

Department-specific Recommendations for Article-based Dissertations in Sociology

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To ensure the high quality of dissertations submitted at the Department of Sociology and to increase the employability of doctoral candidates on the academic job market, the members of the department (“Fachgruppe”) have agreed to the following recommendations for article-based dissertations. While these recommendations are not legally binding, they are supposed to provide students and advisors with a framework for what the Department of Sociology considers the standard for dissertations in our field. Ultimately, the advisor and the candidate should come to an agreement early on in the process what the exact expectations for a dissertation are. The recommendations do not override or alter the *Regulations and Procedures Governing the Doctoral Dissertation to Earn a Doctoral Degree in Social Sciences at the University of Mannheim* (Version: 27 June 2013)¹. The recommendations build on the regulations and specify the following points for article-based dissertations:

1. An article-based dissertation should consist of approximately three individual, substantive chapters (“articles”) that each make a clear scientific contribution to the overall topic of the dissertation.
2. The goal of the dissertation should be to produce articles that can be published in high-quality, international journals in the field of sociology or its neighboring fields. Candidates are strongly encouraged to have submitted their articles for review at the time of submission of the dissertation.
3. In addition to the individual articles, candidates should include an Introduction/Discussion chapter that provides a coherent general framework supporting the research topic of the dissertation and lays out the contribution of the individual articles to this topic.
4. Single authorship for at least one of the individual articles is encouraged. The Introduction/Discussion chapter should always be authored by the candidate alone.
5. In case of co-authorship of articles, it is expected that all articles submitted as part of the dissertation were mainly written by the candidate.

¹https://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/media/Fakultaeten/sowi/Dokumente/Promotion_und_Habilitation/Promotionsordnung_2013_amendment_06_2016_en.pdf