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Information for writing your Master thesis with Prof. Debjani Bhattacharyya

Preconditions and Process:

Attending one of my classes before deciding on your Master thesis topic is highly recommended. It is ideal if you have written a MA seminar paper with me. I supervise Master Thesis in the following areas:

- Anthropocene and Planetary histories
- Themes in Environmental history
- Climate History
- Energy, Decarbonization and histories of the Global South
- Colonial and Postcolonial Histories
- Ecological Economics
- Indian Ocean histories

If you have ideas that fit the research focus of the Chair for the Anthropocene Studies but are not included in the above outlined themes, please feel free to come and speak with me about it.

If you are interested, please make an appointment with me during the first two weeks of the semester to discuss your idea with me. 4 days before our first meeting you will e-mail me a title and a short outline with a clearly defined research question, your historiographical and methodological approach and it should include the primary sources you plan to work with. Please add a short list of reference. This document should be between 2-4 pages. Please provide each document with the following details: Name, address, student ID no. (Matrikelnummer), email address and phone number, major and minor subject. Once we discuss the topic and accept your Master thesis proposal, you must book the Master Thesis module (Masterarbeit) before the end of the normal booking period. After the booking period, you will receive a link to a database from Student Services of the Faculty of Arts (Studiendekanat). Please enter your name, provisional title, and Prof. Bhattacharyya as your supervisor into this database.

It is expected that within the next weeks of booking the module you will rework your initial proposal/outline, with a well-formulated research question, a deeper discussion of the theory and methods as well as a discussion of the historiographical intervention. This will form the basis of our meetings during office hours, and this will allow me to offer you helpful feedback. It is also expected that you will actively participate in the Master- und Doktoratskolloquium for a minimum of two semesters (incl. a presentation of your research project, sources, first findings, and writing samples). This colloquium must be booked once as *Kolloquium Forschungsdesign* and once as *Masterkolloquium*.



Scope of the thesis:

Your thesis should be around 60-90 pages (150,000 to 225,000 characters) of text including footnotes (without bibliography) and include a signed Selbstständigkeitserklärung.

Submission:

Please submit your thesis in digital format as a single pdf document (Lastname_Shorttitle_Date.pdf) to [debjani.bhattacharyya \[at\] hist.uzh.ch](mailto:debjani.bhattacharyya@hist.uzh.ch)

Deadlines

If you wish to graduate in the Spring Semester, the Master Thesis must be handed in by 1st June. If you wish to graduate in the Autumn Semester, the deadline is 1st December.

Style guides and further information

For English-language Style Guide please follow this comprehensive document from the UZH-ETH Language Center:

https://www.hist.uzh.ch/dam/jcr:2c18b293-84dd-4b5f-b38d-c55741ccb3f6/Style_guide.pdf

“Kompass Geschichtsstudium” on general guidelines for academic writing in German at the Department of History:

<https://www.hist.uzh.ch/de/studium/Studienrelevante-Dokumente/kompass.html>

Content guidelines and forms such as declarations of authorship, can be found here:

<https://www.hist.uzh.ch/de/studium/Studienrelevante-Dokumente/richtlinienformulare.html>

For more information on the Master’s Thesis and graduation procedures please visit the websites of the Department of History and of the Faculty of Arts:

<https://www.hist.uzh.ch/de/studium/masterstudium/Aufbau/abschluss.html>

https://www.hist.uzh.ch/de/studium/masterstudium/Aufbau/abschluss.html#Masterarbeit_und_Forschungskolloquien

https://www.phil.uzh.ch/de/studium/studentenservices/abschluss/master_HS19.html