Statutes

**Innsbruck Doctoral College Politics, Power and Language
(Innsbruck Doktoratskolleg Politik, Macht und Sprache)**

at the Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck

Acronyms

DC = Innsbruck Doctoral College of LFUI

EPoS = Research Focus "Economy, Politics & Society" of LFUI

LFUI = Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck

SR = Student Representative

SC = Steering Committee

Preamble

The Innsbruck Doctoral College **Politics, Power and Language (Politik, Macht und Sprache)** (hereinafter in short "DC PPL") is embedded in the Research Focus "Economy, Politics & Society" ("EPoS"; https://www.uibk.ac.at/epos/) of the Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck ("LFUI"). Research and education activities of the DC PPL focus on the nexus of politics, power and language. The DC PPL collaborates with all other DCs in the frame of EPoS.

1. Research Perspective

Politics is, at its very core, the process of organizing society on the basis of collectively binding rules, and the interaction of groups. Power can either be conceptualized as "power over", "power to" or "power with". Language constitutes the nuts and bolts of politics at local, regional, national, international and global levels. Not only are these three concepts highly contested, but also their relationship: Does politics follow power or vice versa? Is language constituted by power or is language a tool to transform power? How is political representation linked to language and power?

(For detailed information on the research perspective see the umbrella text of the DC PPL.)

2. Aims

With a focus on politics, power and language, the DC PPL seeks to foster the exchange between different disciplines within and beyond the social sciences and humanities (e.g., computer science, digital humanities, economics, gender studies, history, linguistics, media and communication, philosophy, political science, sociology). PhD students are invited to pursue their dissertation projects in a mutual, at least transdisciplinary exchange.

The DC PPL aims to provide an environment that features theory-led basic research, critical reflection and empirical analysis in an interdisciplinary way. It aims at preparing PhD students for academic work in their field of doctoral research and promoting early-stage researchers. The DC PPL aims to support dissertation projects beyond the supervision services of the

dissertation agreement through annual retreats, regular training workshops and joint research workshops to deepen theoretical, methodological and writing skills, and offers to participate in research and publication projects of the DC.

3. DC Bodies

I. Faculty Assembly

The Faculty Assembly consists of all active researchers involved in the DC. Each habilitated, or of equal status, member acts as main or co-supervisor for at least one PhD student of the DC (Active Membership), all other members of the DC are actively involved in the support of at least one PhD student and regularly contribute to as well as participate in DC activities (Passive Membership).

The Faculty Assembly can make decisions in meetings or via resolutions circulated in writing. During meetings (including constituent assembly) a quorum of at least 2/3 of the Faculty Assembly members based at LFUI must be present. Vote delegation is permitted where one attendant member can represent a maximum of one member who is unable to attend. Decisions are taken with a 2/3rds majority of votes cast. For resolutions circulated in writing, at least 2/3rds of Faculty Assembly members must vote, with a 2/3rds majority of votes cast required to adopt a proposal.

The Faculty Assembly elects the speaker and the deputy speaker (simple majority) for a four-year period by secret ballot (speaker and deputy speaker hereinafter jointly referred to as "speakers"). Re-election is possible. The deputy speaker is the representative of the speaker in cases of absence. The incumbent speakers must announce a meeting for the election of the future speaker and deputy speaker at least one month prior to the expiry of their four-year term. Nominations for speaker and deputy speaker candidates have to be submitted to the speaker team at least one week before the meeting. Every member of the Faculty Assembly can nominate a candidate for both the position of speaker and the position of deputy speaker. Self-nominations are possible. Thereafter, the current speaker team informs the Faculty Assembly about the candidates.

The Faculty Assembly decides on main issues concerning the strategy and development of the DC. It decides on changes in DC statutes (confirmation of the rectorate provided). It also decides on the admission and exclusion of Faculty Assembly members, the admission and exclusion of PhD students as well as on termination of the DC.

Constituent assembly
The preliminary speakers shall invite all members of the Faculty Assembly at least three weeks in advance and provide the draft DC statutes in writing. They also assign one DC member, who shall not be a candidate for a speaker position, to act as returning officer. The preliminary speakers are automatically nominated as speaker candidates unless they withdraw by their own request. They shall ask for additional nominations of speaker candidates to be submitted (at least one week before the constituent assembly) to the returning officer. At the constituent assembly, (i) the speakers are elected by secret ballot (simple majority) and (ii) the DC statutes are approved. Voting on the statutes is handled by the elected speakers. If the statutes are not accepted, the speakers have to discuss and implement requested changes (confirmation of the rectorate provided) and repeat the

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election.

II. Speaker

The Speaker and the deputy, who is a substitute for the Speaker, are elected by the Faculty Assembly every four years. Re-election is possible. The Speaker's duties are to

- summon the Faculty Assembly and the SC and to chair their sessions,
- represent the DC and its members in public,
- implement the decisions of the SC,
- execute the decisions of the Faculty Assembly,
- issue a certificate of the participation in the DC to the PhD students who have successfully graduated and participated in the DC,
- represent the interests of the DC in negotiations with funding agencies, and
- in semi-annual meetings, report on the progress of the doctoral program to the Faculty Assembly.

The Speakers of the DC are assisted by a DC Manager, e.g., the coordinator of EPOS, who supports the Speakers in all matters of scientific coordination of the DC and in managing and controlling the DC budget. He/she is

- responsible for the organisation and monitoring of the DC training program, seminars, public outreach activities and reporting,
- the contact and information point for all members, colleagues and PhD students of the DC in financial and administrative matters, and
- in direct contact with the Speaker and deputy speaker.

III. Student board

All PhD students of the DC are members of the student board, which meets at least twice a year (once together with the Faculty Assembly). The purpose of the student board is to discuss ideas for future DC events and suggestions for possible improvements of the education and research program, and forwarding these to the Faculty Assembly. Decisions within the student board are taken by a 2/3rds majority.

IV. Student Representative (SR)

The student board nominates one Student Representative (SR), who manages the student board (organization of meetings, communication etc.) and represents the students on the Steering Committee (see below).

V. DC Manager

The DC speaker and deputy speaker can nominate a DC Manager, e.g., one student of the DC who is willing to take on the tasks or available administrative staff (e.g. coordinator of EPoS or EPoS secretariat), to support the speakers in all aspects of DC work, including (but not limited to) organizing retreats and workshops, fostering collaboration with other DCs, and facilitating communication among DC members.

VI. Steering Committee (SC)

The SC is formed by the speaker, the deputy speaker, the DC Manager (if any) and the SR. The purpose of the SC is

- to lead the day-to-day business of the DC, and
- to supervise and oversee the utilization of DC budget and
- to oversee the research and training activities of the DC.

The SC takes into account the suggestions of the Faculty Assembly and the student board for possible improvements concerning the education and research program, and suggests changes of the statutes to the Faculty Assembly and EPoS advisory board. Decisions are taken by simple majority.

4. Implementation

I. Admission of new Faculty Assembly members

New Faculty Assembly members are expected to be highly qualified scientists who complement the scientific program of the DC. They submit an informal application to the Speaker to be discussed and approved by the Faculty Assembly.

II. Exclusion of Faculty Assembly members

The Faculty Assembly members can resign by their own request. Faculty Assembly members can be excluded for the following reasons: (1) unethical behaviour, such as harassment and the violation of rules for good scientific practice, (2) neglect of duties as PhD supervisor and mentor, and (3) non-contribution to the DC's activities (not involved in any DC activities for a period longer than one calendar year; sick leave and maternity leave excluded). If there is reasonable cause to expect that one of the above reasons applies, the speaker and deputy speaker shall prepare a written statement outlining the evidence for this and send it to the member in question. This member in turn has one calendar month to provide a written answer. Unless the speakers, based on the written answer, are satisfied and convinced that no violation has occurred, the exclusion of this member shall be proposed to the Faculty Assembly. The accused member has the right to provide both written and oral evidence to the Faculty Assembly prior to a vote on his/her exclusion. The quorum for a vote on exclusion is 2/3rds of Faculty Assembly members, and adoption (by secret ballot) requires a 2/3rds majority of voting Faculty Assembly members.

III. Admission of new PhD students

The applicants have to be enrolled and registered at the University of Innsbruck or a university cooperating in the frame of the DC program. The main PhD supervisor must be a member of the DC.

To apply for the DC, an expression of interest in the form of an exposé (contents, time, and finance plans) on the planned thesis topic has to be submitted to the SC by the main supervisor. The final admission is decided by the Faculty Assembly with a 2/3rds majority, using a secret ballot and without prior debate.

IV. Confirmation of participation

After defending their thesis, the DC membership of a PhD student automatically ends. Those who have successfully fulfilled the DC education program (Section 5), shall obtain a written confirmation concerning their participation in the DC by the speakers of the DC.

V. Exclusion of PhD students

PhD students can resign by communicating this in writing to the speakers. Reasons for excluding PhD students from the DC are (1) removal from the register of PhD students at LFUI or the universities cooperating in the frame of the DC program, (2) unethical behaviour such as harassment or violation of rules for good scientific practice, (3) at the request of the supervisor due to non-contribution to the DC's work without good reason (not involved in any DC activities for more than one year; not counting family leave). In case of point 3, the speakers (2) or the supervisor (3) have to issue a written statement outlining the reasons for exclusion. The SC must contact the PhD student and ask for oral and written feedback to the statement. Unless agreement between speaker/supervisor and PhD student can be achieved within three months, the SC shall propose the exclusion of the PhD student to the Faculty Assembly. The accused student member has the right to provide both written and oral evidence to the Faculty Assembly prior to a vote on his/her exclusion. The quorum for a vote on exclusion is 2/3rds of Faculty Assembly members, and adoption (by secret ballot) requires a 2/3rds majority of voting Faculty Assembly members.

VI. Evaluation

In case of external evaluations, the DC shall be represented by the speaker and deputy speaker.

VII. Termination of DC

The DC ends if (1) the Faculty Assembly members decide with a 2/3rds majority to not continue the programme, (2) the number of PhD students in the program falls below ten for a period longer than two years, or (3) the rectorate formally terminates the program. In the case of termination, the current PhD students are entitled to obtain confirmation regarding their attendance in the DC, if they have been part of the DC education programme for at least two years (Section 5).

5. DC education program

Beyond the usual requirements and recommendations in the different PhD-curricula, PhD students in the DC are required to actively participate in and contribute to the activities of the DC. This includes, among other things, participation in the courses organized within the DC and presentation of their research activities in the early and late phases of their PhD project.

6. Specific statutes

I. Compatibility of family and career

The doctoral college aims to increase the compatibility of family and work in the university environment. To this end, the DC-programme will therefore provide sufficient flexibility to allow successful completion in cases of maternity and parental leave (as well as leave taken to care for relatives).

II. Upcoming project proposals related to the DC

Abstracts of any project proposals that refer to the DC should be sent to the speakers by any DC member before being submitted (for information only, no approval is required).