Selected topics on PhD and research

Aix- Marseille School of Economics

1. Course description

This professionalizing course is intended to provide PhD students with knowledge about the various dimensions of a researcher's life. This course aims to use the faculty's wide experience to provide PhD students with valuable tips on the dos and don'ts of the profession. In each session, senior faculty will share their personal experience and participate in discussions with PhD students on specific topics, among which presenting at conferences strategies, co-authorship, how to write a paper, data handling, and various tools to conduct research.

2. Format

The course will be held in sessions of up to 1.5 hours. Each session will be a seminar-style discussion and will take place at the MEGA (Aix en Provence). The requirements to get the credits for this course consists of attendance and active participation in every session. This course prioritizes first-year and second-year PhD candidates, but it will be open as well to all PhD candidates.

3. Outline and learning outcomes

- **Sebastian Bervoets:** "*Things I wish I knew before starting my PhD*"

  This course discusses unexpected challenges during the PhD and provides personal experiences on how to tackle them.

- **Habiba Djebbari:** "*The Art of Writing a Literature review*"

  Whether provided explicitly in a paper or used as a personal reference benchmark, a well-developed literature review is crucial for knowing your place in the academic literature and writing a high-quality academic paper. In this conference, we discuss how to review the literature and succinctly summarize it.

- **Nicolas Berman:** "*Co-authorship and collaboration*"

  Collaboration can be a great way of developing research ideas, exploiting comparative advantages, and writing a paper. However, choosing the wrong collaborator for you can also lead to conflict and delays in writing a paper. We discuss how to best manage this important subject of academic life. We also briefly discuss what to keep in mind when you collaborate with someone on your job market paper.

- **Renaud Bourlès:** "*Writing skills*"

  Writing an interesting and concise paper is one of the greatest challenges in academia. In this course, we discuss some important rules to follow to improve your paper writing skills in academia.

- **Avner Seror:** "*Presenting at conferences and networking*"

  Conferences can be a way to disseminate your ideas, receive valuable feedback, and exchange with people working on related topics. These might be potential future referees or employers. This course discusses the appropriate way of presenting yourself and the paper as well as what to expect at social events.

- **Habiba Djebbari:** "*Data Handling for Empirical Studies*"

  Increasing computer power has drastically expanded the data sources available for research. A crucial increasing part of research time spend in empirical work (as well as increasingly in theoretical work) is the collection, preparation, and use of this data. This course outlines some key ideas in how to best prepare, store and use your data.

- **Roberta Ziparo:** "*Field Experiments*"

  This course discusses how you develop ideas to be tested in the field, how to prepare to run them, and the key challenges of running a field experiment. The course will also briefly tackle related issues like pre-registration, funding, budget constraints, etc.

- **Timothée Demont:** " *LaTex for researchers*"

  Most academic papers are written using LaTex. We discuss which is the best text editor, how to set up your template, optimize the time needed to write your projects in it, and key formatting requirements when submitting to journals.