

Erasmus Graduate School
of Social Sciences
and the Humanities

Annual report

2017

Erasmus Graduate School
of Social Sciences
and the Humanities

The Graduate School in 2017

2017 was another good year for our Erasmus Graduate School of Social Sciences and the Humanities.

We were proud to receive an Erasmus+ grant to work with other European graduate schools to improve multidisciplinary doctoral education combining social sciences and humanities. We are also excited by our ventures into the new world of e-learning and by our still growing offer of methodology courses.

Our PhD community continued to thrive and embarked on a peer-to-peer programme to help each other making the most of their PhD-years. We are happy that our Supervisory Board has recognised the quality of our school and granted us with another five years of funding.

The future looks bright and we are looking forward to maintain and expand our spirit of collaboration and academic excellence.

Our school is built on four pillars:

- 1. A multidisciplinary and excellent research culture*
- 2. Solid Services in training and supervision needs*
- 3. In- and external collaboration*
- 4. Sound governance and administration*

The 2017 results for these four areas are presented in the following pages.

Multidisciplinary and excellent research culture

1. In 2017, EGSH developed 8 new cutting-edge courses on multidisciplinary methods, for a total of 23.
2. The school obtained the following additional grants:
 - o A **€10.000 SNIP Award** (Support Programme National and International Research Projects) granted by the EUR board, in order to prepare an Erasmus+ funding application.
 - o A **€400.000 EU Erasmus+ grant** awarded to improve PhD education. The grant enables the Graduate School to coordinate the Graduate SPIRIT (Graduate School Programme for International Researchers and Interdisciplinary Training) project.

The project is a consortium of nine European graduate schools with a similar profile. It will test a number of innovations regarding international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral training. The goal is to create a 'blueprint' from which graduate schools can select and implement elements according to their needs. The European partners are:

- o Loughborough University
- o Polish Academy of Sciences (IFIS PAN)
- o University of Helsinki
- o Université Paris Saclay (UVSQ)
- o University of Heidelberg
- o Central European University
- o KU Leuven
- o University Leipzig

Graduate SPIRIT kick-off meeting December, 2017



3. Graduate School Awards for PhD Excellence

EGSH PhD candidates conduct thorough research and publish in well-read academic journals. The yearly awards of the School are meant to showcase the best PhD work and to help excellent PhD candidates build their CV for, among others, NWO Veni grant applications.

In 2017, a record number of 71 PhD candidates from EGSGH's seven participating faculties and institutes submitted their work. Awards were granted to the following PhD candidates:



Best poster presentation

Marloes Lisanne Nederhand

Psychology (ESSB)

"Outcome feedback and reflection to improve calibration: A longitudinal study among high school students".

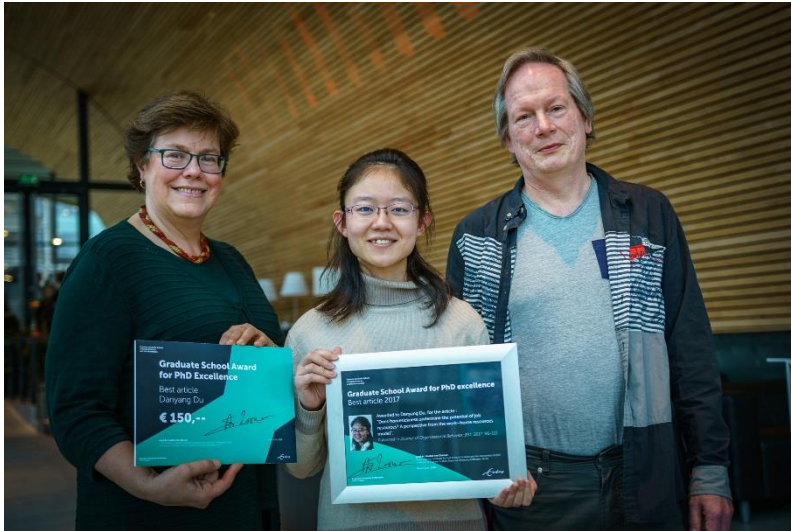


Best conference paper

Dara Ivanova

Health Care Governance (ESHPM)

"The Co-Laborator: laboratization practices in constructing places for knowledge production".



Best article or chapter

Danyang Du

Psychology (ESSB)

“Does homesickness undermine the potential of job resources? A perspective from the work-home resources model”.



Best dissertation

Mark van Ostaijen

Public Administration (ESSB)

Worlds between words. The politics of intra-European movement discourses.

4. A total of 43 PhD candidates graduated.

5. **The Dean's Master Classes** offer a showcase of research in the School. Three DMC were organised, on 'the City', 'the Brain' and 'Sustainability'.

Furthermore, two courses on Philosophy: 'Great thinkers of the 20th century' and 'Philosophy of the social sciences and the humanities' were offered.

Dean's Master Class: the Brain May, 2017



Solid services in training and supervision needs

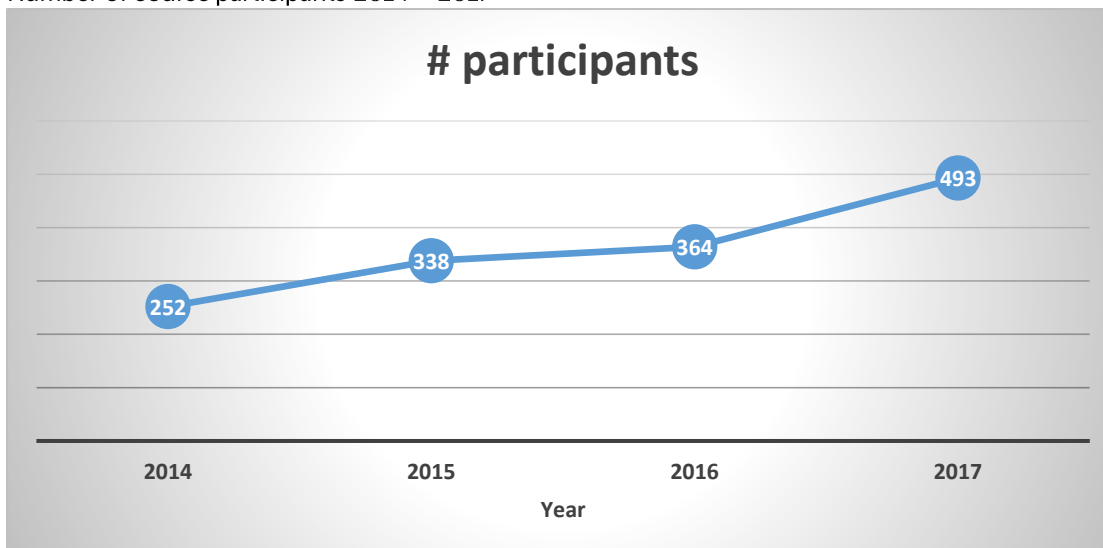
1. In 2017, a total of 43 courses and workshops were offered.
2. The development of courses offered from 2014 to 2017 is as following:

Number of courses 2014 – 2017



3. Participant details for 2017 were as following:
 - o 493 course participants
 - o A 35% growth compared to 2016

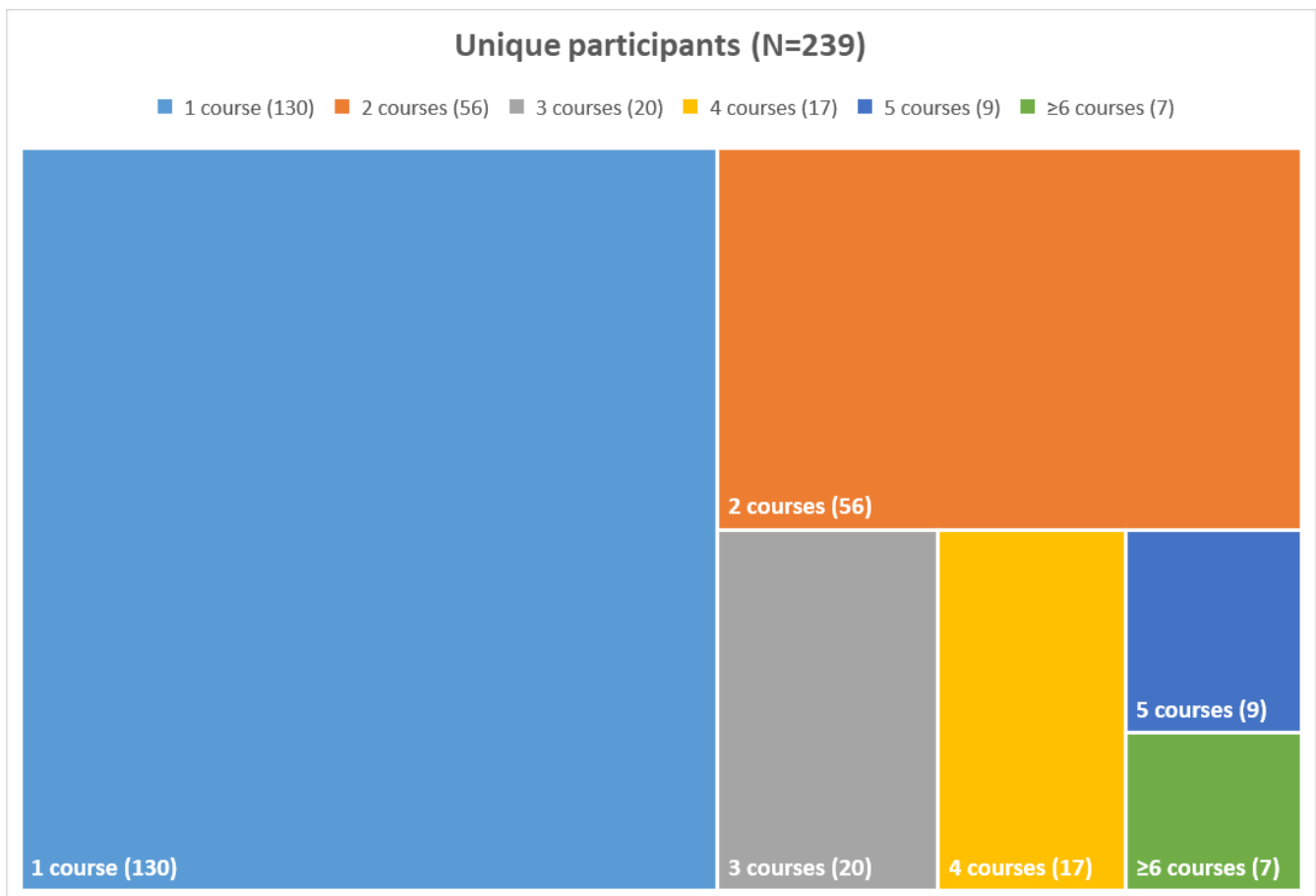
Number of course participants 2014 – 2017



Course participation per department 2017

<i>Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management (ESHPM)</i>	83	16.8%
<i>Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS)</i>	62	12.6%
<i>Psychology</i>	55	11.2%
<i>Sociology</i>	46	9.3%
<i>Public Administration</i>	45	9.1%
<i>International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)</i>	40	8.1%
<i>Media and Communication</i>	40	8.1%
<i>Pedagogical and Educational Sciences</i>	34	6.9%
<i>Arts and Culture Studies</i>	28	5.7%
<i>Other</i>	22	4.5%
<i>History</i>	12	2.4%
<i>Philosophy</i>	10	2.0%
<i>Erasmus University College (EUC)</i>	8	1.6%
<i>DRIFT</i>	7	1.4%
<i>N/A</i>	1	0.2%
Total	493	100%

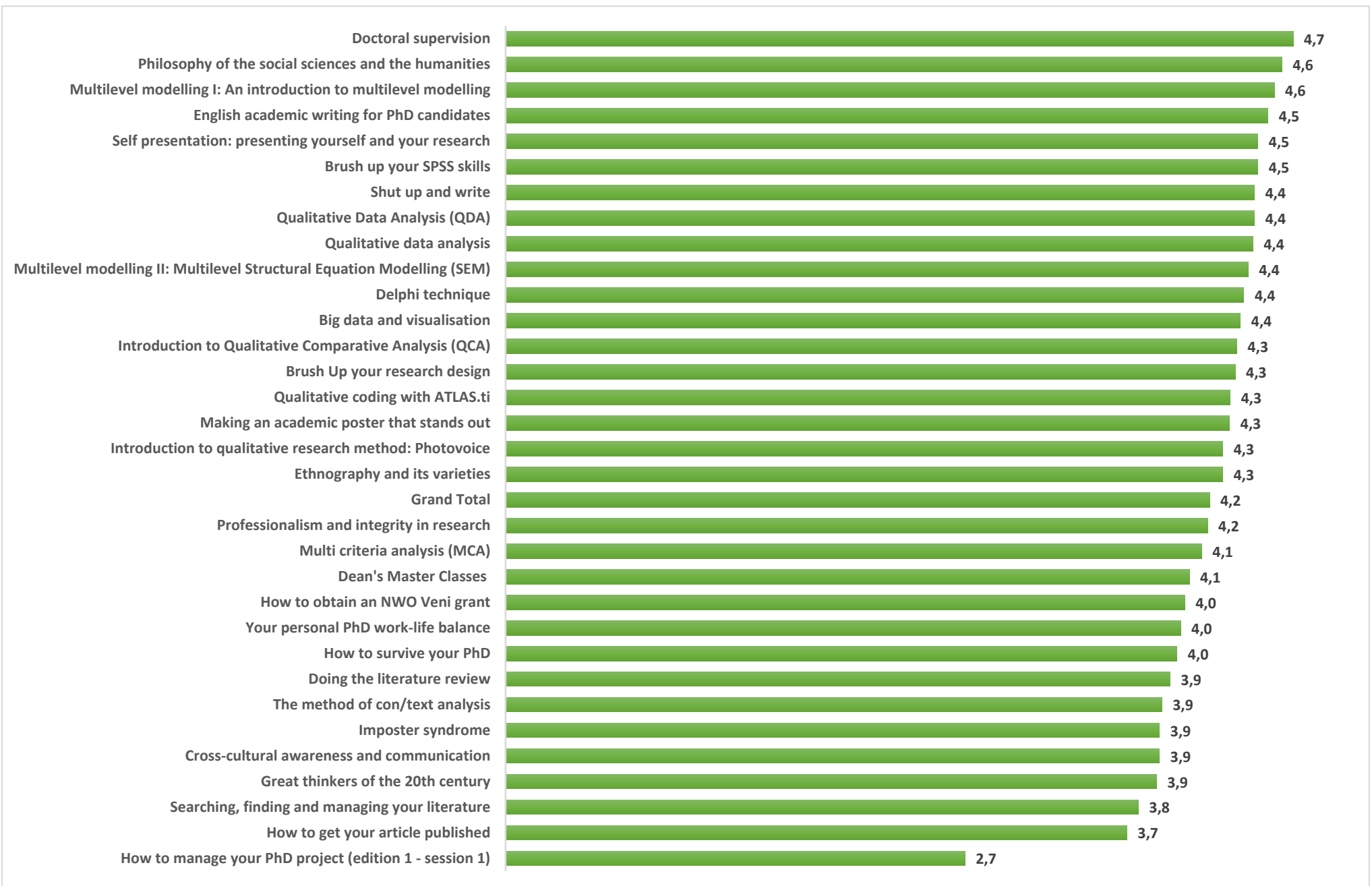
Course participation by unique participants 2017



In addition, the Graduate School offered two courses / workshops at Wageningen University.

- Wageningen School of Social Sciences
Workshop **Making an academic poster that stands out**
20 participants
- Wageningen School of Social Sciences
Course **Qualitative Data analysis**
20 participants

- 4. Courses and workshops were evaluated at a 4.2 on average (on a 5-point scale).**
The evaluation results of courses and workshops are shown on the next page.



5. Visibility of research and researchers

The school and its members (through the people pages) have a strong online visibility.

- o Key performance figures Graduate School website www.egsh.eur.nl:
2016 compared to 2017

Sessions

71.541 vs. 100.551

+40,55%

Unique visitors

51.019 vs. 69.062

+35,37%

Page views

197.562 vs. 244.211

+23,61%

- o Between 2015 and 2016, 6.034 brochures were downloaded from over 159 different countries. The brochure for the PhD programme Development Studies (ISS) was downloaded the most (48% of all downloads).

Top 10 countries for brochure downloads representing 51.9% of all downloads

<i>Netherlands</i>	734	12.2%
<i>India</i>	617	10.2%
<i>Ghana</i>	313	5.2%
<i>Indonesia</i>	306	5.1%
<i>Ethiopia</i>	280	4.6%
<i>Nigeria</i>	238	3.9%
<i>Kenia</i>	184	3.0%
<i>Zimbabwe</i>	164	2.7%
<i>China</i>	153	2.5%
<i>United States of America</i>	144	2.4%
Total	3133	51.9%

- o The Graduate School increased its cooperation with the EUR marketing department. As a result, the PhD programmes are now also actively promoted in the EUR master brochure.

EUR MA brochure 2017

From **master** to **PhD researcher**

Each year more than 300 academics complete their PhD at Erasmus University Rotterdam. All faculties have their own doctorate programme, which normally amounts to a four-year track during which you perform research on a particular subject under the supervision of a professor.

Completing a PhD is a requirement to become a university professor, researcher, or scientist in many fields. In the course of your PhD you will follow courses and workshops, and attend conferences, all geared towards enhancing your research and networking skills.

The Netherlands is known for its relatively flexible, or 'flat', management culture. This is reflected in the PhD environment as well, where candidates are considered fellow researchers and treated as colleagues rather than students. Positions for internal PhD candidates (with full employment status) are announced on the university's website and/or on academictransfer.com.

For more information on research and PhD opportunities, visit: eur.nl/english/prospective/phd.

"I like the idea that my research can really contribute to a more sustainable and resilient society."

Katharina Hölscher
PhD candidate

Katharina researches how societal change towards sustainability and resilience can be realised in long-term climate governance and translates her insights into policy practice.



6. E-learning

- o Together with Erasmus University Library, the Graduate School developed a series of e-modules that help PhD candidates acquire several skills needed during their research project.

The modules are related to search techniques, responsible data management, doing the literature review and measuring academic impact. The number of unique page views since the introduction is over 1700.

- o The following EGSH online courses (MOOCS) are under construction:
 - Introduction to Multilevel Modelling (MLM)
 - Multilevel Structural Equation Modelling (SEM)
 - Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

7. Cultural sensitivity

In order to make new (international) candidates feel at home the following actions have been taken.

- o The school offered a soft landing for starting candidates, including a site tour of the campus and a visit of the most relevant and attractive parts of the city of Rotterdam

Soft landing programme November, 2017



- o EGSB organised a campus wide training for PhD supervisors about diversity sensitive and inclusive supervision, see '[Doctoral supervision in a diverse, inclusive academic community](#)'.
- o The school implemented a peer-to-peer guiding system for newly arrived PhD members. 36 candidates enrolled as a volunteering peer.

They were able to follow the newly developed workshop Cross-cultural awareness and communication. A total of 12 of incoming PhD candidates requested a PhD peer.

8. Methodology consultant

The methodology consultant had 12 sessions with individual candidates, helping them with fundamental reflection and concrete directions for method and research issues.

9. Confidential PhD counsellor

The confidential PhD counsellor (Professor Sabine Severiens) was consulted once by a PhD candidate.

10. PhD career day

44 candidates followed 5 different workshops at the PhD Career Day on April 24.

Internal and external collaboration

1. Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM)

Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management has signed a two-year contract with EGSH, enabling ESHPM PhD candidates to follow EGSH courses.

2. Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS)

The Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies and EGSH have signed a collaboration agreement for the period 2017-2022.

3. PhD promotion events Beijing and Shanghai

The Graduate School participated in PhD workshops in Beijing and Shanghai. During the events, over 2000 prospective candidates scheduled 20 minute interviews with (academic) staff members of several universities.

Erasmus University Rotterdam was represented by three professors from Erasmus Medical Center and two staff members of Graduate School.

EGSH staff spoke to over 90 prospective applicants and collected valuable lead information from 50 prospects.

PhD workshop Beijing November, 2017



Sound governance and administration

1. The Supervisory Board confirmed continuation and financial support of EGSH for five years, starting on July 1 2017.
2. The Programme Board convened twice and agreed on the doctoral programme and evaluation reports.
3. The PhD Council presented the outcomes of a survey amongst PhD candidates. The report describes the composition of the PhD-community and the overall satisfaction with the PhD trajectory and the Graduate School. Suggestions were given for improving courses, availability and timing of courses.
4. The EGSH team was runner-up (2nd place) for the Erasmus University Rotterdam Top Support Award.

Looking forward to 2018

1. At a team reflection day (Dutch: Heidedag) decisions were made in order to consolidate quality of services and programmes.

EGSH reflection day September, 2017



2. The Graduate School will modernise its programmes by investing in e-learning and new didactical concepts, in close cooperation with faculties and in line with initial programmes.
3. In order to strengthen its relationship with alumni, EGSH will invest in research for best practices and develop and implement PhD's alumni policy.
4. All 277 EGSH PhD dissertations of past five years will be reviewed systematically regarding the research methodology, in order to adjust and / or develop a bespoke programme of method courses.
5. EGSH will strengthen its relationship with external partners; in close cooperation it will develop:
 - Methods courses for the new Research master European and International Criminology (ReMEIC).
 - A course on qualitative methods for the Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (NIHES).
6. The website will be expanded with a new section on how to efficiently start a PhD project within the Graduate School. These pages will include a (downloadable) PhD handbook, which will also be printed and distributed.

Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)

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