

Professionalisation Seminar

Time & place: **Last Wednesday of the month** | 10:00-12:00 | Seminar Room 2

Convened by: **Waltraud Schelkle**, Joint Chair in European Public Policy

Administrative contact: **Olena Shcherbatiuk** (olena.shcherbatiuk@eui.eu)

Course Description and Objectives

This seminar meets on the last Wednesday of each month and provides doctoral researchers with an opportunity to explore key aspects of academic life and career development. Topics include, *inter alia*, orientation within the SPS PhD Programme, attending conferences, publishing, and navigating the academic job market. Sessions feature contributions from a range of faculty members and advanced postdoctoral fellows, and allow ample space for attendees' questions and active participation. The seminar is open to all SPS doctoral researchers and postdoctoral fellows, and it is compulsory for first-year researchers. It does not carry credits, and there is no final assessment. For each session, researchers are asked to submit written questions related to the designated topic via Brightspace at least two weeks prior to the seminar. These questions will be incorporated into the session.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this seminar, doctoral researchers will have deepened their understanding of key aspects of academic life and career development. They will be able, among other skills, to make the most of academic conferences, identify suitable outlets for their research outputs, design and deliver classes effectively, and manage competing time pressures. They will have gained essential insights to support them throughout their Ph.D. studies and beyond. These insights will enable them to make informed choices in shaping their academic profiles, and in building their professional careers.

Sessions

The following list of sessions may be slightly updated before or even during the term, in response to participants' interests and faculty availability.

1. **Introduction** (28/10/2026)
 2. **Overview of the PhD process** (25/11/2026)
 3. **Managing workload** (02/12/2026)
 4. **Doing research (ethics, collaboration, using AI)** (27/01/2027)
 5. **Networking and conferences** (24/02/2027)
 6. **Teaching** (31/03/2027)
 7. **Publishing** (28/04/2027)
 8. **Navigating the job market** (26/05/2027)
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