



The Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR) and Finnish University Partnerships for International Development (UniPID) warmly welcome master's students to a Master's thesis workshop organized as part of the [Development Days Conference 2025](#).

## Master's Workshop: Navigating the road to completion.

**Date:** Wednesday 26 February 2025

**Time:** 12.00-15.00

**Location:** University of Helsinki & Online (The exact location will be confirmed to the registered students close to the workshop date)

**Registration:** 5 December 2024 – 5 February 2025

### Objective

This workshop aims to guide master's students to identify and address challenges encountered during writing a thesis, while fostering a collaborative environment that enables them to deliver constructive critics and feedback on their peers' research papers.

However, as the workshop will focus on thesis abstracts, participants must have a clear and coherent idea for their thesis.

### Prior Preparation

The participants are asked to submit their papers by **12 February 2025**, which should include:

- An abstract of their thesis (max. 500 words) following the instructions given in the "Instructions for writing an abstract" section in this concept note.
- Optional: thesis outline.

### Practical information

One week before the workshop, participants will receive between 3-5 thesis abstracts. Participants are asked to read and review them according to the instructions provided. We will discuss the abstracts and provide feedback in small peer groups during the session.

All master's students are invited to participate. Diversity in the level of studies and stage of thesis completion is encouraged to facilitate networking and peer-to-peer learning.

The workshop is free of charge and will last for three hours. The participants can join the workshop in person or online. The workshop is facilitated by Martta Kaskinen, Emilio Del Pupo and Viliina Kaikkonen. Additionally, some semifinalists of the [UniPID Master's Award 2024](#) will be participating and contributing to the workshop.

### Registration

You can register following this link: <https://www.unipid.fi/unipid-event-registrations/masters-workshop-2025/>

Registration will be **open between 5.12.2024 - 5.2.2025**. Please note that participants are required to submit their **papers by 12.2.2025**. You may submit it either through the registration form or send it via email to Viliina Kaikkonen (viliina.kaikkonen@helsinki.fi).

Please note that the number of seats is limited - ensure your participation by signing up early!

For inquiries, please get in touch with Viliina Kaikkonen (viliina.kaikkonen@helsinki.fi)

**Preliminary programme of the workshop:**

- 12.05-12.15** Opening remarks
- 12.15-13.30** Session 1: Group work: Feedback and refining your abstracts.
- 13.30-13.45** Coffee break
- 13.45-14.45** Session 2: How to address challenges during your writing process? Discussion with Master's Award 2024 semifinalists
- 14.45-15.00** Closing remarks

**Instructions for writing an abstract:**

A good abstract should include (not necessarily in this order):

- **The topic** clearly and concisely. What is the subject studied, and what is the context?
- **Claim for significance**. Why is your subject or your approach to it important?
- **Theoretical framework**. Which theoretical approach(es) do you use? Which academic discussion does your thesis contribute to?
- **Argument**. What did your analysis of the subject reveal about the subject or the society around it? Or what did your analysis reveal about current approaches to the subject?
- **Evidence**. What is your argument based on? Make the reader buy your argument!
- **Methodology and methods**. How was your data collected?

**Pay special attention to the argument.** The argument answers your research question. Even if you are writing a literature review, your thesis should have a solid argument about the academic discussion at hand. A good argument persuades the reader to believe something, and your entire thesis provides evidence to your main argument for it to be more persuasive. In a master's thesis, the argument does not have to be – and should not be – grand or necessarily new, but it should provide a fresh look at the subject with an argumentative angle. For reference, you can read journal article abstracts and [Master's award winner theses'](#) abstracts.

Reference:

Belcher, Wendy Laura. 2019. *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A guide to academic publishing success*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Second Edition