Course title: Theory Building in Business Administration

Coordinator(s): dr. O.N. Solinger

Lecturer(s): dr. O.N. Solinger

Study period: March 2021 – May 2021 (Period 5)

ECTS: 6 ECTS

Tuition: €1250
20% discount on early bird registration: €1000

Course Objective: Upon completion of this course, students will have:
1. Acquired academic knowledge of and insight into the literature on theory building in business administration
2. Further developed their ability to critically analyze and assess theories related to business administration as well as how their own work contributes to the existing literature
3. Further developed the ability to generate new knowledge through the thoughtful application of construct development, counterfactual reasoning, and analogical reasoning tools
4. Further developed their skills at communicating about theories with an academic audience

Course content: Theory and theory development are seen as crucial to making meaningful academic contributions to bodies of knowledge in management and organisational research. Despite its prominence, the constituent processes around theorizing are often left implicit, and not typically discussed or taught in doctoral training programmes. The course tries to address this very point; participants will through a series of exercises, practical assignments and readings be trained in ‘reading’ theory in journal articles, and will also develop skills in the development and assessment of theory.

Teaching Methods: • Lectures and discussions
• In-class exercises
• Interactive soap-box exercises
• Formative feedback on take-home assignments

Assessment: • Academic paper (individual)
• Take-home assignments (individual)
• Soap boxes (group)

Literature: At least 3 required readings per afternoon. A list of readings will be provided on the course site on Canvas.
**Target Audience**  
Due to the entry requirements of the programme, the courses of the Research Master Business in Society are only available for students registered for this master’s programme and, upon approval of the programme director, to other Research Master programmes or PhD students.

**Additional Information**  
The very first class of this course already contains prior group work preparation, i.e., students prepare a soap-box.