

Bachelor's Thesis Seminar in Economics

Introductory lecture 10.9.2019

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Agenda for today:

- Seminar practices
- Expectations for a Bachelor's thesis
- Choosing the topic
- Finding relevant literature
- Research plan
- Writing
- Presenting and acting as an opponent
- Assessment

Expectations

- Bachelor's thesis is not a research project
- Rather, a survey into a topic of interest
- Often a literature survey
- Theoretical framework often valuable
- Could contain an empirical part, but not necessary
- Remember: this is a thesis in the subject of *Economics*

Choosing the topic

- Which field of economics / which applications are you most interested in?
- Ideas from your courses, text books, economics news, surveys, ...
- Literature available on the topic?
- Narrow vs. broad topic?
- Well studied vs. novel topic?

Finding literature:

- References in text books
- Survey articles
- Influential journal articles
- Citing patterns by google scholar
- ...

Research plan

- You should be able to explain succinctly your:
 - Topic
 - Research question
 - Approach (method of analysis)
 - At least some relevant literature

Writing of the thesis

- Pay attention to:
 - Structure
 - Rigorous argumentation
 - Scientific style
 - Definition of key concepts
 - Appropriate citing practice
 - Can an outsider follow your arguments?
 - Language

Midterm presentation

- Improving your presentation skills is one learning goal in this seminar
- Pay attention to:
 - Why is your topic interesting?
 - Focus on key points
 - Clarity
- Explain properly your method of analysis/theoretical framework
- Opponent:
 - Be critical, but try to suggest ways to improve
 - Point out strengths as well
 - Be constructive

Assessment

- Criteria for assessment:
 - Choice of topic and research question
 - Choice and use of literature
 - Analysis and interpretation (literature survey / theory / empirics)
 - Writing (academic style, language, readability)
 - Consistency and coherence of the thesis