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## **How to advance research on women's mental health through dynamic interdisciplinary PhD supervision: Lessons learned from the Uppsala University WOMHER graduate school**

*WOMHER is Uppsala University's centre for research on women's mental health. One of WOMHER's long-term goals is to educate new generations of researchers, which led to establishing WOMHER's interdisciplinary graduate school in 2021. WOMHER partially finances 16 doctoral projects with supervisors from 13 departments. A prerequisite to be granted WOMHER funding is to have collaborating supervisors from different disciplinary domains providing basis for interdisciplinary research.*

The overall aim of the graduate school is to support the PhD students to acquire a scientific, critical, analytical and ethical approach in areas of importance to women's mental health. The joint course curriculum is 15 ECTS developed in collaboration with -- and often given by -- the supervisors to fit the PhD students' needs.

Hence, an interdisciplinary teaching collective with pedagogical traditions from different areas is created. There are six thematic courses at basic (year 1) and advanced levels (year 2): What is a woman?, Mental health, Interdisciplinary research, Reproduction, Ethics, and Scientific methods. A journal club (year 3) provides the PhD students with deep knowledge of women's mental health from various disciplines and acquaints them with different publishing traditions. Lastly, an international graduate conference is arranged (year 4), where WOMHER PhD students, along with national and international PhD students with similar research focus, will present their research findings to the supervisors, WOMHER's Advisory Board, and other participants.

In addition to PhD education, WOMHER offers supervisor training by arranging seminars where perspectives from the diverse research environments are discussed. We identify challenges in communication between supervisors and PhD students from different disciplines. Problems may arise between PhD student and supervisor on the one hand and between supervisors on the other hand. We acknowledge such misunderstandings and learn how to handle them. Another challenge to consider is the aspect to publish interdisciplinary research. It is well-known that publishing traditions vary between disciplines in terms of number of authors, order of authors, conference versus journal publication, etc. As role models, these challenges should be adequately managed by the supervisors to give their PhD students the possibility to take ethical considerations in their future activities.

We are very much looking forward to the first PhD defences already in 2024 and the remaining to follow in due time. We foresee a bright future within academia or outside academic environments having their PhD education on an important societal topic and thanks to the supervision in a truly interdisciplinary setting.