

Workshop

Date: Tuesday 28th February 2023

Time 13.00-16.00

Venue: Zoom

Organised by Spira and SLU Grogrund research schools
(open to all SLU PhD students)

Preparing for the PhD thesis introduction (“kappa”)

Tim Richardson, Department of Urban and Regional Planning,
Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)

This workshop explores the challenges of writing the framing introduction (often called the “kappa”) for an article-based thesis, and considers how to prepare to write it. For PhD evaluation committees, the “kappa” will inform about how well the student understands their own work and its importance, and also the student’s underlying motivation. For the student, the kappa can be useful when applying for jobs in the industry, academia or elsewhere. The workshop starts with a seminar that places the thesis introduction in the context of the whole PhD process. This involves a discussion about the PhD defence and assessment, and emphasises the importance of attention to research design. This clarifies the purpose of the PhD “kappa”, and the importance of its strong unifying narrative. The workshop then looks more practically at how to build a strong framing introduction. As preparation, the participants will have some homework in advance.

The seminar is relevant for all PhD candidates, at all stages of work!

*Tim Richardson is Professor in Urban Planning at NMBU. <https://www.nmbu.no/emp/tim.richardson>
He leads a well-established PhD course in academic writing and publishing, and has led seminars and workshops on academic writing at Scandinavian universities. He has been head of PhD programmes in the UK, Denmark and Norway.*

**Please sign up for your participation in the seminar
by writing to asa.lankinen@slu.se by 15th February 2023.
Please note that we expect you to attend if you register.**



Preliminary program

Moderator Åsa Lankinen

13.00-13.45 Seminar Tim Richardson: **Preparing for the PhD thesis introduction (“kappa”)**

14.00-14.30 Experiences from some previous PhD students: panel discussion

14.30-15.45 Workshop task 1 and 2 in breakout rooms

15.45-16.00 Final discussion in the whole group