



A National PhD School

Funded by the Norwegian Research Council

Run by a consortium of all faculties of Law and Humanities in the four major Norwegian universities, and the two major national theological institutions

Coordinated by the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo

ATTR: Guide for Presenters and Seminar Leaders

ATTR is a national, interdisciplinary PhD school funded by the Research Council of Norway. PhD fellows come from disciplines in law, the humanities, and religious studies from five different university institutions. The RCN objectives for the national research schools are to enhance the quality of the PhD dissertation work, to contribute to timely completion of PhD education, and to help PhD fellows prepare for work-life after the PhD – within the academia as well as outside. To help obtain these objectives, the ATTR research seminars are set up to combine a focus on cutting edge research (research seminars) with a focus on the individual PhD members' research (PhD seminars). This is a brief guide on how this setup works and what it requires from the professors at the ATTR seminars.

Research Seminars

- As preparations for attending the presentations, PhD fellows are required to *do mandatory reading* related to each presentation. We kindly ask you to provide a list specifying «required reading» (around 20 pages) related to the core topic of your presentation, and also «recommended reading» likewise related to your speech (2 or 3 titles, no formal restrictions on size, but these should preferably also be focused texts).
- The PhD fellows will select one or two items from the collected list of mandatory reading and write a short reflection on how the research, and especially the methods and analytical frameworks presented there, might be relevant for their own thesis work. These reflections will be communicated to you individually, and you may use them as resources for engaging the audience during your presentation.
- In some cases, PhD fellows may request to serve as the “designated observer” during presentations. This means they have a particular interest in the topic, have prepared questions based on the mandatory reading, and will offer an early response to the presentation.
- Depending on the details of the program, you have up to 90 minutes for your presentation. Please make sure that there is ample time for feedback and questions from the audience during this time: preferably around 45 minutes should be allocated to dialogue with the audience. If your presentation occurs in a digital or hybrid format, please remember that online monologues beyond 20 minutes are considered to be pedagogically less effective. During your presentation, you may use Q/A, plenary discussion, group discussion; we will facilitate all these forms, also in digital or hybrid formats. (A separate guide on zoom and technical matters is available.)

PhD Seminars

Central to all ATTR seminars are the PhD fellows' presentations of papers based on their dissertation work, with prepared responses by fellow PhD researchers. These seminars aim to develop writing and presentation skills, abilities to identify and critically discuss issues of method and analytical perspectives. Given the interdisciplinary nature of ATTR, the focus of the discussions will be primarily on methodological matters and interdisciplinary insights.

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The seminar groups normally hold 6-8 participants plus one seminar leader, and they offer sessions dedicated to each participant's work. Each participant will be assigned two papers to respond to. We aim to distribute the papers along with the list of groups/presenters/respondents approximately three weeks before the seminar. Participants submit their written responses to the ATTR Head of Administration a few days before the seminar. These responses are distributed to the seminar leader, to be available as a backup option for response, should the respondent be prevented from participating (for instance during a digital seminar). Normally, however, the response is orally presented by the respondent during the discussion.

Each session in the PhD seminar lasts for up to 75 minutes. The time is provisionally divided in this way:

- Presentation of PhD paper, 10–15 minutes
- Two prepared responses, 5–10 minutes each
- Open discussion for the remaining time

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