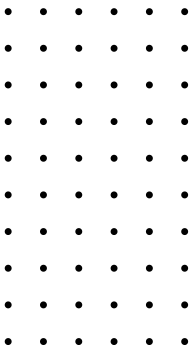
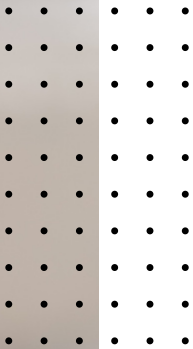




Cover: Cottonbro studio, pexels.com

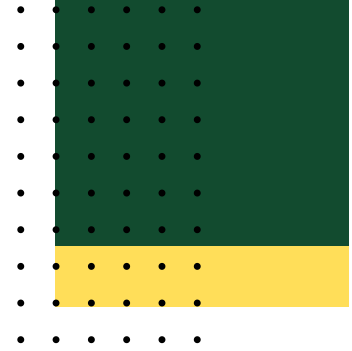


PLAN OF OPERATIONS

2023-2024



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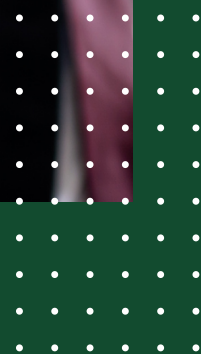
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BACKGROUND

The objectives of the PhD Chapter are to promote more effective and higher quality PhD education and research, promote a stimulating work environment, and improve the general conditions for the doctoral students at KTH. The PhD Chapter should also work toward fostering greater unity and fellowship among its members.

This plan of operations guides the executive work of the board for the operational year 2023/2024 and outlays the major goals and challenges that we currently see for this period. This document was reviewed by all current board members, some of which are part of the previous board, ensuring a degree of continuity in the activities.

This document is split into different categories, each of which has its own challenges, and has some areas that we would like to either continue working on or start new talks about these topics with competent authorities at KTH.

EDUCATION

As of July 2023, **KTH has been evaluating different scenarios on how to deal with its external campuses**, such as Kista, Södertälje and Flemingsberg. Among these scenarios, there are merges, closures and relocations of these campuses. **The final decision will undoubtedly affect doctoral students in both the short, medium and long term** albeit it is unknown whether such decisions will be beneficial or harmful. This PhD Chapter Board will evaluate such scenarios by gathering data from the affected doctoral students in relation to their research in order to properly create an opinion to be shared with the KTH's bodies.

Some of the previous works by the PhD Chapter are related to **KTH providing Swedish courses for PhD students**. There are many ideas regarding how this can be implemented (i.e., percentage of departmental duties vs credits on ASPs) and more input might be necessary for a proper decision.

Course-wise, we will continue the work on advocating for the FOFU (Forskning och Forskarutbildning) funding on third-level courses to be fixed in a certain percentage to guarantee the continuity and offering of the courses. Another topic related to courses is the process of time compensation and tracking for teaching assistants. It is currently not as effective as it should be, and this process might have differences even at division-level, and we should evaluate how to improve it.

Among other topics that we would like to see evaluated, there are the guidelines for internships for PhDs and the ones related to the anonymous exams that KTH is implementing soon, as it also affects PhDs in some courses. Finally, one of the major complaints that our PhD Ombudsman receives is related to supervision quality, and we intend to investigate this further.

FINANCES AND TREASURY

We intend to make the funding request process easier for PhD students by streamlining it digitally, and we hope that minor events organized by PhDs students themselves will be further organised and reach more students than the KTH-wide events the Chapter has organized previously.

We would also like to have some discussions related to the criteria for advancement on the doctoral salary ladder, as well as the values for each step.

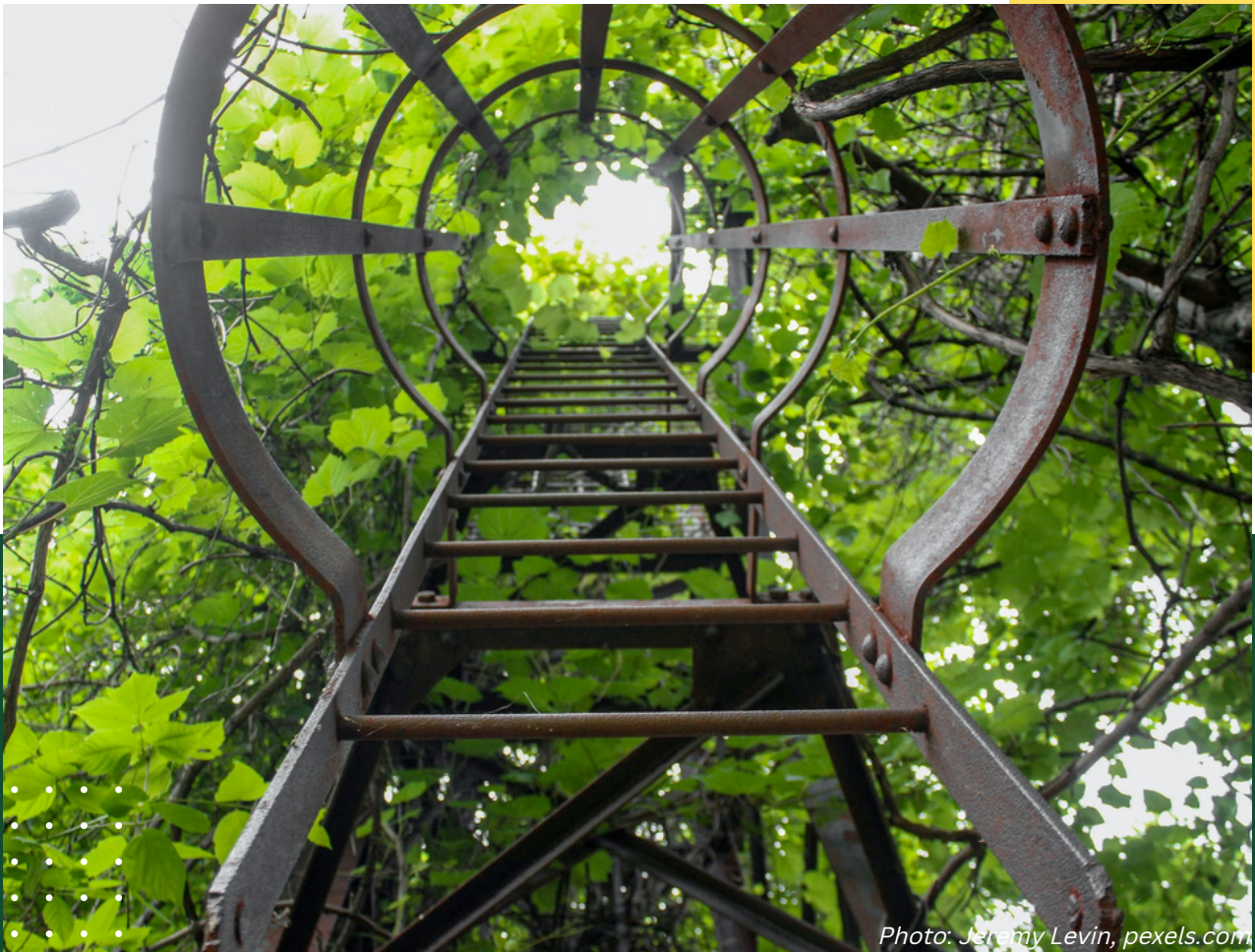


Photo: Jeremy Levin, pexels.com



COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL

The current board does not have an event manager, which is a possible hindrance to creating school-wide events. However, we have currently two Master of Ceremonies which enables us to host PhD Pubs, which are quite popular among the students. We also envision that T-Centralen should be open to all PhD students.

Other lines of work currently going on are **hosting the PhD Reception**, in collaboration with THS International, and **following-up on the onboarding process** by the PhD students at KTH. As of now, there are many initiatives inside KTH and it is necessary to keep track of what each one of them is currently offering for this process.

Concerning communication, **we will still use social media together with the website** to spread information related to the Chapter's activities, while keeping and improving our website with updated information. In parallel, we are **intending to have a newsletter** with content that allows students to be more engaged in our activities.

WORKING WITH COUNCILS

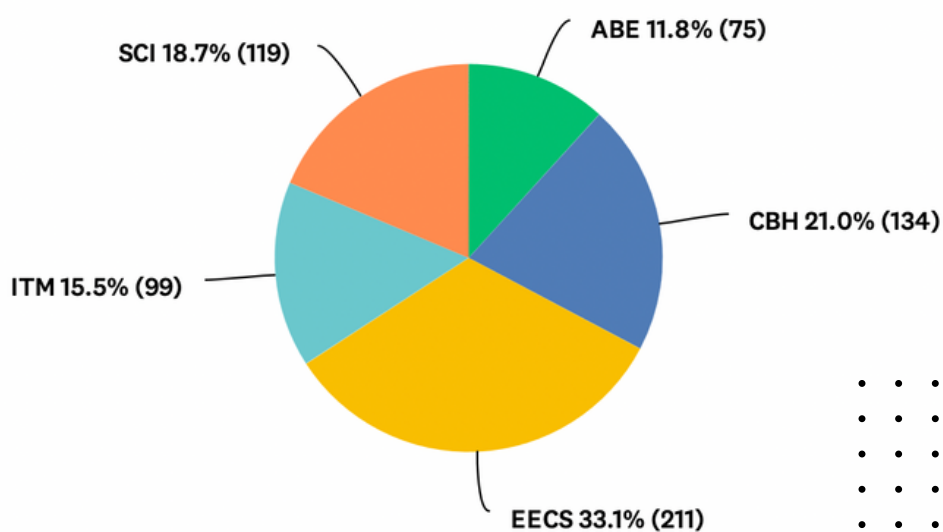
As the Faculty Council (*Fakultetsråd*) and the Employment Board (*Anställningsnämnd*) are likely to be closed centrally and switched to school-level by the end of 2023, **it is necessary to work together with the Councils** to figure out how to keep exerting student influence and, at the same time, learn how to deal with the specificities of each school.

We will continue dealing with time compensation guidelines at the school level and adjusting these guidelines according to the needs.

Another important point is to **leverage the PhD survey** that was conducted by the previous board and understand what are the critical points that need improvement at each school, and to offer Councils the hiring of translation services to help the discussion among KTH documents written originally in Swedish.

Q2 Which school within KTH are you assigned to?

Answered: 638 Skipped: 0



REPRESENTATION

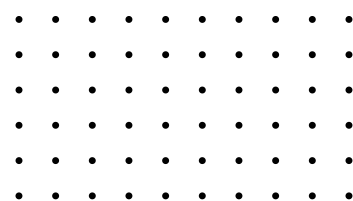
The PhD Chapter will keep doing its representation duties at the local level at KTH, and also joining forces with other student organizations when necessary, for issues such as the Migration Act.

These are the committees in which the PhD Chapter has a student representative at KTH:

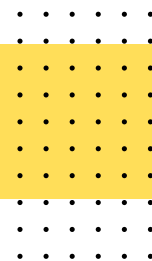
- University Board
- Faculty Council
- Employment Board
- Education Council
- Third Cycle Education Committee
- Equality Council
- ISP Focus Group
- Ethics Council
- Scholarship Council
- Language Committee

In addition, we also take part with Future Faculty errands - for the recruitment and promotion of professors - and the reading group of the General Study Plans (ASP).

At THS, we aim to be an active part of its internal committees, namely the Union Council (KF) and the Communication Council.



OTHER ACTIVITIES



SoYA

The Supervisor of the Year Award is awarded around May every year by the PhD Chapter. In 2023, we had over 50 nominations that were evaluated by a jury of 5 anonymous doctoral students. We are committed to have another edition in 2024.



Companies

The Business Liaison deals with connections between the PhD Chapter and companies, trying to bridge opportunities for PhD students.



PhD Ombudsman

The PhD Ombudsman at THS, Ingrid Iliou, is employed to give free support and to bring PhD issues to KTH, including funding issues and harassment. We will work together with her to improve the work environment of PhD students.

THE BOARD

This is the current board as of July 2023. Some members (Daniel, Ugne, Kiran) have a mandate until June 2024, while others (Fabio, Jana, Sahba) are departing the Board by the end of December 2023. Zoé and Andressa were elected during by-elections and their mandate goes until December 2023, although they were elected in June 2023.

The Chapter also have 3 functionaries at the Nominating Committee, 2 standard bearers and 2 Masters of Cerimonies.



Daniel Medeiros
Chairperson



Zoé Barjot
Vice Chairperson



Ugne Miniotaite
Education Manager



Andressa Mazur
Communications



Fabio De Ferrari
Treasurer



Jana Vasiljevic
Council Coordinator



Sahba Zojaji
Business Liaison



Kiran Chhatre
Webmaster

Photos: Public profile at KTH

FUNCTIONARIES

These are the functionaries of the PhD Chapter as of July 2023. Unlike the Board positions, these are not time compensated and are done on a voluntary basis.

One Master of Cerimonies (Susanna), the two Standard Bearers and the three members of the Nominating Committee have mandates until December 2023, while the Auditor and the other Master of Cerimonies (Saumey) have their mandate until June 2024.



Teodor Elmfeldt
Auditor



Doga Gürgünoglu
Nominating Committee



Mohammad Abuasbeh
Standard Bearer



Saumey Jain
Master of Cerimonies
Nominating Committee



Martin Karp
Standard Bearer



Vladilena Gaisina
Nominating Committee



Susanna Pozzoli
Master of Cerimonies

Photos: Public profile at KTH



**THE
PHD CHAPTER
AT
THS**

Drottning Kristinas väg 15 - 100 44 Stockholm

Organisation Number: 802412-5026

board@dr.kth.se | dr.kth.se