



LUNDS
UNIVERSITET
Institutionen för kommunikation och medier

MSc in Media and Communication

Thesis course (MKV M13 30 credits), Spring 2022: workshops

You are about to start on an exciting and demanding course where you will work independently on your thesis. The thesis is all about your work, meaning that independent study is a major focus of this thesis course.

This is a full time course, based in Lund, and you will want to devote much time and energy to your thesis, between January to the submission deadline in May. The resources for this course are primarily focused on supervision, the postgraduate symposium, the thesis seminars, and examination.

Along the way, we have designed a series of workshops that help you improve your thesis work, and encourage you to keep on track for the May submission. Look on these workshops as marker points in the thesis process; it helps to have dates in mind when you are managing your own schedule, for example the workshop on writing is designed to get you writing, or the workshop on analysis is designed at the stage when you are analysing empirical and theoretical material.

It also helps to share knowledge, concerns, and experience the craft of research with other people. This way, you will see that by attending the workshops everyone is going through similar issues when working on their thesis. Think about study groups, regular meetings, and reading and reflecting on each other's work. You will find this is invaluable support as you experience the process of researching and writing your thesis.

The workshops are designed for all students; the topics of presenting, writing, time management and managing stress, are general skills for your thesis. Workshops 1 is specifically there to help those of you presenting at the symposium, however you are all welcome to this; workshop 6 is specific to those students interested in doing a PhD.

Sign up for the workshops with the mentors, that way we know how many students will be participating and can plan the workshops accordingly. There is no preparation in advance beyond the work you are doing for your thesis; all the workshops are hands on, exploring the craft of research for student theses.

Workshop 1

Presenting Your Thesis: how to articulate your ideas at the Postgraduate Symposium

Professor Annette Hill

January 27th 10-12 in Zoom

<https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/68915101980>

This workshop is for those participants presenting their work at the Postgraduate Symposium 2022. The workshop explores different presentation skills for articulating your work to an academic audience. This is a hands on workshop where we will look at good and bad ways to present work, including using your voice, visuals and written texts.

Workshop 2

The Thesis Writing Process: Strategies for Inventing and Building Text

Dr Ellen Turner

February 3rd 10-12 am, Zoom and SOL: A121

<https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/66939172021>

Set yourself up to enjoy your thesis writing process this term! This workshop will help you organize a long writing process, use writing as a tool to think, and get words on the page in the early stages. Here we will also look at how to set up effective writing circles where you can support each other through the process. The longer you wait to write, the harder it often is to start!

Workshop 3

Writing a Literature Review

Dr Ellen Turner

February 17th 1-3 pm, Zoom and SOLA121

<https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/66939172021>

The literature review is an important component of any thesis--it helps you argue for why your research is important and presents an ongoing academic conversation about your topic. Distilling and synthesizing large quantities of research is challenging--even for experienced academics! This workshop covers the stages of a literature review, practical tips for organizing and synthesizing lots of research, and how to think about structuring this chapter in your thesis.

Workshop 4

Beyond Summarizing: How to Write (and Think) about Theory

Dr Michael Bossetta

February 18th 3-5pm, Zoom and SOL:A121

An academic essay is an argument, and theories provide you with material to make that argument. This workshop will teach you the best practices for using theory in an academic essay. Although there are many different theories, the general approaches for how to apply theory in writing are relatively straightforward. We will therefore go over

three common approaches to using theory in an essay: supporting an argument, explaining an empirical case, and criticizing an existing theory. We will also focus on how to cite theory in an effective literature review. By understanding how to apply different approaches to theory in your writing, you will improve your skills in designing and crafting an academic essay.

Workshop 5

Self-Managing the Thesis Work

Michael Rubsamen

March 10th 3-5pm Zoom and SOL:A121

This workshop addresses the personal challenges of working on your thesis. Writing your thesis can seem a tough challenge, and the best way of working through the tough challenges you face is by managing your workload, addressing stress, and feeling confident in your abilities. We want you to succeed and this workshop offers advice and support from someone who knows what it takes to survive the thesis.

Workshop 6

Doctoral Research

Dr Joanna Doona

March 23rd 3-5pm, Zoom and SOL:A121

Thinking of doing a PhD? Come along to this workshop run by Joanna Doona on what doctoral research can offer and how you go about applying for scholarships and other routes to advanced research.

Workshop 7

Does this Make Sense? Crafting and Revising a Text for Global Coherence

Dr Ellen Turner

April 1st, 9-12 am, Zoom and SOL: A121

<https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/66939172021>

The thesis writing process is often winding, yet the end result should be anything but! This workshop covers the mechanics of texts that readers say just "make sense!" and includes concrete revision techniques to help you craft coherent texts. Please bring a section of your draft that you want to work on -- you will test at least one revision technique during the workshop.