

## Newsflash: Inductionweek PhD students Faculty of Social Sciences

On Friday 22 and Saturday 23 September 2017 a group of fifteen new PhD students participated in the induction conference organized by the Faculty's Graduate School and Graduate Council. The conference was designed to teach the new PhD's about their program ahead and allowed participants to get to know each other.



## How to survive my PhD-project?

The impressive panel consisted of alumni and PhD students in the final stage of their project:

- Amber Boeynaems (PhD candidate)
- Evelyn Ersanilli (assistant professor Sociology)
- Sandra Hasanefendic (experienced PhD candidate)
- Dhoya Snijders (Researcher at STT)
- Michiel Verver (Lecturer at VU FSW-ORG)
- Gea Wijers (Postdoc researcher at WUR)

Questions related to supervision, authorship, planning, and future career paths resulted in a lively debate. At the end of the session, panel members shared their "golden tip for surviving a PhD project".



## Getting to know you & A Journey into the Unknown

The Graduate Council organized several useful workshops for this year's new PhD students. During the first workshop participants tried to find common ground between their projects. This appeared not an easy task: "Initially, we wondered why we sat together", mentioned one of the PhD's who presented the results of her team, "but gradually we discovered shared interests". For the second workshop A Journey into the Unknown, participants flipped cards with several PhD-related topics. These topics were discussed in teams and resulted in questions for the Alumni Panel Session.



## Planning ahead

On Saturday morning, Daniel Schut from Herz Training helped the new PhD's to plan the key stages of their projects early in the process. During the workshop participants created a planning taking them all the way up to the completion of their PhD.

## Questions or suggestions?

Email VU-GSSS: [graduate.school.fsw@vu.nl](mailto:graduate.school.fsw@vu.nl)



## Diner time

On Friday night, many a story was shared over wine at Boca's, downtown Amsterdam.

## Golden tips

- Formulate everything as a question (to yourself and to all around you).
- Find a hobby.
- Plan ahead: think of what your goal is and plan for that
- Your PhD is not your life, it is your job: it is not you that is criticized but your work.
- Talk to one another, you have similar concerns.
- Don't put all your eggs in one basket (if only to get inspiration from the other "eggs").
- Don't think about publications only, think about what your work means in the real world.