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***CDSS Dissertation Proposal Workshop***

**Spring 2009**

**Time Several one-day workshops**

**Place D7, room 307**

Description: The goal of this course is to provide support and crucial feedback on writing students' dissertation proposal. Such a proposal is a research outline that delineates the doctoral thesis project, including the motivation for research question(s), the survey of the relevant theoretical and empirical contributions, the development of a theoretical framework, the specification of the methodology and planned empirical analysis. You should be prepared to address the following questions: What makes that an interesting question? Is it an important question? What contributions would this question and the answers make to the scholarly literature? What strategies are there to answer your research questions(s)?

<b>17. February</b>	<b>What is a Dissertation proposal? Kick-off meeting</b>
<b>5 March</b>	<b>Review &amp; Feedback on draft proposal (Group I) – One-day workshop</b>
<b>20 March</b>	<b>Review &amp; Feedback on draft proposal (Group II) – One-day workshop</b>
<b>21 April</b>	<b>Review &amp; Feedback on draft proposal (primarily polisci students) – One-day workshop</b>
<b>28 April</b>	<b>Review &amp; Feedback on draft proposal (primarily sociology students) – One-day workshop</b>
<b>5 May</b>	<b>Review &amp; Feedback on draft proposal (primarily psychology students) – One-day workshop</b>

*Note. Your Dissertation Proposal is due **2nd of June**. Send copies to CDSS ([cdss@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:cdss@uni-mannheim.de)) and a paper copy to your mentor / potential supervisor as well as your co-supervisor (please name potential co-supervisor in consultation with mentor).*

Assignments: There will be several assignments besides working on your own dissertation proposal and actively participating in all class discussions that are related to the one-day workshops you have to participate.

- Prepare a draft of your dissertation proposal and submit it (hardcopy) to the two assigned discussants of your draft proposal as well as to me. The draft proposal is due **1 week before** your field-specific *Review and Feedback* session.
- Prepare critical reviews of the draft proposals you are assigned to and present them in the *Review and Feedback* session.
- Prepare a short presentation of your draft proposal and present it in our *Review and Feedback* session.