

MINUTES – PhD PROGRAMME COUNCIL MEETING

Time: Friday 16th June 2023, 10:00-11:00

Place: Zoom

Present: Mika Boros, Ragnar Øvergaard Aas, Andreas Ropeid Sæbø, Kristin Ranestad, Per Ditlef Fredriksen, Ada Nissen, Ingrid Fuglestedt, Oliver Reiersen (secretary).

Items

1. Updates and status (Kristin Ranestad and Oliver Reiersen)

- a. Andreas Ropeid Sæbø is has accepted the engagement as programme council representative for the PhD students in Archaeology.
- b. The faculty's new PhD course week was successfully arranged in May. More engagement was reported from the PhD students participating at the courses, and they were more prepared for the lectures and group work sessions in general. However, some PhD students found the organisation of applications and admissions somewhat confusing, and the deadlines for paper submissions for some courses a little short. The faculty is working on perfecting the course organising for the next semester.

2. New organisation of IAKH's Text Development Seminars (Kristin Ranestad and Oliver Reiersen)

- a. After the summer, IAKH is testing a new model for organising the text development seminars for PhD students in history. The number of seminars will be reduced to two, and more students will be invited to present their thesis work during each seminar. In addition, the responsibility of facilitating the seminars will circulate among the PhD supervisors in history, who will be assisted by the department's completion grant fellows. This measure is being implemented to respond to the increasing amount of PhD students at the department and will hopefully increase the contact between the PhD students and permanent faculty.
- b. The initial feedback on the new organisation of these seminars have been both positive and negative. Some supervisors appreciate the opportunity of increased contact with the department's PhD students, while others are worried about the increased workload. There are also various opinions on the ideal length and frequency of the seminars. The institute will adapt and change the model according to needs.

3. Dialogues with the Past (DIALPAST) – Updates on activities, courses, and other relevant items (Oliver Reiersen and Per Ditlef Fredriksen)

- a. DIALPAST has organised one PhD workshop in Rome (3 ECTS) and one PhD course in Paris (5 ECTS) this spring. In November 2023, the research school will organise a second PhD course in Athens (5 ECTS).

- b. At the research school's upcoming board meeting in September, the course plan for 2024 will be settled, and the courses for 2025 will be discussed and hopefully announced during the autumn.

4. The Norwegian Research School in History (NRSB) – Updates activities, courses, and other relevant items (Oliver Reiersen and Ada Nissen)

- a. NRSB's PhD courses and workshops in 2023 are being held as planned. In addition, the research school organised a two-day seminar on ethics in historical research for PhD supervisors.
- b. All the activities of the Norwegian Research School in History in 2023, in addition to one 3-ECTS course during the spring in 2024, are fully financed by the Norwegian Research Council (NFR). After the NFR funding period, NRSB will enter a two-year period of self-funding. Ada Nissen, Director of the research school, and Oliver Reiersen, Course Coordinator, are currently working on creating the course plan model for this period, which will be presented to the board in September.

5. Updates on the faculty's research training activities

- a. The faculty's council for the PhD programme continues to plan the 1-ECTS courses and workshop for the upcoming PhD course week in the end of November. The council works to ensure that the course offers are thematically broad and relevant for all PhD students at HF.
- b. Queries were raised about how educators categorise these courses in the educational component and how they understand which courses are useful for the PhD students research education. A suggestion was made to clearly state the category in the title or subtitle of the course. Categorisation may not always be explicit, and it is up to the PhD reader to confirm the category of each course.
- c. A question was raised about whether the courses during HF week, organised by the institutes, are meant to be one-time events, or repeated annually or biennially. The intention is for the courses to be predictable and to be offered regularly, such as annually or every semester.

6. Items from the doctoral candidates

- a. The doctoral candidates reported being generally satisfied with the new course setup during the faculty's PhD week but suggested a need for more relevant literature for PhD students in archaeology. Discussions with archaeologists are ongoing to address this issue, and the faculty and IAKH are working on developing courses more specifically targeted at archaeologists.
- b. The desire for course on writing the "kappe" of article-based PhD theses was expressed. The faculty has planned to make this a regular course, along with academic writing and other relevant skills.

7. Open Items

- a. Before the next meeting, PhD students at KHM will be asked if they would like to appoint a PhD representative from their institution for the PhD programme council.