

## **Lectio praecursoria**

### **Tips for planning and delivering your lectio praecursoria**

A skilfully prepared and delivered lectio sets the tone for the public defence, and the interaction between you and your opponent. After the opening lines by the custos, your lectio praecursoria, the opening lecture, is the prominent task in the beginning of the event.

The lectio should be planned to take 20 minutes (this is the strict maximum time). A suitable number of slides is about 10-18, including the cover page and a possible thank you page. You should rehearse and time your lectio in advance to make sure you can present it within the given time.

The lectio praecursoria is directed at a heterogenous audience that has come to watch the defence in the lecture hall and/or online. The lectio is an opportunity to introduce your research topic and to give the audience members tools to follow and enjoy the academic conversation during the examination. The scientific ideas and methods should be popularized so that also non-experts can follow the presentation. Please avoid using many acronyms, which are difficult to keep in mind, if the audience sees them for the first time. Use mainly figures to explain and visualize the ideas, and not much text or equations.

#### A great lectio

- provides background on the phenomenon or problem studied in the doctoral thesis,
- advertises the research results which are included in your doctoral thesis.

The lectio is also the appropriate time to address the conclusions of the research, and mention the potential impact of the research.

Note: The traditions may vary in different fields so do consult your supervising professor(s) and advisor(s) on what your lectio could include and what to exclude.