

STATUTE

of the

Doktoratskolleg/ Doctoral Program

*Organizing the Digital:
Relations, Publics Societies*

at the Leopold-Franzens-University of Innsbruck

Preamble

Our lives, our economy and our society are increasingly shaped by what Felix Stalder describes as the “digital condition”. Material reproduction and collective sensemaking processes alike are mediated by digital relations, based upon algorithms and automated decision-making processes that reduce and give shape to massive volumes of data. Key for both harvesting “digital dividends” in a sustainable manner and addressing digital dilemmas associated with all-encompassing datafication in a beneficial way for stakeholders are continuous (re-)organizing processes within and beyond traditional organizational formations and boundaries.

The Doktoratskolleg/Doctoral Program *Organizing the Digital: Relations, Publics, Societies*, which is affiliated with the Research Platform “Organizations and Societies” and of the Research Center “Organization Studies”, promotes transdisciplinary research on digital phenomena that bridges and transcends micro, meso and macro levels of analysis. The Doctoral Program thereby takes a multi-method and inter-disciplinary lens and advances conceptual research, driven by experimental, qualitative and interpretive studies, as well as related quantifications and network analyses.

The Doctoral Program and its members are committed to international standards of excellence in academic research. They aspire to publish their research in leading academic journals and with major academic publishers. The Doctoral Program trains doctoral students in acquiring the relevant intellectual and practical skills and to meet the standards of international academic publishing. It seeks to include accomplished scholars and doctoral students from the Leopold-Franzens-University of Innsbruck (hereinafter referred to as ‘LFU’) and beyond.

Scholars and students who are interested in the Doctoral Program are invited to apply for membership. (For instructions see below.) In connection with the Doctoral Program doctoral candidates can apply for doctoral grants. For more information please contact the Speakers.

1. Faculty Membership in the Doctoral Program

- 1.1 The two types of faculty membership of the Doctoral Program are *active* and *associate membership*. (Note that the label ‘faculty member of the Doctoral Program’ is distinct from ‘faculty member of/at the LFU’.)
- 1.2 **Active faculty membership** in the Doctoral Program is open to all faculty members of the LFU, and of other academic institutions, conditional on the following requirements:
 - (i) An Active Member must possess the required qualifications for supervising doctoral theses at the LFU or other academic institutions. In exceptional cases, academics who lack a *venia legendi* or other relevant qualifications but hold a PhD with an outstanding international reputation in the relevant fields can become members as well.
 - (ii) An Active Member must supervise, or must have supervised within the past five years, at least one doctoral thesis of a doctoral student of the Doctoral Program.
 - (iii) The founding Active Members are listed in Attachment 1. They have been nominated by the founding Co-Speakers.
- 1.3 Active Members form the voting body of the General Assembly, and they are eligible for the Steering Committee.
- 1.4 Active Members who have not supervised a dissertation of a student member of the Doctoral Program in the past five years shall lose their active membership status and become Associate Members.
- 1.5 In the foundational phase of the Doctoral Program (which lasts five years from the date when this statute comes into force) the Co-Speakers shall designate a foundational group of Active Members who will form the initial voting body of the General Assembly.
- 1.6 New prospective members seeking active membership shall send a written request to the Speaker. Upon receiving the request, the Speaker will notify the members of the General

Assembly about the request with a written statement. The members of the General Assembly shall then decide, in a meeting or via circular resolution, on the request by a simple majority.

- 1.7 **Associate membership** in the Doctoral Program is open to all faculty members at the LFU, and of other academic institutions, who have a track-record of high-quality research and publications within the topical scope of the Doctoral Program.
- 1.8 Those seeking associate membership shall send a written request to the Speaker. Upon receiving the request, the Speaker will notify the members of the General Assembly about the request with a written statement. The voting members of the General Assembly shall then decide, in a meeting or via circular resolution, on the request by a simple majority.
- 1.9 Associate members are entitled to participate as observers in meetings of the General Assembly of the Doctoral Program. They do not participate in meetings of the Steering Committee.
- 1.10 Active and Associate Members can resign at their own request. To do so, they shall send a written notification to this effect to the Speaker.
- 1.11 In the case of serious violations of the standards and rules for good scientific practice (as defined by the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity) or the neglect of duties as doctoral supervisors, Active and Associate Members can be excluded from the Doctoral Program. In cases of suspected violation or neglect, one of the Co-Speakers shall issue a written statement to the respective member requesting clarification.
If the matter is not resolved within a period of four weeks, the Speaker shall inform the General Assembly of the Doctoral Program. Its members shall discuss the matter and come to a binding decision with a two-thirds majority in a meeting or via circular resolution, concerning whether to exclude the respective member or not. If a primary doctoral supervisor is excluded from the Doctoral Program, the Speaker shall inform the Dean of Studies of this decision. The General Assembly shall then assist the doctoral student in finding a new primary supervisor.

2. Positions and Bodies of the Doctoral Program

- 2.1 The bodies of the Doctoral Program include two Co-Speakers, a Steering Committee, a Representative of the doctoral students of the Doctoral Program, a General Assembly, and an International Advisory Board.
- 2.2 The **Co-Speakers** will
- (i) represent the Doctoral Program within the LFU and beyond (i.e., to other universities, other institutions and the public);
 - (ii) provide strategic guidance for the development of the Doctoral Program;
 - (iii) notify the Active Members of the General Assembly with a written statement about requests for membership in the Faculty of the Doctoral Program;
 - (iv) initiate the process of evaluating and deciding upon the status of Faculty Members and Doctoral Students in the Doctoral Program as specified in articles 1 and 3 of this statute.
- 2.3 The Co-Speakers are permanent members and serve as Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee.
- 2.4 Co-Speakers decide unanimously. In case of a disagreement, the decision may be delegated to the Steering Committee.
- 2.5 In the foundational phase of the Doctoral Program, i. e., for the first five years from the date when this statute comes into force, the heads of the Research Platform “Organizations and Societies” and of the Research Center “Organization Studies” shall act as Co-Speakers.
- 2.6 Each Co-Speaker can resign at his or her request by sending a written notification to this effect to the General Assembly.
- 2.7 The **Scientific Manager**’s task is to
- (i) support the Co-Speakers in all matters of scientific and administrative coordination;
 - (ii) be a non-voting member of the Steering Committee;

- (iii) support the Steering Committee and the General Assembly in preparing meetings and implementing decisions.
- 2.8 The Scientific Manager will serve for a period of three years in the Doctoral Program. Re-election is possible.
- 2.9 The Scientific Manager can resign at his or her request by sending a written notification to this effect to one of the Co-Speakers.
- 2.10 The doctoral students of the Doctoral Program elects a **doctoral-student Representative**.
- 2.11 The doctoral-student Representative is entitled to participate as a voting member in the General Assembly and as a non-voting observer in the Steering Committee.
- 2.12 The doctoral-student Representative will serve for two years. Re-election is possible.
- 2.13 The doctoral-student Representative can resign at his or her own request by sending a written notification to this effect to the Speaker.
- 2.14 The **General Assembly** is a meeting of the Active Members, the Associate Members, and the doctoral-student Representative of the Doctoral Program.
- 2.15 Only Active Members are allowed to vote in the General Assembly.
- 2.16 Decisions by the General Assembly require participation of Active Members who represent at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the votes due to the Active Members. Active Members who are unable to attend a meeting can transfer their vote to another Active Member; one Active Member may represent no more than two votes. If a meeting of the General Assembly is not upcoming within a reasonable period of time, due decisions may be made via circular resolution.
- 2.17 A General Assembly shall be convened by the Co-Speakers at least once per academic year.
- 2.18 One of the Co-Speakers shall chair the meetings of the General Assembly.
- 2.19 The Active Members of the General Assembly shall

- (i) decide by a simple majority on the admission of new Faculty Members and doctoral students, on acceptance of the nominations for membership in the Steering Committee, on acceptance of the nominations for membership in the International Advisory Board and on acceptance of nominations for the positions of Co-Speakers and Scientific Manager.
 - (ii) decide with a two-thirds majority on the exclusion of doctoral students, changes in the statute, and the termination of the Doctoral Program;
 - (iii) decide with a two-thirds majority on the exclusion of a Faculty Member; Active Members who are subject to the decision shall not have the right to vote on their own exclusion.
- 2.20 The **Steering Committee** consists of the two Co-Speakers, three additional members elected by the General Assembly, the non-voting Scientific Manager, and the nonvoting doctoral-student Representative of the Doctoral Program.
- 2.21 The Steering Committee shall
- (i) suggest and coordinate the activities of the Doctoral Program (e.g. prepare workshops, lecture series, research meetings, administrative meetings, or similar activities);
 - (ii) discuss, and make written recommendations to the General Assembly about issues related to the activities and quality of the Doctoral Program.
- 2.22 The Steering Committee will meet on demand.
- 2.23 The Co-Speakers shall co-chair the meetings of the Steering Committee.
- 2.24 The **International Advisory Board** consists of members nominated by Active Members of the Doctoral Program. Nominees to the International Advisory Board must not be faculty members of the LFU and need to fulfill the requirements outlined in Art. 1.2, (i), of this Statute.
- 2.25 Each Active Member of the Doctoral Program is eligible to nominate at least one but not more than three members to the International Advisory Board.

3. Admission and Affiliation of Doctoral Students

3.1 Admission of doctoral students

- (i) Prospective doctoral student members shall submit a proposal including a letter of motivation, an outline of their proposed research project, and an academic CV, including relevant certificates, to one of the Co-Speakers. The Steering Committee shall assess the qualifications of the prospective students and the quality of the proposed projects. A particular focus in selecting PhDs will be on gender and diversity issues, without compromising on excellence. It shall then make a written recommendation to the voting members of the General Assembly of the Doctoral Program.
- (ii) the voting members of the General Assembly decide on the admission of a doctoral student to the Doctoral Program. If the student has a first and/or second supervisor, this decision includes a written acknowledgment of the primary or secondary supervisor. The decision shall be made by a simple majority vote.
- (iii) Prospective doctoral students who do not yet have a primary or secondary supervisor will be assisted by the Steering Committee in their search for and choice of a primary supervisor after successful admission to the Doctoral Program.

3.2 The affiliation of a doctoral student with the Doctoral Program ceases automatically after he or she has successfully completed all of the duties set out in his or her PhD curriculum. On graduation, doctoral students receive a certificate of the Doctoral Program, signed by the Co-Speakers, which states their successful participation in the Doctoral Program. Furthermore, doctoral students can resign at their own request. To do so, they shall send a written notification to this effect to one of the Co-Speakers.

In the case of violations of the standards and rules for good scientific practice, or the neglect of duties applying to doctoral students of the Doctoral Program, doctoral students can be suspended from the Doctoral Program. In a case of such violations, the student's supervisor shall issue the student a written request for clarification. If the matter is not resolved within a period of four weeks, the supervisor shall inform the General Assembly of the Doctoral Program. Its members shall then discuss the matter and come to a binding decision about the possible exclusion of the respective doctoral student with a two-thirds majority.

4. Doctoral Thesis

- 4.1 A doctoral thesis shall be supervised by teams of two Active Members of the Doctoral Program and one member of the International Advisory board. One Active Member must be the primary supervisor; as a general rule, the other Active Member or the member of International Advisory board shall be the secondary supervisor.
- 4.2 Primary supervisions by scholars who do not serve as Active Members of the Doctoral Program are not allowed.
- 4.3 Secondary supervisions by scholars who neither serve as Active Members of the Doctoral Program nor as members the International Advisory Board are allowed, provided that the secondary supervisor meets the requirements outlined in Art. 1.2, (i), of this Statute.

5. Curricular Activities

- 5.1 In order to foster and comply with the organizational structure of established doctoral curricula at the LFU or other universities, the Doctoral Program requires its doctoral students to meet the requirements of the respective curricula of the doctoral programs in which they are enrolled.
- 5.2 Either as part of or in addition to these curricula, the Doctoral Program requires its doctoral students to attend one reading course (“Theorizing the Digital”) and one method course (“Digital Methods”) with a specific focus on topic of the Doctoral Program.
- 5.3 Doctoral students of the Doctoral Program shall attend the workshops, research meetings, lecture series etc. of the Doctoral Program. Active participation in the Annual PhD Presentation Workshop of the Doctoral Program is obligatory.

6. Termination of the Doctoral Program

- 6.1 The Doctoral Program shall terminate, if
- (i) the voting members of the General Assembly decide on the termination with a two-thirds majority;
 - (ii) the Rectorate of the University of Innsbruck formally terminates the Doctoral Program.
- 6.2 If the Doctoral Program is terminated, the primary supervisors shall continue the active supervision of their doctoral students.

Innsbruck, June 2018

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Leonhard Dobusch (founding Co-Speaker)
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Andrea Hemetsberger (founding Co-Speaker)

Attachment 1

Founding members of the Doctoral Program

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Leonhard Dobusch (Co-Speaker)
Univ.-Prof. Dr.in Andrea Hemetsberger (Co-Speaker)

Univ.-Prof. Dr.in Julia Brandl
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Theo Hug
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Kurt Matzler
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Martin Messner
Univ.-Prof. Dr.in Kerstin Neumann
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Oliver Koll
Univ.-Prof. Dr.in Annette Ostendorf
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Günther Pallaver
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ulrich Remus
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Richard Weiskopf