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Dear PhD-candidates, supervisors and project partners,

today is finally the day of its arrival – the first GGG newsletter of 2013! The newsletter provides updates on the Graduate School, its development, as well as partnerships, opportunities and funding measures. We hope you enjoy it!

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Your GGG

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Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences after 5 years

How satisfied are you with the GGG?

What improvements would you like to see?

Since 2008, the GGG has introduced measures at various levels in a bid to improve conditions for PhD-students and further enhance the structured doctoral program. This wealth of experience gained over 5 years is now to be evaluated in 2013 in order to continue successful projects and facilitate improvements.

Over the past few years, an extensive (but far from complete) portfolio of training, support and funding measures has been compiled for Social Sciences PhD-candidates. The individual measures are continually evaluated to ensure that the wide range of PhD-students are catered for and the funding objectives are implemented. In doing so, feedback from PhD-candidates and supervisors, obtained after completion of the measures through discussions, reports and evaluation surveys, is of great importance. Their comments are taken into account for all further planning stages. Prominent examples of this collective involvement are provided in the arrangement of workshops at the annual Methodological Week, the provision of individual courses for PhD law students, and the improvement of bilingualism; all of which have already been implemented on the initiative of PhD-students and professors alike.

Over the last five years, the GGG has been able to offer a consistent range of programs to PhD-students in various forms. Therefore, we believe that now is a good time to hear about your experiences more systematically. We hope to collect your



opinions, praise, criticism and suggestions for improvement and take these into consideration for our future development.

In the form of a questionnaire, PhD-students, supervisors and partners in the university's administration departments are asked to evaluate their experiences including the support and funding measures provided by the GGG. All areas are covered by the questionnaire – from the establishment of the GGG in faculties and programs to the quality and attractiveness of programs offered; integration into initiatives which aim to support young talents and promote equality, as well as the question of the interdisciplinary added value of networking within the framework of GGG.

All GGG's areas of responsibility are analyzed, such as:

- support for PhD-students in times of crisis or in financial matters
- qualification opportunities
- funding measures (e.g. the GGG family grant, conference funding and travel grants)

- the interdisciplinary network of PhD-students, as well as
- the establishment and follow-up of new doctoral programs.

In this way, we would like to get a better impression of how visible to PhD-students the GGG really is by now; whether the measures are targeted and what can be improved.

The evaluation of questionnaires is complemented by discussions with PhD-students and (other) experts, as well as data collection, which provide information about the use and results of GGG measures.

This evaluation is carried out by a monitoring group, which consists of a PhD-representative, board spokesperson, academic deans and employees. All this is critically evaluated by an external group of experts from the DFG [German Research Founda-

tion], graduate schools from other universities and PhD-representatives, who „as outsiders looking in,“ provide feedback on strengths and weaknesses identified in GGG’s progress to date, helping to avoid „blind spots“ when considering suggestions for improvement.

Although the GGG evaluates its measures on an ongoing basis throughout the year, the upcoming, comprehensive evaluation enables quality standards, gaps and any potential for improvement for the Social Sciences PhD-program to be reconsidered more effectively and extensive measures to be taken. The evaluation results are then made available to the public, making them fully transparent, in order to facilitate a university-wide process of further developing support for PhD-students as well as good scientific practice.

Feedback from PhD-students and supervisors is directly taken into account for further planning stages, i.e. when modifying

GGG and faculty collaboration and designing measures with and for PhD-students.

We would therefore now like to make you aware of this evaluation phase and invite you to participate actively by providing feedback and suggestions for improvement. Please feel free to get in touch with the Executive Board or GGG office at any time (see last page).

We are looking forward to this opportunity to capitalize on our existing wealth of experience and learn how we can continually improve.

At a glance

Social Sciences faculty offers funding for PhD-students

In the financial year of 2013, the Social Sciences faculty grants funding to additional courses in the PhD-program, as well as to individual measures for PhD-students (internationalization, participation in training sessions, conferences and summer schools, editing and publications). The application deadlines are quarterly on 01.03 and 01.06.2013 etc. www.uni-goettingen.de/de/422684.html

Updating the childcare facilities provision guideline

The provision of flexible childcare facilities detailed in the „Childcare guideline“ – a service provided since October 2010 – is continued for two more years and various changes have been incorporated. For further information see the official announcements from 31.01. (www.uni-goettingen.de/de/420263.html) or visit the Family Service directly. www.uni-goettingen.de/de/familienservice/124435.html

DGB Group for students and research assistants

A group of students and research assistants work voluntarily to improve the working conditions at the University of Göttingen and introduce a number of changes. In doing so, the Group is supported by multiple trade unions and is on the lookout for further staff, assistants, PhD-candidates and students. The group meets every second Wednesday in the Faculty of Theology in room 0.134 and can be contacted by e-mailing Gewerkschaft.Uni-goettingen@web.de.

Project group for PhD-students in the Education and Science Union (GEW)

In the Education and Science Union, PhD-students and post-doc students have come together from a range of different scientific disciplines. The project group formulates opinions of the GEW on the doctoral phase – based on interest perspectives of PhD-students: http://promovieren.gew.de/ProG_DoktorandInnen.html. The project group can be contacted via their mailing list at: <http://listserv.gewerkschaften.de/mailman/listinfo/doktorandinnen>

Gender competence: Short workshop on „Gender-sensitive teaching“

In order to guarantee the success of a lecture and boost teaching quality standards, it is essential to be able to deal with different learning styles and requirements. In this short workshop, participants develop concrete gender-specific teaching strategies with the workshop instructors. (...)The workshop takes place on Friday 22 March 2013 from 1.30pm to 5.30pm. To obtain further information and register, please visit: www.uni-goettingen.de/genderlehre.

Qualification

Our courses in the second quarter of 2013

From now on, you can register for the following courses of the first quarter by sending an email to: ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de. For detailed information on our courses and on additional courses for PhD-students offered by cooperating institutions, please go to: www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de.

| Date | Course | Speaker |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 05.04. + 12.04. | Schreibwerkstatt I „Verfassen von Exposés“ | Ella Grieshammer |
| 08.04. + 29.04. | Von der Idee zum Projektantrag | Dr. Wolfgang Adamczak |
| 23.05. | Wissenschaftliches Argumentieren für promovierende Juristen | Dr. Stephan Peters |
| 06.06. / 07.06. + 13.06. / 14.06. | Project Management in International Contexts | Dr. Dorit Battermann |
| 20.06. / 21.06. + 04.07. / 05.07 | Academic Writing and Publishing: Optimizing Writing Strategies for Publishing in English | Frank Lauterbach |

This is how it works: The GGG divides the year into four quarters. You can register for courses six weeks before the start of a new quarter. Every workshop can be attended by 12 to 16 PhD-students. We have a „first come, first serve“ policy. Four weeks before the course starts, your registration will be considered as binding. Detailed information about the courses and the registration procedure can be found at: www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de

Please send your applications exclusively to ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de
Please observe the applicable registration procedure.

Courses on teaching methods in higher education for PhD-students and new teachers

In addition, we would like to draw your attention to the following courses of the division for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education of the University of Göttingen, which are specially addressed to PhD-students:

| Date | Topic | Speaker |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 03.04. | Referateseminare einmal anders | Jennifer Friedrich / Angelika Thielsch |
| 15.04. | „...plötzlich Lehren!“ - Meine Rolle als LehrendeR | Caroline Hein / Angelika Thielsch |
| 03.05. | Seminararbeiten effizient und nachhaltig korrigieren | Dr. Susanne Frölich-Steffen |
| 06.05. + 07.05. | Souverän in der Lehre – Herausfordernde Situationen von Beginn an meistern | Dr. Imme Schönfeld |
| 13.06. + 14.06. | Teaching in Higher Education | Prof. Dr. Erika von Rautenfeld |
| 25.06. | „Hilfe, ich lehre nicht in meinem Fach!“ – Lehre zwischen den Disziplinen | Maria Prah |

Further information on these courses and registration is available at:
www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de

Sponsorships

The Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences provides funding and scholarships for Social Sciences PhD-students. The relevant measures are advertised on GGG's homepage over the course of the year:

www.ggg.uni-goettingen.de/GGG-sponsorship

The following funding options are still available for the year 2013:

| Funding measure | Duration | Application deadline | Funding amount | Target group |
|---|--|----------------------|--|--|
| GGG Family Grant | 4 – 6 month | 30.06.13 | €1,200 – 1,300 per month | PhD-students who look after children under 12 years old and therefore need time to finish their dissertation |
| TeamTeaching | WS 2013 / 2014 | 30.06.13 | ½ teaching post plus training sessions | PhD-students, who wish to obtain practical teaching skills with the help of experienced teaching professionals and training sessions |
| Organization of international conferences | Six months (43 hours per month) plus material expenses | 30.06.13 | Research assistant (plus €1,840 material expenses) | PhD-students who broaden their key qualifications by organizing an international conference in Göttingen |
| HBS-Grant | 2 – 3 years (from October 2013) | 15.04.13 | €1,150 per month | PhD-students who are members of the doctoral research program "Qualifikatorisches Upgrading in KMU" |
| Forum for PhD-students | Flexible | Flexible | Depending on expenditure | PhD-students who are looking for networking opportunities |
| Grants for practical work | Several weeks | Flexible | Max. €400 | Master students who are preparing a research project in SMEs |
| Grants for practical research | Up to 6 months | Flexible | Approx. ¼ for research assistant position | PhD-students who are conducting a research project in SMEs |
| Travel expenses grant for an international conference | Flexible | Conference travel | Max €400 per funding opportunity | PhD-students who broaden their key qualifications by participating in conferences abroad |

On our own Account

Please note that the registration window for the upcoming courses also opens up with this Newsletter: PhD-students may register now for GGG courses organized for the second quarter of 2013 (see page 3).

This Newsletter is produced on a quarterly basis. The Newsletter is available to all Social Sciences PhD-students, supervisors and interested parties. You can find the Newsletter online (www.uni-goettingen.de/de/aktuelles/42253.html) or receive it via e-mail. The next Newsletter is due to be released on 21 May 2013.

This Newsletter aims to provide information on the basic questions of PhD-students in order to promote closer contact between you and the GGG Team. In this way, we hope to help you keep up to date about what the Graduate School has to offer. For further information, please contact one of our team members (see last page of the newsletter) at any time or have a look at our different projects online.

News of the GGG

Student Research Assistant wanted for the GGG

The Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences (GGG) is advertising for the post of a Student Research Assistant (20 hours/month) until 01.04.2013. The position is funded until 30.09.2013. The application deadline is 25.02.2013 (by post/e-mail). www.uni-goettingen.de/de/422922.html

New higher-educating teaching skills program for PhD-students

Starting in 2013, a team teaching program will be organized and conducted in collaboration with the division for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education of the University of Göttingen for Social Sciences PhD-students. This program pursues the objectives of cooperative learning and opens up even more windows of opportunity for PhD-students. The next application deadline is 30.06.2013. www.ggg-teamteaching.uni-goettingen.de

Methodenwoche of the GGG

Although last year's Methodological Week is barely over, planning for Methodological Week 2013 is already getting underway. The 8th interdisciplinary GGG Methodenwoche will take place from 23.09. to 26.09.2013. The registration period runs from 17.06 to 14.07.2013. All additional information on the upcoming Methodenwoche, as well as reviews and images of previous Methodenwoche are found at: www.methodenwoche.uni-goettingen.de



PhD-conference on trade unions and migration

Together with the Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences, the Hans-Böckler Foundation is organizing the conference entitled „Subjects in Movement, Organizations in



Movement? Trade Unions and Migration“ from 23rd to 26th April 2013 as a Hans-Böckler Foundation conference hosted by PhD-students in Göttingen. PhD-students from all fields of study are invited. Please register no later than March 15. www.uni-goettingen.de/de/364950.html

Free tickets to the CeBIT & Hannover Trade Fair

In collaboration with Technology Transfer (Research Department), we can offer interested PhD-students free entry tickets to the CeBIT and Hannover Trade Fairs, running from 05.03. to 09.03.13 and from 08.04. to 12.04.13, respectively.

If interested, please get in touch with us by visiting: ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de

We hope you enjoy this year's CeBIT & Hannover trade fair!

YoMo workshop: Trends in research and recent methods in ecological modeling

This year's „Young Modelers in Ecology“ workshop (in short: YoMos) – a society of young researchers involved in ecological modeling, which was created in 2006 – will be held from 02.05 to 05.05.2013 in Brandenburg. This year, key topics are current research areas and new modeling methods. For further information on the workshop, please visit: www.wiki.ufz.de/oesa/yomo/index.php?title=Main_Page

Do you know...?

The new PhD-representatives of the GGG

In the November and December 2012 elections, the PhD-students nominated their new GGG representative (see also www.uni-goettingen.de/de/185778.html). The representative performs an important function as a contact person for PhD-students and represents Social Sciences PhD-students in the Graduate School, the University and also in public. The representative works to actively shape the face of the Graduate School in the Executive Board and represents the interests of a wide range of Social Sciences PhD-students.

Alper Tasdelen

Dear PhD-students,

I would first like to thank you for placing your trust in me. I am very grateful!

As some of you may already know, I am a PhD-student at the Faculty of Law. However, since I am working with the DFG Research Unit on Cultural Property, I am located at the KWZ, the relatively new building behind the car park at Goßlerstraße. Please feel free to visit me with any concerns and suggestions you may have.



Besides acting as mediator between PhD-students and their supervisors for conflict resolution, one of my primary goals is to introduce PhD-representatives at all GGG-related faculties.

To find out more about my plans and access my contact details, please visit the GGG website.

Alper

Bumi Camara

My Name is Bumi Camara, a PhD Candidate in the Faculty of Economic Sciences and the Vice Speaker of the Goettingen Graduate School of Social Sciences, (Göttinger Graduiertenschule Gesellschaftswissenschaften (GGG)). Prior to commencing my PhD program, I received a Master Degree from Williams College, Massachusetts, USA, Master Degree from the University of Malawi and Undergraduate Degree from the University of The Gambia.



My principal objective is to make the GGG a body that prospective graduate students of Goettingen will factor in their decision to join our university and to build a career for the future. Our community of graduate students is endowed with individuals and groups with variety of skills that can be tapped and shared within the community and with the wider university neighborhood. However, the lack of or inadequate consultation and coordination has left these potentials largely untapped. As a team, it will be our priority to effectively coordinate and utilize the strengths in our diversity.

Bumi

Events

We would like to invite you to events held in the framework of, or with the involvement of, the GGG. Registration is already open for the following events. Further information and times are provided in on our website, in our flyers and by the Team of the GGG.

24. April 2013: "PraxisForum 2013 – We bring intelligent minds together"

The SME network of the Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences holds an event every year on the evening before the PraxisBörse career fair. The event combines current research topics with corporate practice and serves to improve contacts between companies and the university. Simply register at: www.uni-goettingen.de/praxisforum

25. April 2013: GGG at the 2013 PraxisBörse Career Fair (Main Lecture Hall Building / ZHG)

Students, PhD-students and graduates can learn specific information about companies, institutions, fields of activity and job profiles, as well as development and entry opportunities. At the stand for small and medium-sized enterprises, the SME network of the GGG gives deeper insight into regional employment opportunities. Moreover, the GGG provides information on the requirements and prospects for PhD-students. www.uni-goettingen.de/de/419246.html

Team

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This Newsletter will be sent to all members of the GGG.

In case of questions or remarks, please contact ggg@uni-goettingen.de

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