



Guidelines for writing a “kappe” – PhD in Science of Professions

Section 11-1 of the Regulations regarding the Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) Degree at Nord University stipulates that ‘The thesis can consist of a monograph or a compendium of several smaller works.’ Under the Supplementary Guidelines for the PhD in Science of Professions, if the thesis consists of several smaller works, candidates must produce a “kappe” of which they are the sole author. The Norwegian word “kappe”, which is used in connection with article-based doctoral theses, has a wide range of suggested translations into English, for example “extended abstract”, “synopsis”, “framing introduction” or “summary article”. In this document, we have chosen not to translate the term, but use the Norwegian term “kappe”.

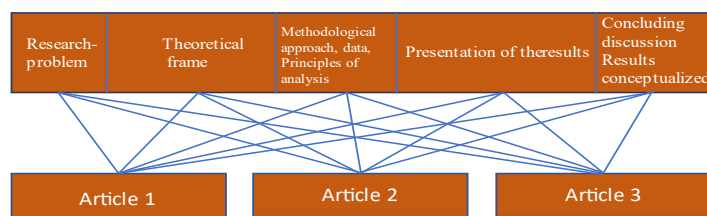
The kappe

The final work on the kappe should be undertaken towards the end of the PhD period. However, the kappe should also function as a synopsis of the work, and it should be worked on throughout the project so that the overarching perspective can be clarified at an early stage. This introductory work with the kappe can also help to shape the overarching perspective of the thesis. However, it is natural for the kappe to be modified as the form and content of the articles develop.

Overview of the kappe

The kappe serves as a compilation and synthesis of the research problems and conclusions presented in the articles in an overarching scientific perspective, thereby documenting the internal consistency and coherence of the thesis. This also includes a clarification of the thesis’ contribution to the research field. In addition to what is described in the component articles, the kappe must also include an account of the methodology and choice of methods in the research articles.

Kappe - Article based thesis




Candidates should consider the following recommendations for the kappe:

The arguments for the relevance of the research problem should be presented in the introduction, with the relevance of the subject placed in a social and research context. In addition, an argument shall be made for the thesis' relevance to the academic discipline of the science of professions, with a focus on one or more of the areas of language, relationships and actions. The purpose/objective of the thesis must be stipulated clearly and the reasons for choosing the research problem must be explained.



Research
problem –
expressed as
motives
(reasons
why)

Relevance and topicality:

- National guidelines
 - Research-based: document research needs (research gap)
 - Science of professions: why is the research problem relevant in or for the profession(s)
 - Other
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The research problem and research questions must be precisely formulated. Provide an argument for how the studies that are included illuminate/answer the research problem (meta perspective).

Research problems

The research problem is explored in three separate studies.

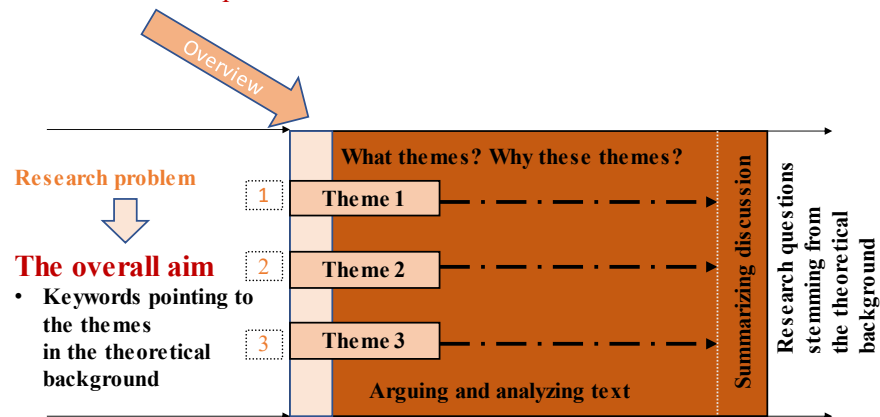
Study 1	
Study 2	
Study 3	

The kappe shall discuss how the theoretical framework for the thesis helps to illuminate/answer the research problem. It must also provide scope to enlarge on theoretical choices and considerations, including key concepts and one or more of the areas of language, relationships and actions.

There must be coherence between the theory used in the studies included and the theoretical framework of the thesis. If new theory is introduced, this must be integrated in a way that links the studies, thereby helping to establish a meta perspective for the thesis.

Theoretical background, literature review

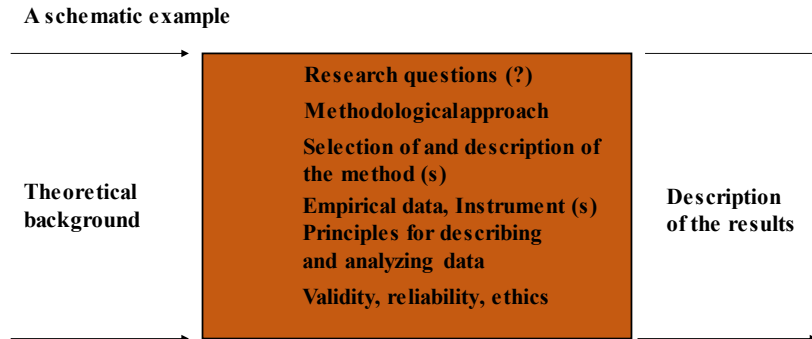
A schematic example



(Sven-Erik Hansèn-19)

- The thesis shall explain and justify how the methodology helps to illuminate/answer the research problem. This includes discussing the thesis' scientific theoretical basis, method choices, sample selection and data generation, data analysis and research ethics considerations and approvals.
- The kappe shall include a discussion of strengths and weaknesses, where the candidate addresses methodological and ethical challenges, such as their own role as a researcher, the robustness of methods and results, as well as limitations in the work that has been carried out.

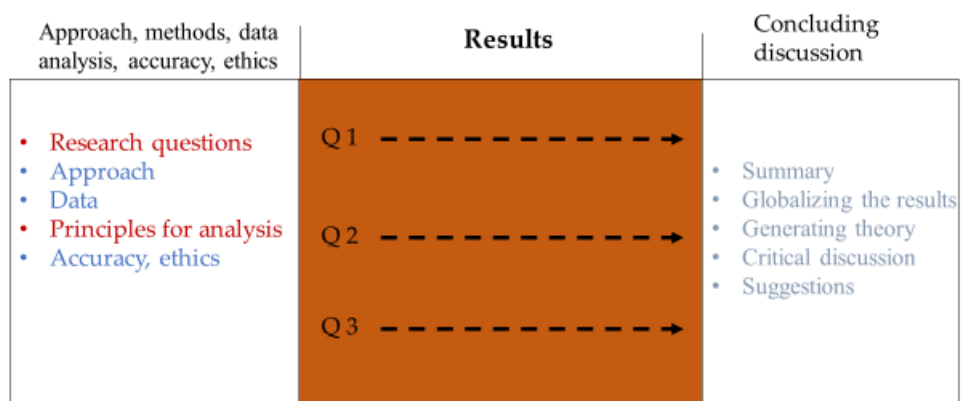
Research questions, method(s), data, description, analysis,
validity, reliability, ethics



(Sven-Erik Hansèn-19)

The results section of the kappe shall provide a brief and systematic account of the main findings in the thesis and refer to the findings in the studies (articles) included.

Organizing the presentation of the results



(Sven-Erik Hansèn-19)

Presentation of findings and the internal consistency and coherence of the thesis

- Meta perspective: how do the findings and conclusions in each study (article) help to illuminate/answer the research problem?

The main findings in the thesis are discussed in the context of the research problem and theoretical and methodological choices. The discussion on the main results/findings in light of the research problem and theoretical and methodological choices in the thesis must clearly demonstrate what new knowledge has been developed in the thesis. The conclusion must be clearly linked to the research problem in the thesis, and reference must be made to options for further research, including the implications for the academic discipline of the science of professions.

Synthesis

- Advance new insights and knowledge beyond what is presented in each study
- Coherence with results in the individual studies

References

All the references cited in the kappe are to be listed here and formatted according to the traditions of the relevant field of research.

Articles I-III (IV)

The articles are placed here as they appear in the published version or in the manuscript submitted for assessment.

Appendices

Supplementary documents/material that may be important for the thesis as a whole are added here. This could include questionnaires/instruments that have not been published, information leaflets, consents, agreements, approvals from the Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education (Sikt), Regional Committees for Medical and Health Research Ethics (REK) or other bodies etc. Requirements for what appendices can be included may vary.

Scope and layout

The kappe should be 60–100 pages in length, with Calibri font size 13 and line spacing of 1.5. The scope of the kappe can vary considerably from project to project, as this PhD programme encompasses several research traditions. The list of references and the articles included in the thesis are in addition to the number of pages specified.