



Research School for Political History. Training program for PhD-students

The Research School for Political History (RSPH) offers a balanced program for PhD students in political history in year 1, 2 and 3 of their PhD trajectory and for Research Master students who specialize in political history. Participation in all parts of the program is compulsory for all PhD students who are registered with the RSPH, unless it is explicitly stated that a part is optional.

Central to the PhD program are the various aspects of conducting PhD research in the broad field of early modern and modern political history, including the history of international relations. The educational program is a program with a clear internal coherence, and can be taken alongside and in addition to the program of the local Graduate Schools.

The Teaching and Examination Regulations articulate the final objectives, teaching and assessment methods and the evaluation of the individual components. A course syllabus will be made available for all courses.

End terms – learning objectives and competencies

To PhD-candidates the RSPH offers training in the following competences, aiming at the specified learning objectives

- 1 **Disciplinary and Interdisciplinarity:**
Student have an informed and critical awareness of the historical and conceptual underpinnings and contexts of political history as an intellectual tradition and academic discipline, and it's of its relationship to other fields of study. They have knowledge and understanding of the foundations and insights of other disciplines relevant to the study of political history.
- 2 **Theories and concepts:**
Students have specialized knowledge and critical understanding of theoretical, conceptual and analytical notions relevant to political history. They have the ability to reflect on the principal theoretical approaches to political history, to evaluate the state of the art of political history, and to recognize and develop innovative research orientations in political history.
- 3 **Methods and techniques:**
Students have focused knowledge and critical understanding of relevant methods and techniques for the study of political history, and the ability to apply proper methods and techniques to research problems. Students have an advanced and critical understanding of

sources and data for political historical research and of their associated conceptual frameworks.

4 Communication:

Students have an informed and critical awareness of the specific methods used to communicate information about one's field in scholarly / academic and public contexts. They have the ability to use and apply the proper means of communication, suited to the aims of their scholarly and public interventions.

5 Professional Development:

Students have an informed and critical awareness of the concrete ways which the political-historical perspective can be developed in professional situations and be of benefit to society.

Program

The program is structured in accordance with the end terms and competences:

Tutorials in year 1 discuss disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity, theories and concepts, and methods and techniques on an advanced level

Workshops in year 2 are devoted to the application of methods and techniques, disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity, and introduce outreach and science communication

The seminars in year 3 are devoted to the individual application and assessment of disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity, theories and concepts, and methods and techniques as well as science communication and professional development.

In addition, the OPG offers several Masterclasses per year (independently or in collaboration with Departments of History and Research Institutes) that are open to ReMA students and PhDs of all years.

Responsible for content and organisation are the Director of Studies and the Special Committees for the Tutorials, Workshops, Seminars and Master Classes, in cooperation with the local organizers of the specific parts of the program

Year 1: Tutorials

Tutorials are mandatory for 1st year PhDs, and open for RMA-students. PhD-students receive dispensation if they have done a tutorial in their RMA program.

Course aims

- Disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity
- Theories and concepts
- Methods and techniques

Organization

Tutorials consist of a 4 hour meeting, prepared in a limited set of readings, with an open discussion based on the input and research interests of the participants. The Tutorial Committee (consisting of all teachers involved in the tutorials) proposes a specific set-up of the tutorials to the director of studies, and supervises the tutorials

Requirements and credits:

- Minimum (1 EC): Preparation: reading the literature and writing a preparatory paper of 750 words with main ideas, comments and question; Active participation in the discussion.
- Additional (1 EC): Writing an additional paper of 3000 words on the central topic of the tutorial, to be submitted after the meeting.
- Additional (2 EC): a publishable academic article based on three additional papers on 'Crucial concepts...' and/or 'Theories...'; on 'Methods...', and on 'Themes', in which original source material is presented. The RSPH will provide supervision and advise on a suitable publication platform.

Maximum of credits to be earned in Tutorials is 10 EC.

Program

1. Introduction to the Discipline: What is Political History? Focus: theories of politics, the political and (de)politicization; historical transformations of politics in modern European and global history
2. Crucial Concepts in Political History. Focus: Institutions, power, violence, authority, legitimacy, political culture, ideology, discourse, identity, participation, representation etc.
3. Methods and Techniques in Political History. Focus: institutional analysis, comparative historical analysis, interdisciplinarity, policy process analysis, conceptual history, discourse analysis, network analysis, prosopography, biography etc.
4. Primary sources in Political History. Focus: digital and archival sources, official documents, grey literature, parliamentary proceedings, pamphlets, diaries and memoirs, interviews, visual material etc.
5. Themes in Political History. Focus: revolution and reform; state formation; transnational politics; local and infrapolitics; movements, parties and organizations; mobilization and identity; violence, terror and repression etc.

Year 2 Workshops

Workshops are mandatory for 2nd year PhDs, and open for RMA-students. PhD-students receive dispensation if they have done a workshop in their RMA program.

Aims

- Disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity
- Methods and techniques
- Communication
- Professional Development

Organization

A workshop is a one-day meeting, focused on practical training and interactive learning, based on the input and research interest of the participants. Preparation consists of practical assignments in relation to the research project of the PhDs. Specific topics will change, according to the expertise of the teacher and requests of the PhDs. Topics for the workshops are proposed to the director of studies and supervised by the Workshop Committee.

Requirements and credits

- 1 EC: Preparing assignments and presentations; active participation in the discussion.

Program

1. Workshop Advanced Research Methods and techniques. Options: comparative history, oral history, digital humanities for political historians, etc.
2. Workshop Interdisciplinary Approaches. Options: Political theory and intellectual history; Political anthropology; Political and historical sociology; Political economy, etc.
3. Workshop Political History and Current Affairs. Options: Journalism; Activism; Policy advice etc.
4. Workshop Advanced Thesis Design. Focus: presentation of your research to senior political history scholars and experts in your field.

Year 3: Seminars

Active participation in, and contribution to the organisation of a seminar is mandatory for 3rd year PhDs, attendance and participation is open for all PhDs and RMA-students. PhD-students attend at least 5 seminars in the course of their program.

Aims

- Disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity
- Concepts and theories
- Methods and techniques
- Communication
- Professional Development

Organization

Seminars are one-day (and if required two-days) meetings on a specific topic. The meetings consist of a variety of activities: keynote lectures, paper presentations, panels, roundtables, poster presentation, etc. Seminars can be organized on site, integrating the potential of the site into the event (e.g. an archive, exhibition). Seminars are proposed to the director of studies and supervised by the Seminar committee.

Requirements and credits

- PhD-students attend at least 5 seminars in the course of their program. This participation is not rewarded with credits
- Organisation: students participate in the organisation of one of the seminars. Active participation in the organisation of a seminar is rewarded with 2 EC (3 EC for a two-day seminar).
- Contribution: students contribute to seminars by presentation of their research. This is rewarded with 1 EC.
- Report: students can write a 500 word report on a seminar, to be published on the website of the OPG. Writing a report is rewarded with 1 EC.
- Presentation of individual research on an international Association of Political History seminar or APH PhD workshop is rewarded with 3 ECTS

Program

1. Opening Academic Year. PhDs organize an event celebrating the opening of the academic year .
2. Specific topics. Senior scholars in collaboration with PhDs organize seminars, based on a shared interest in specific topics in political history.
3. International conference: PhD students can apply for participation in a conference or PhD-workshop of the international Association for Political History.
4. Seminar Science Outreach and Communication (publishing your PhD, spin-off articles, writing for a non-specialist audience)
5. Seminar Professional Development (knowledge utilization, CV, participating in research consortia and –networks for grant applications, other career opportunities) (also optional for 4th year PhDs)

Master Classes

The RSPH offers master classes by prominent political historians. We aim to have at least two master classes each year. Master classes are open to RMA and PhD-students, and affiliated members of the OPG; others can attend on invitation only.

Aims

- Disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity
- Concepts and theories
- Methods and techniques

Organization

Master classes consist of a meeting of 3 to 4 hours, in which the expert introduces the topic, and several PhDs and other scholars present their own research in a short position paper and a presentation. Master classes are proposed to the director of studies and supervised by the Master class committee.

Requirements and grades:

- Participation in master classes is not obligatory, yet when registered, all participants are expected to come prepared and to have read the literature.
- Participation is rewarded with 1 EC when you have prepared a position paper (1000 words) and a short presentation of your comments or questions on the theme of the master class.

Credits

At the end of the program students will receive a certificate, on which the credits obtained are specified. The amount of credits may vary with the demands of the local Graduate School of the student. In general the RSPH offers a basic certificate of 10 ECTS, a regular certificate of 20 ECTS, and an advanced certificate of 30 ECTS.

Credits may be awarded as follows:

Tutorials:

Maximum of credits to be earned in Tutorials is 10 ECTS

- 1 EC: Preparation: reading the literature and writing a preparatory paper of 750 words with main ideas, comments and question; Active participation in the discussion.
- 1 EC: Writing an additional paper of 3000 words on the central topic of the tutorial, to be submitted after the meeting.
- 2 EC: a publishable academic article based on three additional papers on 'Crucial concepts...' and/or 'Theories...'; on 'Methods...', and on 'Themes', in which original source material is presented.

Workshops:

Minimum of credits to be earned at the 'regular' or 'advanced' level: 4 ECTS, there is no maximum amount of credits to be earned

- 1 EC: Preparing assignments and presentations for a workshop; active participation in the discussion.

Seminars

Minimum of credits to be earned at the 'regular' or 'advanced' level: 4 ECTS, there is no maximum amount of credits to be earned

- 2 or 3 EC: Active participation in the organisation of a seminar: 2 EC for a one-day seminar, 3 EC for a two-day seminar.
- 1 EC: presentation of individual research
- 1 EC: writing a 500 word report on a seminar, to be published on the website of the OPG.
- 3 ECTS: Presentation of individual research on an international APH seminar or APH PhD workshop

Master class

- 1 EC: writing a position paper (1000 words) and a short presentation of your comments or questions on the theme of the master class

PhD-competencies

To PhD-candidates the RSPH offers training in the following competencies

1. Texts and Contexts	Demonstrate focused knowledge and critical understanding of relevant data and sources for political historical research and of their associated conceptual frameworks.
2. Theories and concepts	Accumulate specialized knowledge and critical understanding of relevant analytical and methodological approaches relevant to political history. Differentiate between the principal theoretical approaches to political history, current debates and research orientations in the field in the Low Countries and abroad
3. Interdisciplinarity	Show informed and critical awareness of the intellectual underpinnings and contexts of political history and their relationships to other fields of study.
4. Communication	Demonstrate knowledge of the specific methods used to communicate information about one's field in scholarly / academic and public contexts
5. Professional Development	Show knowledge of the concrete ways which the political-historical perspective can be developed in professional situations and be of benefit to society.