Cumulative dissertations & co-author

I. Cumulative dissertations (the PhD thesis is a collection of essays)

a) Rules at TiU level

The PhD regulations (enacted by order of the Doctorate Board, February 14, 2014) describe in Article 17 the rules that have to be applied in case the PhD thesis consists of a collection of essays.

Article 17
1. The thesis shall consist of either a scholarly discussion in book form or a collection of essays written by the PhD candidate or under his demonstrable and dominant co-authorship. The assessment of material already published shall be based on the existing knowledge at the time of the assessment of the thesis.

b) Rules from TSH

The rules described in the PhD regulations are completed by a set of rules specific to Tilburg School of Humanities

1) A doctorate can be obtained on the strength of at least four substantial academic articles that have been accepted for publication by the editorial board of peer reviewed journals (The PhD committee decides what journals are suitable for publication) and/or have been subjected to peer review at the moment that the manuscript is submitted to the PhD committee for assessment. (which means 2 articles accepted for publication and 2 articles “under review”)

2) The articles are connected.

3) The PhD thesis consisting of articles contains an introduction and an overall conclusion.

4) The PhD candidate is the first author of a majority of the articles. If articles are co-authored, the contribution of the PhD candidate to each article must be clearly indicated. Some of the articles may not be co-authored. The PhD committee ultimately decides in all cases.

II. Co-authoring

a) Co-authoring of an article / paper

For the mutual paper, the rules described in Article 18 of the PhD regulations should be used. For the dissertation as whole, regarding the mutual paper, the committee should assess the individual contribution each PhD made to that specific paper.

b) Co-authoring of a thesis (a joint thesis)

The PhD regulations (enacted by order of the Doctorate Board, February 14, 2014) describe in several articles (14 and 18) the rules that have to be applied in case of joint research project by two or three PhD candidates (co-author).

Article 14
4. Co-authors other than the (co-)supervisors cannot be appointed as members of the PhD committee

Article 18
1. In the case of a joint research project by two or three PhD candidates, the results may be set out in a joint thesis, provided the following requirements are met.

   a. Each of the authors has made an independent and clearly delimited contribution such as to merit the award of a PhD, as approved by the supervisor.

   b. Each of the authors bears personal responsibility for his contribution as referred to at a. as well as for the consistency of the whole.

   c. The thesis states what share each of the authors had in the writing.

2. In the case of a joint thesis, the supervisor shall submit a written statement on the share of each of the authors to the Doctorate Board, which must be signed by the supervisor and all the authors.

3. In the case of a joint thesis, the procedures and provisions of these Regulations apply to each PhD candidate separately.