

## **State of PhDs in Public Administration and Political Science**

Presentation and round-table

A PhD is the highest research qualification, suggesting a researcher can demonstrate (s)he has mastered the state-of-the-art in a field. But what exactly is the state-of-the-art in a field? What are in practice the standards in dissertations the dispersive fields of public administration and political science? And what are the experiences of PhD-candidates working on their dissertations, aiming to meet those sometimes elusive standards?

The Netherlands Institute of Governance has made an inventory of the state of PhDs in public administration and political science which we will present today. 189 recent PhD-theses from 13 Dutch and Flemish universities have been coded and analyzed, aiming to grasp common standards, but also diversity and unique characteristics, of theses. With this, we sketch a clear picture of emergent standards in PhD-writing. Additionally, focus-groups have been held with (former) PhD-candidates, revolving around crucial issues such as supervision, stress and the proverbial second reviewer, but also about accomplishments and pride.

At this presentation and round-table, NIG will present the outcomes of the State-of-PhDs and discuss the findings and their relevance with PhD-candidates and senior faculty. We aim to strengthen the common ground on which PhD-research can flourish.