

## Dissertation guidelines of the Department of Socioeconomics

Updated version of the guidelines for cumulative dissertations at the Department of Socioeconomics dated 6 March 2010, submitted to the Department Conference on 26 June 2024.

A dissertation in the form of a monograph stands for a comprehensive and in-depth examination of a topic. A cumulative dissertation is a work that consists of a compilation of several articles in or for peer-reviewed journals. Due to the time savings compared to extracting articles from a monograph, it offers a starting advantage for doctoral students working in article-focused disciplines.

Both formats are open to doctoral candidates in the department. Each has specific advantages and disadvantages that vary depending on the subject, the personality of the doctoral student, and the working culture of the supervisor.

The following rules apply to cumulative dissertations in the department of Socioeconomics.

- A cumulative dissertation consists of at least three publishable articles. The assessment of publishability is the responsibility of the supervisors and the members of the doctoral committee. Articles that have already been published or accepted for publication in international peer-reviewed journals are automatically considered publishable. We recommend that doctoral students to use the WU and department journal lists as a guide, but do not consider them to be exclusive.
- All articles deal with the same overarching topic. The dissertation consists of the articles plus a short outline explaining the interrelationships between the papers.
- The doctoral candidate should be the first author of articles that are part of the dissertation project. In order to determine the candidate's contributions, statements must be provided by all co-authors that clearly indicate which parts are theirs and which are not. As a general rule, at least one of the articles in a dissertation should be a single-authored paper.
- The articles that are accepted as a cumulative dissertation cannot be the subject of a further examination (e.g. a cumulative habilitation) in the version contained in the dissertation.
- As a general rule, co-authors of articles included in the cumulative dissertation should not be members of the doctoral committee responsible for evaluating the dissertation. However, they can always be members of the Supervisory Committee.

These rules apply to new doctoral students in the Department of Socioeconomics from winter semester 2024/25 onwards. For doctoral students who started their doctoral studies before the winter semester 2024/25, this current version of the guidelines can be applied if both the supervisory team and the doctoral student agree. In all other cases, the policy introduced March 6, 2010 applies.