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Minutes Coordinating Committee Meeting – OTSEM II – Helsinki 2017

Corinna Körting (Network-coordinator – Hamburg/Germany); Eliza Allen (PhD student-representative); Göran Eidevall (Uppsala/Sweden); Anne Katrine Gudme (Copenhagen/Denmark); Kristin Joachimsen (Oslo (MF)/Norway); Anja Klein (Edinburgh/UK); Tsaurayi K. Mapfeka (Post-Doc representative); Martti Nissinen (Helsinki/Finland); Jessi Orpana (Post-Doc representative); Saana Svärd (Post-Doc representative); Timo Tekoniemi (PhD student-representative)

1) Reflections on the current meeting

News from the PhD Students:

A major point is communication, in terms of sharing information:

Many questions occur if PhD-students participate the first time at a meeting; information about papers, questions on how to communicate with respondents etc.

The network-coordinator stresses the *importance of the local members*. The know the network and they know the students attending the meeting. They should inform about character and content of meeting. This includes the use of the website as well. The local representatives need to inform the new PhD students about the character of the papers, give them advice regarding content and style (see website).

Respondents could make it easier for new PhD-Students and start getting in contact.

The PhD students are satisfied with the organization of the discussion.

Esp. well functioned a suggestion of the last OTSEM meeting: "*Chairs* might encourage the PhD students to start the discussion before senior scholars participate in the discussion. In addition, chairs may be a bit more active, meaning, have questions in their pocket, just in case the discussion needs further input."

News from the Post-Docs

The Post-Doc group has two new representatives: Jessi Orpana (Helsinki) and Tsaurayi K. Mapfeka (London).

The Post-Doc group is satisfied with the organization of the discussion.

Reflections in general

The number of post-doc papers should be not more than one third of all papers.

Sometimes the critique of respondents and audience was experienced as a bit too sharp. Think of constructive critique.

Regarding accommodation: Hosts should inform beforehand if rooms are to be shared or if there is a choice of sharing or not sharing a room.

A welcome hour in the beginning, where PhD-Students and Post-Docs could get to know each other, is desirable.

The length of the conference with an extension of one day, has been discussed. However, it is up to the local hosts, if they can provide accommodation for longer conferences. Finances have to be taken into account as well.

2) Finances

The participants of the Helsinki conference are very thankful for the financial support the hosts were giving. The phd-students could stay in Helsinki for free.

Financial support, esp. for Post-Docs is an ongoing problem.

An existing network, GGGU (U4 – Göttingen, Groningen, Gent, Uppsala) should have been checked in terms of additional scholarly competence for the OTSEM network and financial support – contact with Groningen. Yet, until now the network coordinator was not successful. She will carry on with her efforts.

3) Organisation of the next meetings:

2018: Oslo (MF); 7-9 Sept (Friday to Sunday)
2019: London; 6-8 Sept (Friday to Sunday)
2020: Göttingen
2021: Lund

4) Homepage

The homepage collapsed due to server-problems. It has been installed anew and put on a new platform. Dennis Koch from Hamburg did a very good job installing the homepage and he continues taking care for it (giving out passwords, uploading information).

The local representatives are asked to take care that the member list is up to date.

The institutions are asked to inform about/invite via homepage for research seminars.

Possibilities for short time research stays shall be noted.

5) Any other business

Morning prayers are no part of the regular program.

At the next meeting, 2018 in Oslo, a new network coordinator needs to be elected.

Corinna Körting