

Fourth meeting of the doctoral committee

Doctoral Center Social, Health and Economic Sciences

April 12, 2024

Regulation

“Framework text of a cumulative dissertation”

The doctoral committee decides:

The cumulative dissertation should normally have the following structure:

1. Formalities

- a. cover page with overarching theme,
- b. table of contents,
- c. List of the three publications submitted for the doctorate with status (published/ accepted for publication),
- d. proof of the rankings of the journals in which the articles were published and evidence of the peer review process,
- e. in case of co-authorship: form(s) for proof of own contribution,
- f. in case of co-authorship: introduction of the co-authors and contributions made by all authors to the publication,

2. Introduction

- a. presentation of the state of research and research needs,
- b. derived overarching questions and objectives that connect the three publications,
- c. brief summary of the three publications with an explanation of which research aspects each publication covers,

3. **Three publications**, complete and in original formatting (or manuscript in the case of a yet unpublished contribution), copied onto DIN A4 format if necessary,

4. Synthesis of the results

- a. answering the overarching research questions,
- b. critical discussion of one’s own results,
- c. integrating the results in the current state of research,
- d. critically reflecting on the research methodology used,
- e. outlook and future research,

5. **Bibliography** (of literature used in the framework text).

The introduction should typically be 17,500 to 35,000 characters in length (including spaces; equivalent to approximately 5-10 pages at font size 11 or 12 with normal margins and 1.5 line spacing). The synthesis of the results should normally consist of more than 28,000 characters (including spaces, equivalent to a minimum of 8 pages).

If the publications are written in different languages, the framework text can be written in German or English.

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Reason for the decision:

The German Science and Humanities Council (2023, p. 42) emphasizes that a cumulative doctorate should be equivalent in performance to a "coherent doctoral dissertation." Therefore,

"the contribution made by the doctoral candidate to each of these publications should be recognizable. The dissertation must not merely consist of a compilation of preliminary publications, but must bracket them in terms of content and place them in a newly created context. This includes an appropriate formulation of complex interrelationships." (translation)

The presented cover text statement is intended to ensure this bracketing and classification.

Wissenschaftsrat (2023): Ausgestaltung der Promotion im deutschen Wissenschaftssystem. Positionspapier. Köln: Wissenschaftsrat.