Call for participation - research assessment and research quality in the SSH

The University of Geneva is organizing an interdisciplinary workshop for PhD and Postdocs researchers in the social sciences and humanities (SSH). The international workshop focuses on methods and challenges for the evaluation of SSH research projects, and also on the evaluation methods applied to careers of SSH researchers.

The goal of the project is to increase participants’ awareness of the different approaches of the evaluation of research. Indeed, researchers regularly undergo evaluation from peers on several occasions during various stage of their career. Prior publication or when submitting their research plan for founding, peer-review currently is the standard procedure. Beyond the impact on the researcher’s career, the evaluation also contribute to the overall evaluation at the level of the institution on the job market (extra funding, ranking, publications).

The workshop is addressing questions such as: Are there specificities unique to SSH evaluation? What are the stakes in the careers of researchers? What are the stakes for institutions in a context of increasingly strained budgets? The question how to evaluate SSH research properly – if such a concept can be identified – will be one of the main themes of the workshop where key aspects will be discussed with experts and decision-makers, including deans, evaluators and people responsible for funding organizations on a national and international level.

In this context, young researchers will investigate together to define a common basis for the evaluation criteria of quality research, and they will reflect on the specificities of SSH. The discussions will result in instruments that more appropriately assess the quality of careers and projects. Last but not least, the workshop will enable the participants to discuss the quality of their own research and the work of the others and exchange ideas with their peers about their paper.

The project is part of research program “Performances de la recherche en sciences humaines et sociales” (2013-2016, www.performances-recherche.ch) under the direction of the Swiss university rector’s conference and it aim to provide valuable insight to methods and instruments to make SSH research more visible and evaluate it appropriately.

Should you wish to participate in the September workshop, please send your application per email with a CV, a motivation letter (each max. 1 page) and an article or a book chapter (max. 20 pages) in English (French and German are also accepted) to Ms. Dilini Jeanneret (dilini.jeanneret@unige.ch) by the 31th of May 2016 (the workshop is limited to thirty participants).

For more information, please contact Dr. Alexander Hasgall (alexander.hasgall@unige.ch) or Ms. Dilini Jeanneret (dilini.jeanneret@unige.ch)
14th September 2016
18.30 – 18.45 Introduction
Laure Ognois, UNIGE

18.45 – 20.00 Podium Discussion: big data and the influence of social medias in SSH research assessment
Radu Suciu, UNIGE, Martin Grandjean, UNIL, Valentine Charles, Europeana Research (tbc), Franziska Heimburger, EHESS (tbc)
Chair: Laure Ognois

15th September 2016
09.30 – 10.30 Quality and Evaluation in SSH
Alexander Hasgall, Swissuniversities/UNIGE

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee Break

10.45 – 12.30 Qualitative criteria in SSH research
Sven Hug, ETHZ/UZH

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.30 Group Exercise Peer Review
Coordinators: Blaise Dupuis, Frédéric Goubier, Katrin Rücker, UNIGE
Chair: Alexander Hasgall, Swissuniversities/UNIGE

16.00 – 16.15 Coffee Break

16.15 – 17.45 Can we measure quality?
Discussion with Nicolas Zufferey, Maria-Pia Victoria-Feser, UNIGE
Chair: Laure Ognois

19.00 Dinner

16th September 2016
09.00 – 10.30 Basics of Bibliometrics
Lutz Bormann, University of Munich

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee Break

10.45 – 12.30 Evaluation and how to plan a scientific career in academia?
Paul Schubert, UNIGE/Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Nuria Sebastian Galles, ERC

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 World- Café: Drawing the „ideal“ career evaluation system for SSH
UNIGE- coordinators

16.00 – 16.15 Coffee Break

16.15 – 17.45 Can we measure quality?
Discussion with Nicolas Zufferey, Maria-Pia Victoria-Feser, UNIGE
Chair: Laure Ognois

19.00 Dinner

17th September 2016
09.15 – 11.15 Framework for project evaluation at SNSF: comparison to EU and Norway
Daniel Krämer, SNSF, Sévane Garibian, SNSF-Grantee, UNIGE (tbc)
Moderation: Alex Waehry (UNIGE)

11.15 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00 Grant-applications: Standards and strategies
Experts from the UNIGE Research Services

13.30 – 13.30 Closing remarks

13.30 Lunch