

# Master thesis at the chair of Prof. Dr. Davidov

## Objectives of a master thesis at the chair of Prof. Dr. Davidov:

The aim of the Master's thesis at our chair is to write an empirical, quantitative, and theory-based scientific work in the form of an article. Please do not underestimate the challenge of presenting your research concisely and precisely. The information content of each paragraph must be higher in articles than in longer texts.

## Master thesis (general):

If you want to write your thesis at the chair of Prof. Dr. Davidov, the **first step** is the independent written formulation of your ideas and how to implement them in a 1 page "exposé". The master thesis should go much further in terms of method, content and concept than the BA thesis, and this should be evident from the exposé document. You should independently formulate your ideas about how you want to implement them in writing. This first document does not need to clarify all the questions that will arise during the research process (see, for example, the document on our website "How to prepare a theory-driven, quantitative empirical study"). However, it should be a cohesive text, and you should at least address the following aspects:

- Which topic do you want to work on?
- Describe some / selected findings / theories of social science research available on their topic (with references).
- What do you find particularly interesting / remarkable / conspicuous / implausible / in need of clarification / etc.? Or, where do you see a research gap?
- Formulate one or more ideas on how to build on this.
- Which survey data do you want to use for the analysis? Which methods?
- Where do you need support for now? What questions do you have?

In sum, an exposé should be concise and clear. It needs a theoretical framework leading to a research question (often a single question), 2-3 hypotheses deriving from the theory with a mechanism underlying the hypotheses, a dataset to be used, sample, the variables to be used, and the method of analysis.

Please submit this document with your contact details. An associate of the chair will contact you. We will decide whether we can accept your master thesis for the supervision, or if and how we can support you. If not, you will receive information on how to improve your exposé.

If you are studying according to the examination regulations of 2015, please note that the final module examination (Modulabschlussprüfung) consists of a presentation in the exam colloquium / thesis seminar ("pass" or "fail") and a final thesis (graded). It is therefore essential that you register via KLIPS.

It is advisable to attend a course of the supervisor before deciding to write a master's thesis at the chair.

We recommend that you write the thesis in English, as the writing of English academic texts is an essential skill in current research practice.

If we can take over the supervision of your bachelor thesis, please fill in the registration form together with the employee of the chair as a **second step**. This will determine the exact wording of your topic and the starting date of the process. Please read the [notes on the formal design of a thesis](#) and make sure that your Master's thesis does *not* exceed 8,000 words (all inclusive) plus appendix!

Then the **third step** would begin: the preparation of the master thesis. This process is now well prepared and will be supervised by an employee of the chair. When ready, you have to hand in your work to the examination office on time.