

Nordmedia 2017 pre-conference for doctoral students

Eliisa Vainikka

The Nordmedia 2017 pre-conference for doctoral students was held the day before NordMedia started, 16 August 2017, in the Comet Research Centre, University of Tampere. The organizer was the Finnish Association of Media and Communication Studies (MeVi). All together, there were 23 participants with papers and six additional participants without papers. Those who presented papers received credit of 2 ECTS. The participants were doctoral students from the Nordic countries, southern Europe and China.

The morning session consisted of commenting on the papers in five groups with a lead mentor. After lunch, participants worked in groups with the ‘walking science café’ method. Themes covered in this session were the following:

- Time management
- Life after PhD
- Networking and how to present a study to others
- Theory and methodology building
- Supervision and support

The social programme consisted of a visit to the Finnish game museum (Museokeskus Vapriikki) and a get-together at the university. Feedback from the participants was positive, and the pre-conference is recommended as a good practice for future Nordmedia conferences.

Mentors at the event were Marko Ampuja (University of Helsinki), Risto Kunelius (University of Tampere), Margareta Melin (Malmö Högskola), Lisbeth Morlandstø (University of Nordland) and Ingela Wadbring (Nordicom, University of Gothenburg). Organizers of the pre-conference were Anna Rantasila (University of Tampere/MeVi) and Eliisa Vainikka (University of Tampere/MeVi).

Schedule for the pre-conference

- 09:00 Pre-conference starts: practical information, introductions of the mentors and division into smaller groups for paper sessions
- 09:30 Paper sessions in smaller groups (4 or 5 persons plus a mentor)
- 11:30 Summing up the discussion together
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Walking science café with mentors
- 15:00 Concluding remarks for the science café
- 15:30 Walk to Tampere Game Museum
- 16:00 Tour of the Game Museum exhibit
- 18:30 Informal get-together with food and drinks