

STATUTES

of the Innsbruck Doctoral College

Gender and Gender Relations in Transformation

at the University of Innsbruck

Preamble

The Innsbruck Doctoral College “Gender and Gender Relations in Transformation” (IDC Gender) investigates transformations of gender and gender relations in their historical, spatial and reciprocal relationships, conditions and effects. The research is built upon intersectional critical gender studies that bring feminist theory, queer studies, trans* studies, de-, post and anti-colonial studies, Black studies, migration studies and disability studies into dialogue. The IDC Gender defines gender as social and historical construct that structures institutions, politics and agency. The IDC Gender provides an interdisciplinary platform for analyzing the complex interplay between gender, power and social inequality as well as for analyzing practices of negotiating and subverting gender regimes. The IDC Gender is based on a plurality of theories and methods.

From both historical and contemporary perspectives, the IDC Gender focusses on the following themes:

- Society, State and Power
- Political Economies and Care Regimes
- Subjectification, Bodies and Norms
- Social Inequalities, Human Rights and Un_Belonging
- Media, Visuality, Digitality
- Resistance and Subversion
- Epistemologies and Knowledge Productions

The Innsbruck Doctoral College “Gender and Gender Relations in Transformation” is affiliated with the Research Platform “Center Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Innsbruck” (CGI) and offers to collaborate in a transdisciplinary network of Gender Studies. Moving beyond academic education, it aims to raise awareness of social diversity, sustainability and inclusion in democratic societies.

1. Admission and Membership of PhD researchers

1.1 Admission of PhD researchers:

- (i) Prospective PhD researchers shall submit a proposal including a letter of motivation, an outline of their proposed research project (2,000 to 4,000 words) and an academic

CV, including relevant certificates, to the Coordinator of the IDC Gender, who will forward them to the Co-Speakers of the IDC. If the PhD researcher already has a supervisor at the University of Innsbruck, they will need to enclose a written acknowledgment of the supervisor.

(ii) The Co-Speakers will inform the Faculty Assembly with the help of the Coordinator. The Faculty decides on the admission of a PhD researcher to the IDC Gender. The decision is made by a simple majority vote. A commitment by a faculty member to provide supervision is an advantage in this process. (iii) Prospective PhD researchers who do not yet have a supervisor can be accepted provisionally to the IDC Gender and will be assisted in their search for and choice of a primary supervisor. PhD researchers have to find a primary supervisor at the University of Innsbruck during the first semester after admission. Otherwise, they will have to leave the IDC Gender.

(iv) All PhD researchers who are accepted to the IDC Gender must be enrolled as regular students in a doctoral program at the University of Innsbruck and registered to continue their studies.

1.2 The affiliation of a PhD researcher with the IDC Gender ceases automatically after the researcher has successfully completed all of the duties set out in the PhD curriculum. On graduation, PhD researchers receive a certificate of the Doctoral Program, signed by the Co-Speakers, which states their successful participation in the IDC Gender. Furthermore, PhD researchers can resign from the IDC Gender at their own request. To do so, they shall send a written notification to this effect to the Coordinator. Upon completion of their doctoral program or after de-registration, the PhD researcher will also automatically leave the IDC.

1.3 In case of violations of the standards and rules for good academic practice (as defined by the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity¹), or the neglect of duties applying to PhD researchers of the IDC Gender, PhD researchers can be suspended from the IDC Gender. In case of such violations, the PhD researcher's supervisor shall request in writing a written statement for clarification from the PhD researcher. If the matter is not resolved within a period of four weeks, the supervisor shall inform the Faculty Assembly of the IDC Gender. Its Members shall then discuss the matter and come to a binding decision about the possible exclusion of the respective PhD researcher with a two-thirds majority.

1.4 A doctoral thesis shall be supervised by teams. An Active Faculty Member of the IDC Gender must act as primary supervisor. Secondary supervisors can be either Active Faculty Members or Associate Faculty Members. Secondary supervision by scholars who neither serve as Active or Associated Members of the Innsbruck Doctoral College is not allowed. Provided that the secondary supervisor has academic expertise in the subject area, they can apply for Associate membership.

¹ <https://oeawi.at/richtlinien/>

2. Faculty Membership in the IDC Gender

2.1 There are two types of Faculty Membership in the IDC Gender: Active and Associate Membership.

2.2 Active Faculty Membership in the IDC Gender is open to all scholars at the University of Innsbruck, conditional on the following requirements:

(i) An Active Member must possess the required qualifications for supervising doctoral theses at the University of Innsbruck.

(ii) An Active Member must be academically active and conduct research in the subject area of the IDC Gender.

2.3 Active Members form the voting body of the Faculty Assembly.

2.4 Active Members who have not supervised a dissertation of a PhD Member of the IDC Gender in the past three years shall lose their Active Membership status and become Associate Members.

2.5 Associate Faculty Membership is open to scholars who are academically active and conduct research in the subject area of the IDC Gender at the University of Innsbruck or at other academic institutions.

(i) Associate Members are entitled to participate as observers in the meetings of the Faculty Assembly of the IDC Gender.

(ii) Academics who lack a *venia legendi* or other relevant qualifications, but hold a PhD in the relevant field can become Associate Members as well.

2.6 New prospective Members seeking Membership shall send a written request for Active or Associate Membership to Coordinator. Upon receiving the request, the Coordinator and the Co-Speakers will notify the Members of the Faculty Assembly about the request with a written statement. The Members of the Faculty Assembly shall then decide, in a meeting or by written resolution, on the request by a simple majority.

2.7 Active and Associate Members can leave the IDC Gender at their own request. To do so, they shall send a written notification to this effect to the Coordinator. Each Member is obliged to immediately notify the Co-Speakers and the Coordinator of an expected resignation. The remaining Active IDC Members must ensure that the PhD researchers supervised by the departing Member continue to receive supervision for their ongoing research project and dissertation, provided that the PhD researchers wish to remain in the IDC.

2.8 In case of serious violations of the standards and rules for good academic practice (as defined by the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity²) or the neglect of duties as doctoral supervisors, Active and Associate Members can be excluded from the IDC Gender. 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

² <https://oeawi.at/richtlinien/>

weeks, the Co-Speakers shall inform the Faculty Assembly of the IDC Gender. Its Members shall discuss the matter and come to a binding decision with a two-thirds majority in a meeting or via written resolution, concerning whether to exclude the respective Member or not. If a primary doctoral supervisor is excluded from the IDC Gender, the Co-Speakers shall inform the Dean of Studies of this decision. The Faculty Assembly shall then assist the PhD researcher in finding a new supervisor.

3. Curricular Program

3.1 In order to observe and comply with the organizational structure of established doctoral curricula at the University of Innsbruck, the IDC Gender requires its PhD researchers to meet the requirements of the respective curriculum of the doctoral program they are enrolled in.

3.2 To obtain the certificate of the IDC Gender, PhD researchers must attend a reading course and a theoretical or methodological course, either as part of or in addition to these curricula. The course must be taken during the first four semesters and must have a specific focus on topics of the IDC Gender.

3.3 To obtain the certificate of the IDC Gender, it is necessary to participate in the Annual PhD Presentation Workshop of the IDC Gender (with an oral presentation in their first year and a written text or a thesis chapter in the second and third year).

3.4 PhD researchers are encouraged to take part in workshops, research meetings, lecture series, etc. both of the IDC Gender and internationally.

4. Structure of the IDC Gender

4.1 The IDC Gender includes two researchers as Co-Speakers, one Coordinator, two Representatives of the PhD researchers, a PhD Researchers' Assembly, a Faculty Assembly and a General Assembly.

4.2 The **Co-Speakers** will

- (i) represent the IDC Gender within the University of Innsbruck and beyond (i.e., to other universities, other institutions and the public);
- (ii) provide strategic guidelines for the development of the IDC Gender;
- (iii) initiate the process of evaluating and deciding upon the status of Faculty Members and PhD researchers in the IDC Gender as specified in articles 1 and 2 of this statute.

4.3 The Co-Speakers decide unanimously. In case of a disagreement, the decision may be delegated to the Faculty Assembly.

4.4 The Co-Speakers are two Active Faculty Members and are elected by the Faculty Assembly for two years; re-election is permitted. At least one of the Co-Speakers must be actively employed at the University of Innsbruck.

4.5 Each Co-Speaker can resign at request by sending a written notification to this effect to the Coordinator and the Faculty Assembly. In this case, the Faculty Assembly must decide on a successor among its Active Members.

4.6 The **Coordinator's** tasks are to

- (i) support the Co-Speakers in all matters of academic and administrative coordination;
- (ii) support the Faculty Assembly and General Assembly in preparing meetings and implementing decisions;
- (iii) support the PhD researchers in all administrative matters regarding the IDC Gender.
- (iv) The Coordinator is a non-voting Member of the Faculty Assembly.

4.7 The **PhD Researchers' Assembly**

- (i) consists of all PhD researchers admitted to the IDC Gender and meets at least once per academic year;
- (ii) elects the two PhD researchers' representatives;
- (iii) collects concerns of the PhD researchers as well as proposals for the program of the IDC Gender and communicates these to the Coordinator and the Co-Speakers.

4.8 The **PhD Researchers' Representatives**

- (i) will serve for two years; re-election is possible;
- (ii) represent the interests of the PhD researchers within the IDC Gender;
- (iii) can resign at their own request by sending a written notification to this effect to the Coordinator.

4.9 The **Faculty Assembly** is a meeting of the Active Faculty Members:

- (i) Only Active Faculty Members are allowed to vote in the Faculty Assembly.
- (ii) Decisions by the Faculty Assembly require participation of Active Members and require the participation of at least two thirds of the Active Members. Active Members who are unable to attend a meeting can transfer their vote to another Active Member of their own curia (status group); one Active Member may represent no more than two votes. If a meeting of the Faculty Assembly is not upcoming within a reasonable period of time, due decisions may be made by written resolution.
- (iii) A Faculty Assembly shall be convened by the Co-Speakers at least once per academic year.
- (iv) One of the Co-Speakers shall chair the meetings of the Faculty Assembly.

4.10 The Active Members of the Faculty Assembly shall decide

- (i) by a simple majority on the admission of new Faculty Members and PhD researchers;
- (ii) by 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;
- (iii) by a two-thirds majority on the exclusion of PhD researchers;
- (iv) by a two-thirds majority on amendments to the statutes and the termination of the IDC Gender.

4.11 The **General Assembly** comprises of all Active Faculty Members, Associate Faculty Members, PhD researchers and the Coordinator of the IDC Gender:

- (i) It is convened by the Co-Speakers as required.
- (ii) It monitors the efficient and proper implementation of the activities and program of the IDC Gender.
- (iii) It supports the program development of the IDC Gender.

5. Termination of the IDC Gender

5.1 The IDC Gender shall terminate, if

- (i) the voting Members of the Faculty Assembly decide on the termination with a two-thirds majority; or
- (ii) the Rectorate of the University of Innsbruck formally terminates the IDC Gender.

5.2 If the IDC Gender is terminated, the primary supervisors shall continue the active supervision of PhD researchers.

This is an English translation of the German version of the Statutes. The official version is the German version.