

## **Guideline *doctoral theses consisting of articles***

Faculty of Law, Radboud University

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1. Under the Doctorate Regulations of Radboud University, a doctoral thesis may consist of an academic treatise in the form of a collection of separate articles (Article 70). In the event the PhD thesis consists of a collection of academic articles, the PhD thesis includes an introduction to these that has not been published before and a critical reflection on the articles taken together (Article 70). A thesis may have multiple authors. In this case, the PhD candidate's independent input and contribution must be demonstrated (Article 71). The Faculty of Law defines articles as scientific treatises that are suitable for publication in journals and scientific treatises that have been or will be published in a different manner (such as preliminary reports and contributions to collections of texts).
2. The Faculty of Law expressly welcomes article-based theses. Completing the PhD trajectory in this manner shall be of equal value as writing a monograph. It is not always easy to make a clear distinction between an article-based thesis and a monograph written as a coherent whole. During the PhD trajectory it is furthermore possible to switch from writing a book to preparing a collection of articles, and vice versa. Writing an article-based thesis makes it possible to publish in stages about relevant and manageable subtopics. This approach allows the PhD candidate to participate in phases in academic debate. Commentary obtained on the basis of such debate can deepen his or her knowledge and understanding. The PhD candidate can update the article afterwards, but it is not an obligation. The choice whether or not to update, and the different ways in which this can be done, is a decision that the PhD candidate can make for each article.
3. The Faculty of Law at Radboud University applies the following Guidelines for obtaining a PhD on the basis of a doctoral thesis consisting of articles:
  - The doctoral thesis must consist of five articles, of which four articles have been published or have been accepted for publication by a journal's editorial staff;
  - Depending on the length, scope, quality and internationality of the articles, the doctoral thesis may consist of more or fewer articles. Given the sometimes long peer review process of (international) journals, the doctoral thesis may consist of fewer accepted or published articles;
  - It is ultimately up to the supervisor(s) to decide whether the whole of the combined articles with their introductions and conclusions has sufficient substance and scientific depth to warrant the candidate's nomination for a doctoral degree. Supervisors do not base their decisions on quantitative requirements but consider, among other things, the nature, quality and (international) character of the research;
  - The doctoral thesis must contain sufficient connective elements, including at least a previously unpublished general introduction with problem definition and a conclusion in which the connection is explained. To further clarify consistency, articles may be preceded by a brief explanation;
  - The doctoral thesis may contain articles written by several authors, in which case the doctoral candidate must be able to demonstrate an independent and substantial contribution as evidenced in, for example, a footnote or the author statement. A co-author may not take seat on the manuscript committee (article 34-2).
  - The articles may be updated but this is not required; At least the new concluding section reflects upon the current state of affairs;
  - If sections have already been published and are being updated, it is important to indicate whether and, if so, to what extent the version in the manuscript differs from the previously published version, e.g. in a short introductory or concluding comment;

- In cases where there is doubt or disagreement about the interpretation of the regulation, it is the Dean who will ultimately decide on the matter after consulting the Vice Dean of Research.

