



LUND UNIVERSITY

Humanities and Theology

INSTRUCTIONS

23 February 2012

Instructions for the public defence of a doctoral thesis

The Chair declares the public defence of the thesis open and first gives the floor to the author of the thesis. The author may take this opportunity to comment on significant flaws in the thesis but should refrain from going through typographical errors and other minor imperfections. These should instead be indicated in an errata list to be distributed to the audience.

The critical review of the thesis should begin with a short presentation by the faculty examiner, lasting a maximum of 20 minutes, of the main features and central theses of the work. It is important that the public defence of the thesis then develops into a dialogue between the faculty examiner and the author. This naturally requires the author to be frequently given the floor and that he or she takes the opportunity to speak. The faculty examiner should organise his or her presentation in such a way as to highlight the more important points first, regarding aspects such as structure, choice of methodology and theory, material and the viability of the study's results. Less essential criticism, concerning for example stylistic shortcomings, more obvious typographical errors and suchlike, should be presented last. The aim of the public defence is to review the author's thesis. The faculty examiner should not, therefore, use the time available to put forward his or her own material or theories.

The faculty examiner and the author are to ensure that the audience, including the members of the examining committee, has no difficulty understanding what is said. Both the faculty examiner and the author can use Power Point presentations, overhead slide projectors or a whiteboard to illustrate their arguments during the public discussion as required. The necessary technical equipment is to be requested in advance from the Chair of the public defence of the thesis.

The public defence of a thesis usually lasts approximately two hours and should not exceed three hours. The allotted time includes time for questions and comments from the examining committee and the audience. The members of the examining committee are given the opportunity to ask questions before the rest of the audience. The Chair then declares the public defence of the thesis closed.

The examining committee usually meets immediately after the public defence of the thesis. Its task is to assess whether the thesis is to receive a pass or fail grade. The committee appoints an internal chair. The faculty examiner and the main supervisor have the right to attend the examining committee's meeting and to take part in the deliberations but not in the decision.

There are no formal requirements for particular attire for the faculty examiner and the author of the thesis. For advice on suitable attire and other related issues, please consult the Chair who has overall responsibility for hosting the public defence of the thesis.