

# *Master's Thesis in Global Management (20 cr)*

**Seminar II**



Aalto University  
School of Business

Perttu Kähäri

January 30, 2023

# Please sit in these groups today

- **Silja Abildsten**
- **Anastasia Goryshina**
- **Monika Ahonen**
- **Tiia Kynsilehto & Emilia Lumio**

- **Aura Ansaharju & Selina Sorvi**
- **Sara Pirhonen**
- **Toivo Volk**

- **Asta Friman & Elisa Wickström**
- **Sini Wallenius**
- **Sofi Laakso**

- **Alex Mishin**
- **Juno Pitkänen**
- **Philip Rentto**
- **Anna Song**
- **Xiaochun Yang**

# Agenda

- **Thesis supervision and seminar groups**
- **Writing the research proposal – what was challenging?**
- **What is a Master's thesis?**
- **Next Assignments**
- **My Development Journey in the spring**

# Thesis supervision and seminar groups

# Thesis supervisors and seminar groups

## Rebecca Piekkari

- Silja Abildsten
- Anastasia Goryshina

## Aleksi Niittymies

- Monika Ahonen
- Tiia Kynsilehto & Emilia Lumio

## Hannu Seristö

- Aura Ansaharju & Selina Sorvi
- Sara Pirhonen
- Toivo Volk

## Sami Itani

- Asta Friman & Elisa Wickström
- Sini Wallenius

## Tiina Ritvala

- Sofi Laakso

## Daria Kautto

- Alex Mishin
- Juno Pitkänen

## Perttu Kähäri

- Philip Rentto
- Anna Song
- Xiaochun Yang

# Responsibilities in a supervisory relationship

STUDENT	SUPERVISOR
<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducts research independently and according to the highest ethical standards</li><li>• Is proactive (keeping contact &amp; seeking help)</li><li>• Sends the thesis for comments well before the agreed meeting</li><li>• Sticks to the timetables and deadlines common to everyone for the submission of the thesis</li></ul>	<p><b>Yes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discusses the research questions, choices of theory and methodology as well as analysis</li><li>• Reads and provides comments during the thesis work process in each phase of the research.</li><li>• Sticks to the timetables and deadlines common to everyone</li></ul>
<p><b>No:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works for the supervisor's own research project (unless agreed separately)</li><li>• Demands flexibility and time from the supervisor without fulfilling one's own responsibilities</li></ul>	<p><b>No:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Writes or re-writes the thesis!</li><li>• Is considered a library or a control body</li><li>• Is responsible for the corrections made in response to comments</li><li>• Assures that the quality of the thesis is according to student's expectations</li></ul>

# Writing the research proposal – what was challenging?

# Assignment #3: Research proposal

- What do you plan to accomplish?
- Why do you want to do it?
- What are your research questions?
- What is the scholarly discussion you are engaging with?
- How are you going to do it?



# What is a Master's thesis in Global Management?

# What is a Master's thesis?

<p><b>A research report:</b> you present your study to an academic audience</p>	<p><b>You are the researcher:</b> You own your study and make all the decisions regarding it, but you are also responsible for following the academic standards</p>
<p><b>A learning process</b> in which you will learn academic and professional skills and competences</p>	<p><b>You are responsible for your learning:</b> You don't need to know the research skills nor the content matter before you start, but hopefully you do after you finish!</p>
<p><b>A piece of work</b> that gives you 20 credits and allows us to <b>evaluate your academic skills</b> in global management</p>	<p><b>You are responsible for your own work and independent contribution,</b> but you can take all the help and support you want</p>

# Introduction (5-10 pages)

- **Background, topic and significance**
- **Research problem, literature to which it is connected and research gap**
- **Research objectives and questions**
- **Limitations**

# Literature review (20-30 pages)

## Relevant literature, concepts and theories

- i. Reorganize and analyze research approaches, concepts, methodologies and results of prior research
- ii. Built around your own research idea, questions and aims

## Summary of the literature review (theoretical answers to the research questions)

- i. Explicate what is your understanding of the concepts and theories you intend to use and how are they related = **theoretical framework**
- ii. Hypothesis development (if they are relevant for your choice of methodology)

# Research design and methods (7-12 pages)

## Research approach

- Refined research questions, approach, unit of analysis, arguments for the choices made

## Data collection / Producing empirical material

- Collection method, sample, access, arguments for the choices made, limitations of the data, ethical considerations, reflection

## Data analysis

- Making the path from data to conclusions visible: Method? Why? How?

## Evaluation of the research process & ethical considerations in each step of the process (NB! Language considerations)

# Findings (20-30 pages), Discussion & Conclusions (5-10 pages)

Empirical findings

Discussion and analysis (alternatively can be integrated into previous section)

Conclusions

- Main findings and *theoretical contribution*
- Managerial implications
- Suggestions for further research

# Important information

- **Admin instructions on MSc thesis** (and templates for cover letter and abstract): <https://www.aalto.fi/en/programmes/masters-programme-in-global-management/thesis>
- **How to submit your thesis:** <https://www.aalto.fi/en/programmes/masters-programme-in-global-management/thesis#2-maturity-essay> or **go to MyCourses and find "BIZ Management studies – Thesis and maturity test 2022-23"**
- **Maturity essay:** <https://www.aalto.fi/en/programmes/masters-programme-in-global-management/thesis#2-maturity-essay>
- **Data protection and management:** see the form in MyCourses and pages (TBA)

# Next Assignments



# Thesis timeline

## January

- 10 Jan: Assignment 2
- 16 Jan: Seminar I
- 24 Jan: Assignment 3
- 30 Jan: Seminar II
- Supervisors appointed

## March

- First Research Seminar
- 7 March: Assignment 6
- Methods courses
- Thesis work
- Meeting with supervisor every 2-3 weeks

## May

- Third Research Seminar
- Thesis work
- Meeting with supervisor every 2-3 weeks
- 29 May: FINAL THESIS SUBMISSION

Jan

Feb

March

April

May

June

## February

- Meeting with supervisor
- 7 Feb: Assignment 4
- 28 Feb: Assignment 5 (Research proposal)

## April

- Second Research Seminar
- Thesis work
- Meeting with supervisor every 2-3 weeks

## June

- 9 June: Thesis evaluation completed



# Assignments

- ✓ **Assignment #1: initial research idea (10 Dec)**
- ✓ **Assignment #2: analysis and evaluation of an existing thesis (pass/fail) (10 Jan)**
- ✓ **Assignment #3: first draft of an individual research proposal (pass/fail) (24 Jan)**
- **Assignment #4: memo of the initial meeting with the thesis supervisor (pass/fail) (7 Feb)**
- **Assignment #5: final research proposal (pass/fail) (28 Feb)**
- **Assignment #6: oral and written constructive comments on proposals presented by other students (pass/fail) (7 Mar)**
- **Assignment #7: final thesis (grade 1-5) (29 May)**

# **Assignment #4: Memo on meeting with your supervisor**

- **Contact your supervisor and agree on a face-to-face meeting**
- **Present / discuss the first draft of the research proposal with them**
- **Write a brief memo in which you summarize your takeaways from the meeting (200-400 words)**
- **Submit in MyCourses and email to your supervisor by 7 Feb**

# Assignment #5: Research plan and presentation

- Write a full-length research proposal in which you have incorporated the feedback from the supervisor and others (you are encouraged to discuss your work with other students). The length of the proposal is 3,000-4,000 words excluding references (i.e. approximately 10-12 pages).
- Prepare a power point presentation to be used during the research seminar where you present your proposal.
- (1) upload the research proposal and the power point presentation to the MyCourses return box and (2) email it to your supervisor as well as the other students in your Master's thesis group by 28 February

# Content of Research plan

## 1. Title

which reasons?

## 2. Introduction

- Introduce topic and significance
- Statement of purpose, research questions / objectives

## 3. Review of Literature

- What research is available on the subject? How is the present study positioned in the current body of knowledge? Do some research gaps exist in earlier literature?
- Preliminary theoretical framework: which theoretical concepts and streams of research can you use to structure your research problem?
- Limitations: what will be excluded and for

## 4. Design and Methods

- Overall approach and rationale (qualitative / quantitative, what kind of approach)
- Sampling, data collection methods, data analysis
- Ethical considerations

## 5. Tentative table of contents of the final thesis

## 6. References

## 7. Tentative timetable

# Assignment #6: Oral and written feedback

- The research proposals will be presented and discussed in research seminars in groups of 4-5 students in early March
- You will be allocated one thesis, for which you will serve as the main discussant in the research seminar
- You will be expected to read everybody's research proposal and be prepared to offer constructive feedback in the seminar
- The discussant is expected to also provide written feedback to be given directly to the student(s) in question. Submit this feedback document in MyCourses by 7 March.

# Thesis work

- **Meet with your supervisor every 2-3 weeks**
- **The meeting dates should be agreed in advance and incorporated in your thesis proposal (Assignment #5)**
- **For each meeting agree with your supervisor on the material that you are to send your supervisor by email ahead of the meeting**
- **There will be two research seminar group meetings in early April and May**
- **For each research seminar you will need to submit a short pre-reading (max 10 pages) and make a presentation of the current status of your work**
- **Other participants will comment and discuss**

# My Development Journey in the spring



# My Development Journey in the spring

- **Monday 13 March at 16.15-18.00 (T003)**
- **Monday 24 April at 16.15-18.00 (T003)**
- **Other topics + section on MSc thesis**
- **1-2 reflection papers related to our topics**
- **Individual meetings in May-June (tbc)**