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The integrated Newsletter of the European PhD on Social Representations and Communication  
and of the So.Re.Com. THEmatic NETWORK

## EUA-CDE/Universities of Austria Co-operation Workshop "How to Assure Quality in New-Style Doctoral Studies?"



Universities Austria and the EUA Council for Doctoral Education have organized an international conference on the theme 'How to Assure Quality in New-Style Doctoral Studies?' The one-day event took place at Vienna University of Economics and Business on Thursday 29 October 2009. It was attended by several members of the EUA-CDE (including Annamaria de Rosa, who regularly participates in the events aimed to debate the doctoral reform). Improving the quality of doctoral education in Europe has been the main objective of a number of initiatives at national and European levels in recent years. However, the special character of doctoral education can make the setting of standards for quality in doctoral education more complex and difficult compared to the first and second cycles.

The recent global economic and financial crisis has even more highlighted the importance of research and education as crucial drivers of sustainable economic and social development. High quality doctoral education is a key to strengthening research capacity and competitiveness of each country. Improving quality of doctoral education in Europe has been the main objective of a number of initiatives at national and European levels in recent years. However, the special character of doctoral education, and diversity of its organizational types make the setting-up of standards for quality in doctoral education more complex and difficult compared to the first and second cycles.

The conference focused on three questions related to the quality of doctoral education:

- What kind of internal institutional quality policies and procedures are in place in your institution?
- How do quality standards and procedures in the third cycle differ from the first and second cycles?
- What indicators do internal quality assurance procedures follow?

### Editorial News



We are delighted to announce the publication of Annamaria de Rosa's article "**Promoting Joint European/International Doctorates in a global scenario: Opening the European PhD on Social Representations and Communication to the World**". In M. Gaebel, L. Purser, B. Wächter, L. Wilson (Eds.) 2009 **Internationalisation of European Higher Education. An EUA/ACA Handbook**, (HBI 1 04 09 11 C.2.4. pp. 1-35) RAABE, Berlin. Stuttgart.

The paper describes the recent development of the So.Re.Com. Euro PhD's innovative curriculum, which has taken full advantage of integrating the European Joint doctorate with the world wide So.Re.Com. thematic network of excellence, combining face-to-face and on-line initial research training with the support of modern communication technologies to build a virtual campus spanning the globe.



## European PhD on Social Representations and Communications: Announcement for the a.y. 2010-2011



It is with great pleasure that we inform that the [announcement for a.y. 2010-2011](#) of the European PhD on Social Representations and Communication is now available on our website. The deadline for submitting the on-line application ([www.europhd.eu/Registration](http://www.europhd.eu/Registration)) is 10th May 2010. The So.Re.Com THEMatic NETWORK Partners and colleagues interested in the scientific field are kindly invited to disseminate this announcement among the potential applicants and invite their best students to apply.

The European PhD on Social Representations and Communication represents a progressive educational curriculum for training early stage researchers through research in a scientific and paradigmatic field inspired by the Social Representations Theory and Communication studies. Although having a special focus on Social Psychology and media studies, it draws in a wide scientific community across continents and many disciplines dealing with social sciences and it has created a Thematic Network of Excellence approved by the European Commission (<http://www.europhd.eu/SoReComTHEmaticNETWORK>)

The European PhD, coordinated by Sapienza University of Rome, includes 17 universities in 9 European countries (AT, CH, CZ, ES, FR, IT, PT, RO, UK) 5 universities in North America (Canada), Latin America (Argentina, Brazil) and Asia (China), 1 French National Research Institute, 1 social sciences foundation (Maison des Sciences de l'Homme) and 3 SMEs in 3 EU countries (IE, IT, SE). The joint diploma is issued by Sapienza University with the signature of the rectors/presidents of the six universities which jointly confer the degree: University of Rome Sapienza (IT), University of Aix-en-Provence, the University of Montpellier III "Paul Valéry" and University "Lumière" Lyon 2 (FR), University A I. Cuza of Iasi (RO), and Masaryk University, Brno (CZ).

The Research Trainees have then access to a large number of academic infrastructures and are followed by 1 national and 2 international tutors in at least 3 of the above mentioned countries. Moreover, at the European PhD Multimedia Lab and Research Centre in Rome they will participate in innovative scientific and didactic activities like the International Lab Meetings and Summer Schools using technologically advanced resources.



## So.Re.Com.THE.NET. @-NEWS and online Event Agenda

### So.Re.Com.THE.NET. @-NEWS

All So.Re.Com.THEmatic NETWORK partners are kindly invited to post information concerning editorial news, launching of new projects, call for partnerships and events of general interest to the participants in the European Ph.D. programme and the wider So.Re.Com. THEMatic NETWORK scientific community.

### So.Re.Com.THE.NET. online Event Agenda

Among several new applications we have installed on our European Ph.D. web server using Google Calendar, the on-line So.Re.Com.THE.NET. Events Agenda will announce and disseminate information concerning various types of scientific and training events (seminars, lectures, research group meetings, methodological training, etc.) organised in and outside the European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab and at So.Re.Com. THEMatic NETWORK partner sites.

Please send the information you wish to disseminate via the So.Re.Com.THE.NET. @-NEWS and the on-line So.Re.Com.THE.NET. Event Agenda to:

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