

# Supervisor Forum SV-faculty PhD program

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**Supervised 10 PhD students**

**Opponent/member of PhD committee of 30 dissertations in 22 universities in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Estonia, Australia, Pakistan**

**Assessed Public Administration/Political Science departments and PhD programs in Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands and Estonia**

Webinar 19.2

# From Old School to New School

- **Old School - Dr. Philos. Until about 1990**
  - The doctoral project is the candidat's own individual own project
  - No structure, no organization, no training program
  - Few monographs in Norwegian
  - It takes time to finish the important and big thesis, no time limit
  - First you got a permanent position, then you started on the doctoral thesis. A national recruitment
- **New School – PhD. From 1990 (dr. polit. until 2008)**
  - The PhD student is member of a research group. The topic is often formulated by a professor or by a externally funded research project
  - A formalized structure, more follow up and more collective responsibility for the supervision
  - Many collection of articles in English, The Phd student is a trainee who should finish on time in order to start the real research career
  - A temporary position with uncertain career opportunities. More open internatiobnal recruitment

# Some experiences and suggestions

- **The PhD students are very different**
- **The professionalization of the PhD training is an improvement**
  - Need to strengthen the supply for PhD courses
- **Formalization and more collective responsibility for the supervision**
  - The starting seminar, mid-term evaluation and ending seminar, two supervisors
- **Research schools**
  - Discipline based or faculty based. Look to the Netherlands
- **Network building**
  - Participating on national and international conferences, research stay abroad
- **Building a critical mass, a cohort of PhD students**
  - Recruit several PhDs at the same time. Look to Gothenburg. Bigger departments

# Some challenges

- How to reduce drop-outs?
- How to finish on time? A 4 year university grant versus a 3 year NFR grant.
- How to avoid that the thesis is turned down?
- How to guarantee a high quality of the PhD dissertations?
- How to integrate affiliated PhD students without work places at the department?
- ‘Public sector’ PhDs. A new opportunity. Applied and relevant for employer but not second ranked PhDs?
- Paradoxes:
  - More resources on follow up on PhD students, but are more finishing on time?
  - More dissertations versus the quality of dissertations
  - The quality of the program versus the quality of the PhD students