

Evaluation of STIP-HFs topic day “Dissertations and their assessment: a glimpse into the black box”

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2020

Venue: Zoom

### **Planning and organisation**

STIP-HF originally planned a topic-day on dissertation assessment in the spring 2020, but decided to postpone it with the hope of being able to arrange it with attendance in person in the fall 2020. During the fall 2020, the event was mainly planned as a physical event at Scandic Ørnen, but the speakers and the audience were warned that the event could be arranged digitally on Zoom barring corona restrictions. A week or two prior, STIP-HF made the ultimate decision to hold the event digitally.

STIP-HF kept close communication with Elisabeth Akselvoll during the planning process. When planning for a physical event, Akselvoll had the main communication with Scandic Ørnen, and STIP-HF expressed their wishes and requirements to the hotel through her. This led to some confusion when STIP-HF contacted the hotel directly to organize a viewing of the intended venue. In general it would be preferable for STIP-HF to have a direct communication line with the venues, and the current STIP-HF would recommend the faculty and future STIP-HF boards to find a way to make this work while keeping the faculty in the loop.

STIP-HF made an announcement to their fellow phds to save the date of the topic day one and a half month prior to the event. Invitation to the event along with the final program was sent out approx. three weeks prior to the event.

### **Event**

The program of the event was as follows:

"Dissertations and their assessment: a glimpse into the black box"

13:00-13:30: “The current state of PhD theses at HF” with Vice dean of research and communication Anne Beate Maurseth

13:30-13:35: Break

13:35-14:15: “What do we know about article-based dissertations?” with Professor Rune Johan Krumsvik

14:15-14:20: Break

14:20-14:45: “The process from rejection to successful defense” with former candidate and Professor Edit Bugge

14:45-15:00: Social break

15:00-16:00: “What makes a successful dissertation (both monographs and article-based)? Experiences from previous evaluation committee members” with Professor Ingunn Lunde, Professor Ingvild Gilhus, Professor Eirik Vassenden, and Professor Camilla Brautaset

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The event was attended by around 70 people.

### **Feedback and evaluation**

An evaluation form was sent out to all the participants after the event. Partly due to some technical error, this form was only answered by 4 people.

STIP-HF has without exception received positive feedback on the topic day. One participant states that it was his/hers most useful day as a phd-student. Another participant states that it was a good and useful event, but that a clearer gender perspective was lacking. Two participating supervisors deemed the event as “very useful”. A couple of the speakers have without being asked stated that it was a very well organised and interesting event.

One can, based on the attendance and the feedback, state that the topic day was a useful contribution to conditions of phds and phd-supervisors at HF.

### **Ideas for upcoming topic days**

In the evaluation form, the respondents were asked to make suggestions for further topic days. Here are those ideas that were mentioned:

- New white paper (Stortingsmelding)
- Internationalisation
- Gender and academic career
- Structuring dissertations, “drowning in literature”

*STIP-HF 10.01.2012*