



## PhD Workshop

### Prof. Dr. Michael Burke

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The Netherlands

**Thursday, 19 April 2018**

9.00 - 12.00

Location: tbc

### How to survive your PhD thesis:

#### Strategies for (re)gaining control, regular writing and finishing on time

Being a graduate student can be hell. Having to write a PhD thesis can be anything from a drag to a drama. For some it can be an unmitigated disaster. Those who have been there have all experienced it. Just listen in and you will hear that gloomy voice inside your head asking those nagging questions: “What am I supposed to be doing?”, “Why am I doing the things the way I am?”, “Where is the help I was promised?” and the inevitable “Will I ever finish this thing and get my life back?” If you are on the point of taking your unfinished PhD manuscript and hurling it into the Neckar, don’t! Help is at hand. That help, perhaps unexpectedly, is you yourself, together with your fellow HGGS PhD students. This workshop entitled “*How to survive your PhD thesis: Strategies for (re)gaining control, regular writing and finishing on time*” will put you back in charge of what you are doing and why you are doing it. In the workshop, you will be taking a meta-level perspective of your own PhD project (and those of your workshop peers) which will oblige you to pose pertinent (and sometimes quite confrontational) questions with regard to your own research question, the rationale underpinning that research question, your methodology and your rationale for why you chose to go down that methodological route in the first place rather than another. Re-grasping (or in some cases just plain, old ‘grasping’) what your research design was all about (and hopefully still is) and what the role of critical thinking is supposed to play in your thesis writing process will be at the heart of this workshop, as will developing a serious strategy to getting lots of writing done in a habitual, gratifying and pain-free manner. This workshop is primarily for those PhD students in their second or third year. If you are in your fourth year and you are totally lost, best to sign up too. The workshop lasts half a day (two two-hour sessions) and requires some preparation. First, you will need to write a

two-page document about your PhD project which you will then submit (guidelines will be sent in due course). Next, you will have to do some preparatory reading and also give some initial feedback on the projects of your peers in the group. This groundwork will make for a productive session when we all meet. You will also be presenting for thirty minutes on your PhD project during the workshop and you will be receiving additional critical/constructive feedback from your peers and the instructor. After the workshop has ended, there will be a follow-up procedure so as to prevent a relapse into the shadowy labyrinth of PhD *Weltschmerz*. So sign up now and never look back.

If you are in your **2nd or 3rd year of the PhD**, you may register for this course.

You can sign up via email before 1 March 2018: [astrid.wind@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:astrid.wind@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de)

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***Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.***