

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENTIFIC LEGAL RESEARCH
- a practical and methodological instruction for doctoral students and young researchers -

Contents

§ 1 The doctoral thesis in legal science

- I. What is a scientific thesis?
- II. Why should I write a scientific thesis?
- III. What are the costs and dangers of a thesis project?

§ 2 The steps and stages of a thesis project

- I. Project planning and determination of the subject
- II. Familiarization with the subject and the relevant law
- III. Gathering and management of information and materials
- IV. Thorough scientific reflection and outline of the thesis
- V. Writing down of the thesis
- VI. Final review of the thesis

§ 3 Intellectual standards for a scientific thesis

- I. Standards of intellectual authenticity and originality
 - 1) Intellectual honesty
 - and the current fight against plagiarism...
 - 2) Intellectual independence
 - 3) The need for a scientific added value
- II. Standards of intellectual accuracy, consistency and precision
 - 1) Accurate information based on references
 - 2) Logically and dogmatically consistent structure
 - 3) Precise and logical reasoning in accordance with the rules and principles of legal methodology
 - excursus: fundamentals of (continental) legal methodology
 - 4) Intellectual coherence
- III. Standards of intellectual thoroughness
 - 1) Comprehensive consideration and appreciation of all relevant jurisprudence and literature
 - 2) Comprehensive discussion of all relevant aspects and arguments
 - 3) Getting to the bottom of the questions...

§ 4 Formal standards for a scientific thesis

- I. Introduction
- II. The formal structure of the thesis
- III. The scientific style of writing
 - 1) An objective and precise style of writing
 - 2) A structured, purposeful style of writing
 - 3) A concise style of writing
 - 4) But nonetheless a fluent and gripping style of writing

- IV. The art of scientific quoting
 - 1) The importance of scientific quoting
 - 2) Precision and accuracy as guiding principles of scientific quoting
 - 3) Scientific quoting of jurisprudence and literature
 - 4) Scientific quoting of other sources
- V. The formatting of the scientific text
- VI. Other formal standards

§ 5 Annex: Introduction to legal case-solving

- I. A scientific approach to legal case-solving
- II. The main principles of legal case-solving
- III. The analysis of the facts and question of the case
- IV. The drawing up of a draft outline
- V. The systematic solving of the case on the basis of the draft outline
- VI. The writing down of the case-solution
- VII. The formal design of the case-solution
- VIII. The final check
- IX. Exercises in solving cases and preparing own cases

More information on this course at www.thomas-schmitz-hanoi.vn For any questions, suggestions and criticism please contact me in my office (room B102) or via e-mail at tschmit1@gwdg.de.