**INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND STUDIES ON EASTERN EUROPE (MIREES)**

**THESIS PROPOSAL FORM**

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| **Name and surname:** |
| **Matriculation number:** |
| **Supervisor:** |
|  |
| **TITLE**  Please provide a tentative title of your thesis |
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| **BACKGROUND [literature review]**  What is your topic? Why is this topic important?  What is known about your topic? What have other authors already argued? |
|  |
| **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**  What is your research question?  What would you like to find out? |
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| **RESEARCH HYPOTHESES**  What do you expect to find?  What is your preliminary argument? |
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| **RESEARCH DESIGN [methods]**  What are your data collection and data analysis methods.  Are there any ethical issues that your research raises? |
|  |
| **WORK PLAN**  How do you plan to go about your research in terms of time?  Please provide a tentative schedule of your activities with deadlines |
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| **REFERENCES**  Please list all of the works you referred to above using the APA referencing style |
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**Thinking about the following questions will help you prepare your thesis proposal**

**1. What is your topic?**

Why is this topic important to you personally?

Why is this topic important to other people? = What is its social relevance?

**2. What is your research question?**

How to best turn your topic into a research question? [operationalization]

Your research question cannot be a factual question; it should be a question that stimulates research such as: What **puzzles** me? What is my **dilemma**? What kind of **tension/contradiction** have I identified in the existing literature/public discourses? What is it that I am trying to find out?

**3. What do you expect to find? What is your hypothesis? What is your preliminary argument?**

What is your answer to the research question posed above?  
You may want to use sentences starting with:

*My preliminary research suggests that…*

*I will show that…*

*I claim that…*

Please note:

Your argument should not be: “I argue that context matters” or “I argue that this phenomenon has deep roots” or “I argue that some people are like this or like that”…

The argument should use concepts to help explain an interaction/relation between social phenomena.

Please consult good journal articles to see how authors articulate an argument.

**4. What kind of data are you using?**

What are your **data collection** methods (e.g. semi-structured interviews, surveys, archival research, participant observation, documentary analysis etc)?

Please consider potential shortcomings/limitations of any particular method.

How do you plan to combine data collection methods [triangulation] to account for such limitations?

**5. How will you analyse your data?**

What are your **data analysis** methods?

(e.g. content analysis, discourse analysis, statistical techniques, etc)

**6. What is your role/position as a researcher?**

Are there any ethical issues that your research design raises? How will you go about this?