on! Dealing with nerves and difficult situations
- Getting finished: My next steps

**Methodology**

This course is practice-oriented and includes knowledge input as well as active and interactive parts, such as dialogues, individual and group work, role plays, etc. In order to practise and apply the input of the workshop, the group will be divided into two sub-groups at the end of the first day. These small groups will then work separately on the second day. All participants are expected to prepare a short 10-minute presentation. The presentations will be held in the small groups and “defended” in a Q&A session. The participants will receive feedback afterwards. The first day ends with a dinner and a fireside chat about “Career Options Inside and Outside University”.

**Conditions**

- All participants are expected to prepare a short 10-minute presentation for the second workshop day.
- Participants are expected to be present on both days and also on the evening of the first day.

**Organizational Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language / Format</th>
<th>English / in the guesthouse of the Goethe University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target group</td>
<td>Advanced Doctoral Candidates from all faculties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Thursday, 30 November 2023, 9:00 – 17:00 &amp; dinner and fireside chat (end approx. 21:00)</td>
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<td>Friday, 1 December 2023, 9:00 – 16:30</td>
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<td>Registration</td>
<td>For registration click here</td>
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