

## **Introduction to the Research Dissertation: Masters level**

The Research Dissertation for the Masters degree in Gender Studies should be thought of as a substantive piece of research, independently imagined, and completed through an intensive, long-term, engagement with peers, supervision, and the critical field relevant to the research. While the final dissertation itself is unlikely to be publishable as it stands (giving the requirements of length, structure, and so on), the aim of the dissertation should be to lay groundwork for the writing of publishable material in the field of interest.

- Length: the Research Dissertation should be approximately 50,000 words in length, including bibliography, but not appendices.
- Deadline: for possible graduation in Dec, the Dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate Programme Office by early September of the given year. 2 copies of the Dissertation will need to be submitted unbound; three copies, bound. Notice of intention to submit the dissertation must be with the Office by July, if you hope to graduate in December.
- Supervision: you will work closely with your dissertation research topic Your primary supervisor will be located within the AGI. The choice of supervisor depends on your topic, and the availability of the supervisor. It may be useful for you to work with two supervisors, rather than one – this will depend on your topic, and the AGI faculty's areas of expertise. Supervision structures will be arranged in the first six weeks of Semester 1; from April onwards, you can expect to meet regularly with your individual supervisor.
- Examination: the Research Dissertation is examined by two external examiners, nominated by the AGI and accepted by the Faculty.
- Dissertation Development Support: beyond supervision, your research development will be supported in two ways. Firstly, you will be required to participate in a Masters level course on Gender Research Methodologies offered by the department. Secondly, you will be required to participate throughout the year in AGI-based research seminars, through which discussion of your own, and other researchers' work, will take place regularly.

**All enquiries should be sent to the Gender Studies Academic Programme Assistant, Wardah Daniels ([wardah.daniels@uct.ac.za](mailto:wardah.daniels@uct.ac.za)); African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town, P.O. Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700; Phone: +27 (0) 21 6504207; Fax: +27 (0) 21 6504840**