

PhD Programme 2020-21

October 2020

[note the possibility of revisions in times of COVID-19]

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INTRODUCTION

CERES is the Dutch research school for the field of International Development. Its members include academic staff and their PhD researchers in Development Studies or in associated disciplines or interdisciplinary fields in the social sciences, such as anthropology, sociology, political science, economics and geography. The School was founded in 1994 by six academic institutions and currently includes ten member institutions, including one in Belgium (Flanders). It has established links with many other universities and research institutes in Europe and in the Global South.

CERES currently serves three main functions:

1

Provide educational opportunities specifically tailored to PhD researchers working in the interdisciplinary field of Development Studies or on issues of development (it is the only accredited research school in the Netherlands that offers such specifically tailored research training).

2

Organise and convene lectures and events to promote the field of Development Studies in the Netherlands and Belgium.

3

Provide researchers and research managers in Development Studies and allied fields with a tool to measure and evaluate research output performance in a plural and interdisciplinary manner, but also in a way that is conventionally recognised by formal research quality assessment exercises.

The following programme addresses the first function. In this respect, 2020-21 is a year of renewal and innovation for CERES given that we are expanding our PhD course options in response to demand from many PhD researchers and member institutions for more PhD-level teaching tailored to Development Studies, which is the comparative advantage of CERES and where it adds value to its members.

In addition to its longstanding **PhD Training Course** oriented towards first-year PhDs, CERES is offering an additional **Course for Post-fieldwork PhDs**, a one-day **Workshop on Research Problems** for starting PhDs, as well as two **thematic courses** (one on ontology and the other on security in fieldwork). The course calendar is as follows:

November 2020

One-day workshop on research problems/questions for starting PhDs

February 2021

One-week module for post-fieldwork PhDs

February-March 2021

Ten-lecture course on ontology

March-June 2021

The annual PhD Training Course

June 2021

Two-day course on security

We would like to offer these courses in person although due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, at the moment we need to prepare for the prospect of offering these as only online courses until further notice. Two tuition fees are presented to reflect both residential (in person) and non-residential (online) options, in addition to tuition differences for PhDs from member and non-member institutions.

Note that, in general, institutions pay, not the individual PhD student.

COURSES

1. One-day workshop on developing research problems and questions

Tuesday 17 November 2020, 10h30-12h00 and 14h00-15h30

Teachers: Dr Andrew M Fischer and Dr Gemma van der Haar

Location: Online via Zoom

Tuition: Free for member institutions; 100 euros for non-member institutions.

Description: This workshop focuses on the art of asking social scientific research questions by rooting these in the identification and specification of research problems. It is designed for PhDs who have recently started their degrees and as a primer for the full PhD Training Course.

2. One-week module for post-fieldwork PhDs

1-5 February 2021 (precise dates and times to be confirmed)

Course coordinator: Dr Andrew M Fischer

Invited lecturer: Dr Raul Pacheco-Vega (see <http://www.raulpacheco.org>)

Location: (most likely) Online

Tuition (online): Members: 200 euros; non-members 400 euros

(If residential: Members: 600 euros; non-members 1200 euros)

Description: This course is designed for post-fieldwork PhDs who are in the writing-up phase of their degrees, including the processing and analysing of data. It is being piloted for the first time this year by popular demand – the idea comes from consultation with PhDs, who noted that they generally do not have any courses offered for this later phase of their degree.

The course focuses on topics such as:

1. Moving from proposing research to presenting what you researched;
2. Writing up fieldwork results (writing analytically, linking theory with evidence, and triangulating results);
3. Presenting qualitative and quantitative data in written output;
4. Developing a writing practice.

In principle, the course is equivalent to 4 ECTs of course work, although as this is a new course, it needs to be approved by the PhD's respective authority.



3. Social Ontology and Political Economy

Tuesday 23 February – 23 March 2021 (two lectures/day every Tuesday for five weeks)

Teacher: Dr Karim Knio

Location: Online via Zoom

Tuition: Members: free; non-members 500 euros

Description: This course aims to emphasize the necessity and desirability of embedding thematic and empirical research within ontological debates to produce rigorous scholarly research. It introduces students to fundamental debates in social ontology and highlights their subsequent implications on political economy analysis. Namely, the course focuses on two important ontological debates in their own right before it develops a cartography which charts their intersection, then this cartography is subsequently situated within the classic debate on neoliberalism in critical political economy literatures. In so doing, the course not only demonstrates how different approaches interpret and articulate neoliberalism, but it also reflects on the making of theoretical approaches in their own right. This should provide doctoral students with various analytical skills to help them in appropriately navigating through various academic literatures as well as situating their own research.

In principle, the course is equivalent to 8 ECTS of course work, although as this is a new course, it needs to be approved by the PhD's respective authority.



4. The CERES PhD Training Course

March – June 2021

Course leaders: Dr Andrew M Fischer and Gemma van der Haar

Invited lecturers (so far confirmed): Dr An Ansoms, Prof Ajay Bailey, Jo Bascott, Prof Arjun Bedi, Dr Kristen Cheney, Prof Thea Hilhorst, Dr Rosalba Icaza Garza, Dr Karim Knio, Prof Rivke Jaffe, Dr Ben Radley

Location: Residential (tba) or online via Zoom

ECTs: 16 (full course) or 4 (3rd module)

Tuition:

Full Tuition

PhDs from member institutions: € 2500 (€ 1000 if online only)

PhDs from non-member institutions: € 5000 (€ 2000 if online only)

Tuition for Module 3 only

PhDs from member institutions: € 600 (€ 250 if online only)

PhDs from non-member institutions: € 1200 (€ 500 if online only)

Description: The PhD Training Course is the classic centrepiece of the CERES offering, designed for PhDs in their first year from member institutions across the Netherlands and Belgium (Flanders), although PhDs from non-member institutions are also welcome. The course provides them with a unique learning experience and is specifically tailored to support PhDs in preparation for the defence of their research proposals at the end of their first year, or for Research Masters students who wish to gain insight into this stage of doing a PhD. A range of issues is considered, relating to epistemology and ontology, positionality and subjectivity, philosophy of science, and an overview of the spectrum of interdisciplinary methodologies and methods that researchers commonly draw from in Development Studies, both quantitative and qualitative.

Two additional objectives of the course are to cultivate a general and shared understanding about what it means to do a PhD degree in the field of Development Studies, from the perspective of both theory as well as empirical research, and to cultivate a support network among the annual cohort of first-year PhD peers, which participants can continue to rely on throughout their PhD trajectory. The course also provides a safe space for PhDs, where they can discuss their research openly and creatively with their peers and senior researchers who are not (necessarily) in their supervision team.

The course begins in mid-March with an opening day at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague (or online if not possible), followed by four modules of four to five days, ending in June. Participants are expected to be resident during these modules (unless online). Three of the modules will be in a resident retreat setting and one at the ISS, where participants will be accommodated at the ISS residences. At the fourth and last block, PhDs present their proposals and receive feedback from their peers and teachers.

Participants are expected to attend all four modules, in addition to the opening day at ISS and one 'come-back' day in June. However, an exception is made for the third module at ISS, which is focused on methods. PhDs not involved in other parts of the course can participate in this module as a stand-alone. The residential tuition fee includes food and accommodation costs.

Member institutions recognise the Training Course as contributing 16 ECTS towards those required for a PhD degree (the 3rd module, if taken alone, is worth 4 ECTS).

Outline (precise dates to be confirmed in November 2020)

Introduction Day: early-mid March

1st Module – Proposing Research in Development Studies: end of March / early April

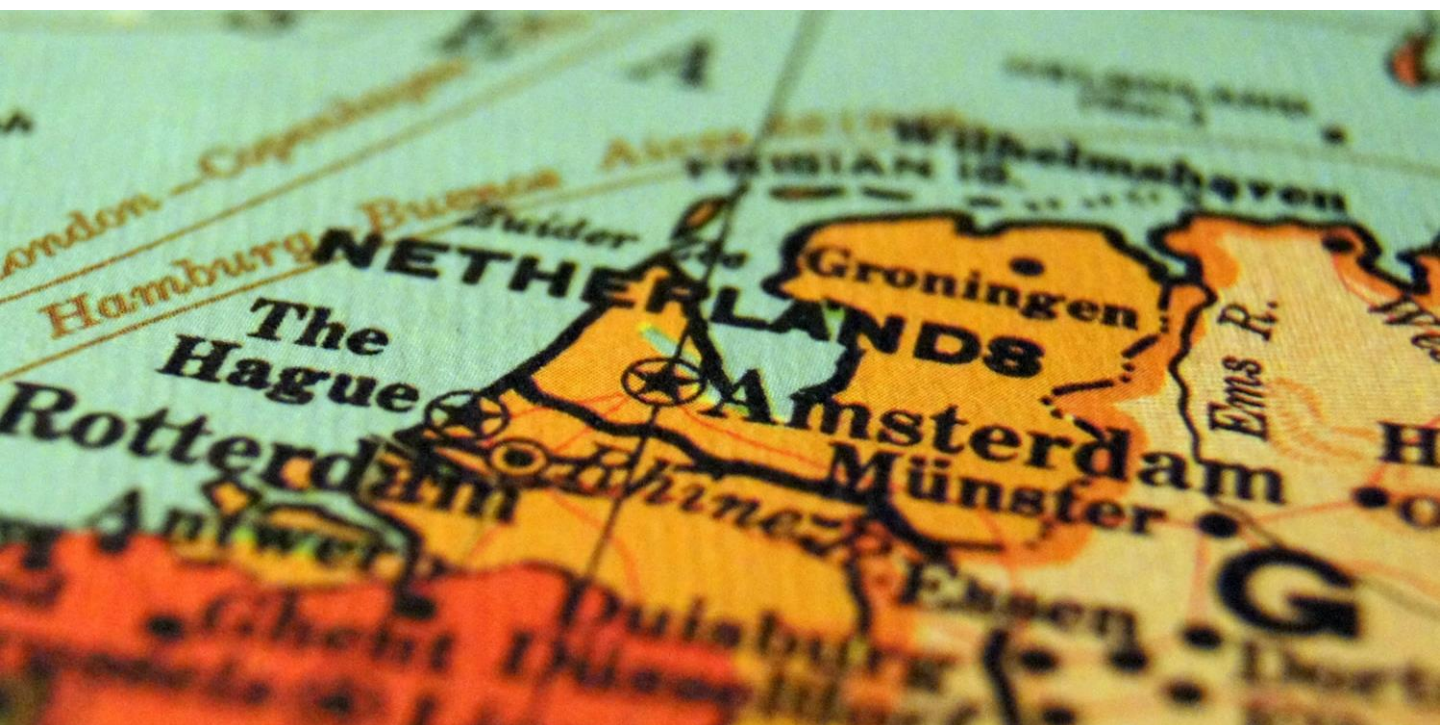
2nd Module – Moving from Questions to Methodology: late April

3rd Module – Overview of Methods in Development Studies Research: late May

'Come-back' Day: early June

4th Module: Presentation Tutorials: mid-late June

A detailed programme with confirmed dates will be released in November.



5. Safety and Security for Fieldwork Research

9-10 June 2021

Lecturers/Trainers: Rodrigo Mena, Prof Dorothea Hilhorst, Linda Johnson

Location: In-person if possible (location tba), if not online

Tuition (non-residential): Members: free; non-members 400 euros (online 200 euros)

ECTs: 1.5

Description: When conducting field-based research or fieldwork, researchers often operate within complex and dynamic social and political contexts, and derive their data from that environment. Both the quality of research and the security of the researcher are a function of how well-planned the research is, taking into account the local context and the risk environment.

This course is designed to assist researchers in conducting their research in hazardous, remote or complex environments as safely and securely as possible, both for those working within their home country, or as foreigners. It aims to improve personal security and awareness and security planning skills when conducting field research.

The course is equivalent to 1.5 ECTs of course work towards those required for a PhD degree.

For more information, please send an e-mail to: ceres@ceresresearchschool.nl

