Summary minutes

13th Round Table for the Advancement of Junior Scholars at TU Berlin, 2nd July 2020

Topic: Completing doctoral and postdoctoral work under special challenges

Together with the TU-DOC Office for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Services, Vice President for Strategic Development, Junior Scholars and Teacher Education, Professor Dr. Angela Ittel regularly holds round tables to address topics relevant to junior scholars.

The round tables are part of the Strategy for the Advancement of Junior Scholars at TU Berlin passed by the Academic Senate in July 2018. The objective of the round tables is to open a dialog between junior scholars and target groups involved in the advancement of junior scholars at TU Berlin for the discussion and development of ideas and measures in this area.

The round tables in the summer semester 2020 accompanied the implementation of the Action Plan for the Advancement of Junior Scholars 2019/21 passed by the Academic Senate in July 2019, which contains measures for the advancement of junior scholars which are to be implemented in 2019-2021.

The 13th round table on 2nd July 2020, which was conducted via ZOOM, focused on:

Completing doctoral and postdoctoral work under special challenges

All participants contributed to an intensive and lively discussion of the topic and their contributions are reported in the following summary:

- Participants report uncertainties:
  - Due to the fact that there are no conferences going on at the moment, there are no possibilities for exchange and informal networking within the framework of such meetings and conferences
  - Exchange often only through personal initiative, e.g. through individual e-mails
  - Participants are recommended to attend courses at the ZEWK

- Current changes (more use of digital media in the organization of research and support measures) are helpful for external doctoral students and persons with restrictions, e.g. regarding their mobility, and should be retained as an option in the future.

- Participants ask about possibilities for Postdoc funding
  - DFG or Volkswagenstiftung / Freigeist-Fellowships
  - YAN - Young Academics Network for junior research group leaders and junior professors can offer support
  - Postdoc-Funding of the TU Internal Research Funding is an competitive internal funding offer
  - TU-DOC can offer individual counseling

- Participants ask about possibilities for PhD graduation scholarships
  - Overall, there are few offers for PhD graduation scholarships:
    - Stibet graduation scholarships for international doctoral students
    - Elsa Neumann/Nafög: but with major restrictions: if the doctoral candidate has previously received public funding for more than two years, the candidate is no longer eligible to apply; this also applies to scholarships e.g. from the DAAD or state scholarships
    - Scholarships from the Advisory Board to the Main Women's Representative
  - TU-DOC can offer individual counseling
Collection of links

TU Berlin Family services

Organizational aspects for everyday life:


Tips for a varied time:

- https://www.personalabteilung.tu-berlin.de/familie/menue/coronavirus_umgang_mit_der_aktuellen_situation/tipps_fuer_eine_abwechslungsreiche_zeit_zu_hause/

Studies / Media reports (selection)

General research productivity:


Measures regarding the prolongation of contracts:

- https://www.forschung-und-lehre.de/politik/bundesregierung-aendert-wegen-corona-pandemie-wisszeitvg-2683/

Women’s research productivity:

- https://www.faz.net/aktuell/karriere-hochschule/corona-bedoht-die-karrieren-junger-forscherinnen-16759399.html
- https://www.zeit.de/2020/20/wissenschaftler-ungleichheit-geschlechter-bewertung-coronakrise
- https://www.boeckler.de/de/pressemitteilungen-2675-23628.htm

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