

# Thesis Defense Training

20-21 October 2022, 09:00 a.m. – approx. 17:00 p.m.

## Description

In their thesis defense, doctoral researchers have to present their research to the board of examiners and then answer critical questions.

This course is designed to prepare doctoral researchers optimally for this situation. In the first part of the course the participants get practical tips for their introductory presentation: how to structure the presentation, how to build up the central argument, how to make a good introduction etc. The second part of the course deals with typical problems that occur during the discussion: How to respond to criticism and "killer-questions", how to deal with stage fright and black-outs, etc. In the third part, participants get the chance to give their presentation and to receive feedback from the group and from the trainer.

## Objectives

The participants...

- give a convincing and well-structured presentation
- deal confidently with counter arguments and critical questions
- are well prepared and feel confident about their thesis defense

## Methods

All contents are developed interactively and are applied directly to the participants' topics. All participants prepare and practice at least the introductory part of their thesis defense during the course. Up to three participants get the chance to practice their full presentation and get feedback from the group.

## Terms & application

Date & Time	20-21 October 2022, 09:00 a.m. – approx. 17:00 p.m.
Place	IAMO, Conference room 1
Group size	10 persons
Target group	Doctoral researchers in their final year
Workshop language	English
Registration	Per email to Franziska Schaft ( <a href="mailto:schaft@iamo.de">schaft@iamo.de</a> ) Places will be allocated in the order of incoming registration emails.
DCPAE credits	2 CP (Soft Skills)

## Program

### Day 1

- 09:00 – 09:30 Round of introductions
- 09:30 – 12:00 The opening of the thesis defense presentation  
How to structure the main part of the thesis defense presentation  
Building a valid and sound argumentation
- 12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch Break*
- 13:00 – 17:00 Application to participants' topics  
Rhetoric and presentation techniques  
Mini-introductory presentations from participants (1)  
[Full thesis defense simulation for one participant]

### Day 2

- 09:00 – 10:00 Mini-introductory presentations from participants (2)  
Handling difficult questions + discussion exercise  
How to deal with nervousness general tips for preparation
- 13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch Break*
- 14:00 – 17:00 Full thesis defense simulation for one or two participants  
Summary and feedback

### Trainer information

**Dr. Anja Berninger** is a lecturer at the Philosophy Department of the University of Göttingen. She studied philosophy, musicology and psychology in Bonn, Nanjing (China) and Berlin. After completing her MA, she worked as a management consultant for the Boston Consulting Group (Berlin). She received her PhD from the University of Stuttgart in 2015 with a thesis on current emotion theory. The dissertation was awarded the Dissertation Prize of the Association of Friends of the University of Stuttgart. She has several years of teaching experience in academia and has completed a one-year training course at the Writers' Studio in Vienna to become a process-oriented writing coach.

The training is delivered by [Institut für Argumentationskompetenz](#).

