

## **Jens-Uwe Hartmann: Writing class for dissertations**

This class offers practical training in thesis writing skills. It is relevant to students of all our disciplines and will train advanced skills in academic writing. Starting points are the dissertations of the members of our Buddhist Studies program. We will consider questions such as:

- What is my basic research question? What is the purpose of my thesis, and what do I wish to demonstrate?
- How do I build a basic argument that answers the research question?
- Is the presentation of my material plausible and do the steps follow a logical and convincing order?
- What kind of material do I need to answer my research question? How do I combine argument with evidence?
- Do I sufficiently justify the order in which I present the material?
- Will an outsider be able to understand the purpose of my thesis and comprehend its logical structure?

These and similar questions should be raised at the outset of a thesis and repeatedly at all stages during the writing process. They are relevant not just for writing a thesis, but for all genres of academic writing. This class addresses doctoral students at all stages of their dissertation writing process and of all our disciplines. The aim is to examine the individual texts in view of the aforementioned questions.

Sessions are organized fortnightly and will last for 90 minutes. At each session, we will usually discuss the presentation of one participant only. Participants are obliged to circulate their presentation (which could be the introduction, the table of contents, an outline, or a chapter of their thesis, a research paper, an application for a conference, etc.) no later than one week before their session in order to allow for adequate preparation and facilitate fruitful discussion. The texts circulated before should not exceed 10 to 15 pages, and less is always welcome.

Newcomers to our PhD Program are always welcome to join the class, and they may do so without an immediate obligation to present something.