Hamburg Financial Research Center

Doctoral Course

Planning, Writing, and Presenting Academic Research

Spring 2027

General Information

Lecturer:	Prof. Dr. Peter Limbach
Credits:	5 ECTS
Language of instruction:	English
Max. number of participants:	8
Course dates:	March 11-12, 2027
Location:	University of Hamburg
Participation fee:	700€ (Doctoral students) / 800€ (PostDocs)

Course Description

Excellent research alone is rarely enough to succeed in academia. Researchers compete for limited attention, conference slots, publication opportunities, and funding. At the same time, audiences are busy, readers skim papers, and even strong ideas can be overlooked or misunderstood if they are not communicated clearly and concisely. Communicating research effectively is therefore an essential skill for every academic. A second challenge lies in navigating the PhD journey itself. Doctoral students must identify promising research questions, decide which ideas to pursue, develop a coherent research strategy, and cope with the inevitable setbacks along the way. This highly interactive, hands-on course equips participants with practical tools to master both challenges. Participants will learn how to communicate their research persuasively and how to manage their research projects strategically throughout the PhD process.

This course will help you …

- Plan, pitch, and execute academic research more effectively
- Strengthen your communication skills, both written and verbal
- Improve your academic writing (e.g., crafting abstracts and introductions, facilitating skimming, creating flow, structuring papers, designing tables and figures, and refining your English style)

- Improve your presentation skills (e.g., slide design and presentation structure, delivery and body language, managing nerves, and handling questions confidently)
- Understand why concise writing and presenting matter, how closely the two are related, and which practices to adopt — and which to avoid
- Recognize that virtually every paper can be criticized, and what this means for your own research, papers, and presentations, as well as for your choice of topics
- Sharpen your economic and econometric reasoning
- Understand the editorial and peer-review process

Target Group

Doctoral candidates and early-stage postdoctoral researchers. The course is open to participants from all areas of business administration and economics (e.g., accounting, economics, finance, management, and marketing) and regularly attracts participants from related disciplines (e.g., data science, law, and psychology).

Prerequisites

Participants need some research to present – very early work-in-progress is sufficient. No need to already have a first polished paper.

Examination

- Actively participate in the seminar (e.g., hand in questions, provide feedback to others)
- Prepare a 30 second verbal elevator pitch of a research idea or paper
- Prepare a 6 minute presentation (pitch) of their own research, including the research question and motivation, hypotheses, empirical setup (data/tests) or theory (and maybe results)
- Write an abstract of 100-150 words of their own paper, current work or dissertation
- Not mandatory: Hand in one of their own research papers in order to discuss it in group

About the Lecturer

Peter Limbach is Professor of Finance and Corporate Governance at the University of Bielefeld and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Financial Research (CFR), Cologne, and the Hamburg Financial Research Center (HFRC). He holds a German Diplom (equivalent to an M.Sc.) in Economics from the University of Bonn and a PhD in Finance from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. During his doctoral studies, he was a visiting PhD researcher at the Rotterdam School of Management. Following his PhD, Peter worked as a postdoctoral researcher at KIT before joining the University of Cologne in 2016 as CFR Junior Professor of Investments. In 2020, he served as Acting Professor of Financial Economics at the University of Bonn, filling the chair held by Prof. Dr. Isabel Schnabel.

Peter has extensive experience in doctoral education and has taught PhD courses at the Universities of Bielefeld, Dortmund, Giessen, Göttingen, Hamburg, and Wuppertal. His research focuses on empirical corporate finance, corporate governance and sustainability, financial accounting, and financial markets. His work has been published in leading academic journals, including Management Science, The Accounting Review, and the Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, and has been presented at premier international conferences such as the annual meetings of the Western Finance Association and the European Finance Association. Peter also co-organizes one of Europe's leading virtual finance research seminar series and serves as Co-Editor of Management Review Quarterly.