

## Trainer



**Dr. Vera Leberecht**  
LEBERECHT.

writing with reason and resonance, Maastricht (NL)

Vera Leberecht studied Linguistics, Intercultural Communication and Theology in Germany and Finland. She worked at Maastricht University Language Centre for several years before starting her own training and consulting business in 2008. She is enthusiastic about empowering professionals to communicate with reason and resonance, in academia and beyond.

## Let's Begin! Writing More Effective PhD Proposals

### Objective

A strong PhD proposal is your first step toward successful doctoral research. It helps you to clarify your research focus, to connect with a supervisor, and to apply for funding – but writing one takes more time and skill than many expect.

In this workshop, you'll learn how to:

- define or refine your research idea,
- organize your proposal clearly and convincingly,
- analyze successful proposals to make sure your own language and style meet the academic standards of your discipline,
- give and receive constructive feedback, and improve your own writing.

You'll work on your own research topic, using methods and approaches that suit your own writing style. You'll analyze sample proposals from different fields, and get feedback from your peers on your own ideas and text drafts. Based on this input, you have time to improve your own proposal.

A few days after the workshop, you can meet with the trainer once more to get personalized feedback on your proposal's structure or a text excerpt. This individual session ensures that you leave the workshop with a strong, actionable plan for moving forward with your research proposal.

### Methodology

- Individual reflection
- Writing tasks
- Small-group work, plenary discussion, and peer feedback
- Trainer input
- Individual feedback / coaching session

### Conditions

- Please bring 2-3 examples of PhD proposals from your field of research. If you have any notes on your PhD project or a draft proposal, bring these, too.
- Be prepared to share experiences, do practical exercises, and use longhand writing.
- We work with our cameras switched on, during both plenary sessions and – preferably – writing sessions.

### Organizational Information

Language / Format	English / Online
Target group	First-year Doctoral Candidates from Humanities and Social Sciences
Date	Monday, 1 June 2026, 10:00 – 17:00 Tuesday, 2 June 2026, 9:30 – 16:30
Registration	<a href="#">Click here for registration</a>