

Writing Your Proposal for Doctoral Research in Social Sciences and Humanities

This series of workshop aims to help you think deeply about research possibilities and about different ways you can design your study such as determine the focus and methodology for your research, contextualize your research within scholarly conversations, and within a particular historical period and political economy and think about the expertise and motivation that you bring to your research project.

In this course you will:

- Develop your PhD research questions and describe how this project is going to advance the field of Khmer Studies and/ or Southeast Asian Studies.
- Write your literature review (analysis of scholarship relevant to your project)
- Write your methodology (what you will do to answer the research question)
- Write about the ethics and potential significance of your research
- Develop an annotated bibliography

Target participant: Doctoral students who want to sharpen the skills as Khmer Studies researchers and scholars over the long term. The selected participants will be contacted by the organizing committee member.

Plan of workshops

Workshop 1

27th February – 3rd March

Topic & Research Questions

Venue: Kampong Cham

What do you want to study? The puzzle that interests you may arise from personal or professional experience, the scholarship you have read, or the issues you teach. Once you focus your "problem" or "puzzle", you are ready to write your research questions. They should be well-defined. The questions may change during your research, but for the proposal you need a clear idea of what you are looking for and why it is of relevance to the broader field and to what extent it will contribute to it.

Workshop 2

22nd– 26th April

Literature, Theory, & You

Venue: Kampot

Which ongoing scholarly conversations in journals and books and reports [from a Ministry, an NGO, World Bank] does your research relate to most closely? What will be the contribution of your research to these conversations?

Workshop 3

3rd – 7th June

Methods, Data, Ethics, & Writing

Venue: Battambang

How will you gather and analyze your data? What exactly are you going to do and what is your timeline? What data will that generate? What are the ethical commitments that are important to your research and writing? What to do if things do not go according to plan, for example, limited data (i.e., no access or not very interesting), new information that takes you to another direction, etc.

Workshop delivery mode:

This series of workshop will be led by Associate Professor, Dr. Jenna Grant, University of Washington, USA, currently a U.S. Fulbright Scholar at Royal University of Phnom Penh (2022-2023) and local and international mentors to support participants in-between the workshop.

Application Deadline: 10th February, 2023

Registration Form



Organized and supported by



Association for
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* All expense are covered by organizer