



PhD Chapter Annual Report 2016/17

Chairperson: Andrea de Giorgio

PhD Chapter at KTH

Annual Report 2016/17

The following annual report summarizes the most important activities of fiscal year 2016/17.

Board Members

The members of the board during the year 2016/2017 were:

- Andrea de Giorgio (Chairperson)
- Abderrahman Ait Ali
- Abdullah Khan – Joined at Winter meeting 2016
- Bahram Saadatfar – Joined at Winter meeting 2016
- Tage Mohammadat
- Milan Jocevski (Vice chairperson)
- Maria Nordström
- Omar Shafqat
- Daniele Valisena
- Liyun Yang (Treasurer)
- Muhammad Afzal

Goals / Focus areas for 2016/17

The PhD Chapter board agreed to focus on activities in three specific categories in 2015/2016:

1. Equality: increase collaboration between THS Central and the PhD Chapter vis-à-vis the PhD Chapter Board and the PhD representatives at school level
2. Quality: Focus areas, Course evaluations, clearer framework to time compensation for representation
3. E-Quality: Improve communication, website interface

The goals or focus areas for 2016/17 were based on a SWOT Analysis done in 2014/15 and they continued following the goals for 2015/16. Based on our strengths, we endorsed a more integrated and formalised collaboration with THS Central as well as actively initiating and funding events and projects. More active support was given to PhD school representation and training of our representatives, in particular the PADs.

Equality

The PhD Chapter has developed more activities that were aimed at attracting THS members and develop PhD students in a general area or soft skills. For example, we had a series of yoga classes throughout the year, some Pedagogical Meetups that were quite successful and two boot camps which were aimed at informing PhD students on their representations and rights at KTH.

Doktorandsektionen vid Tekniska Högskolans Studentkår

Drottning Kristinas väg 15 – 10044 Stockholm

<http://dr.kth.se> – chair@dr.kth.se



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The PhD Chapter has closed a deal on time-compensation with KTH central, in order to extend the PhD duration of a PhD representative and cover the time spent on the task. The decision is signed by KTH President and extends the latest agreement signed in 2002. PhD student representatives will share the equivalent of two PhD students' yearly contracts in terms of representation time per year, i.e. 200% time/year, or 100% time/semester.

The PhD Chapter has restructured their brand in order to become more inclusive. The result of a workgroup's survey and workshop is the definition of "Doctoral students' network", included in the PhD Chapter logo. As a secondary result, the values of THS (fellowship, progress, joy) have been adopted.

Quality

The PhD Chapter has defined a new version of the PhD Chapter Statutes and introduced the PhD Chapter Bylaws, aimed at fixing previous issues and improving the organization of the PhD Chapter in local branches called "PhD Student Councils" for each KTH school. PADs have been reorganized to answer firstly to the local councils and not directly to the PhD Chapter, in order to create a functional hierarchy, i.e. 30+ PADs to follow for a board delegate were too many, thus improving the overall structural quality.

The PhD Chapter has trained a new Master of Ceremonies to replace the existing one (Omar) getting close to graduation year. Continuity has been preserved, as the PhD Chapter Pub is indeed a very good tradition, well appreciated by many of our PhD students.

The PhD Chapter has overviewed the completion of the eISP and contributed with feedback to KTH, in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new system.

The PhD Chapter kept the issue of PhD courses on the KTH agenda regarding which were active and/or evaluated. However, as of June 2017 no conclusive list of active courses have been completed.

The PhD Chapter has covered about 13 different representation posts, in more than 60 meetings, such as the university board, faculty council, promotion meetings, research-education council, etc.

The PhD Chapter has collaborated throughout the year with the PhD Students Advisor at THS, in order to ensure that all students had a chance of being represented, even on personal cases.

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E-Quality

The PhD Chapter has produced a new website on KTH servers, namely dr.kth.se, which was populated with both all the info from the previous year (taken from same sections of the previous website) and new info custom-made to improve communication and transparency. For instance, all the meeting minutes for the year are available and information about activities can be subscribed with direct email notifications.

The PhD Chapter has maintained the previous facebook page and added a LinkedIn page. Every activity has been reported on all media channels.

The PhD Chapter has developed a KTH Social internal website for the Board management that is very easy to transfer from board to board, in order to retain information and transfer it.

The PhD Chapter has supported UKÄ by answering general quality surveys about PhD studies and found representatives at the school level to participate to dedicated surveys on KTH courses.

Economics

The PhD Chapter has increased their holdings from 390 789,45 SEK at the beginning of July 2016 to 395 207,30 SEK in the end of June 2017, meaning that the balance has been closed without any significant losses or gains, as per non-profit organization requirement. Kamratstipendiet has been awarded to three PhD Chapter members, from the THS scholarship fund at KTH which is therefore not accounted in our balance.

Stockholm, 2017-12-01,

Andrea de Giorgio
PhD Chapter Chairperson 2016/18