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# THE COURSE OF PUBLIC DEFENCE AND TRADITIONS OF KARONKKA PARTY

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# DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

**What the Finnish Law says?  
= Has to undergo a public examination**

- 1. Your own production which meets the academic standards**
- 2. Inspection of the contents**
- 3. Research results presented in highly visible manner**



# 3 (4) KEY PERSONS

**OPPONENT(S) 1-2**  
**Docent-level (at least one)**

**Knowledge on your  
research area**

**CUSTOS**  
Supervising the defence  
Professor or the principal  
supervisor

**YOU**  
Doctoral Candidate



# WHAT TO WEAR? THE DEFENCE

## Alternative 1.

**Men:** tails with black vest and white bow tie.

**Women:** Black ankle-length dress/jacket suit or black knee-length dress/skirt or jacket suit



## Alternative 2.

**MEN: A black suit and dark necktie**

**WOMEN: A black knee-length dress/skirt or black jacket suit**

Opponents with degrees awarded abroad can wear their own doctoral outfit (cape, hat)

Audience: every-day clothing or smart outfit

Guests invited by the doctoral candidate: black tie, or other festive outfit



# THE COURSE OF PUBLIC DEFENCE - STEP BY STEP

**Custos may offer cognac just  
before the defence  
- but also water is fine 😊**



# Thesis defence starts at XX.15

## ENTERING THE LECTURE HALL:

1. Doctoral candidate
2. Custos
3. Opponent(s)

(Audience stands up)



# CUSTOS OPENING WORDS

***“As the custos appointed by the University of Oulu Graduate School, I hereby declare the doctoral thesis defence of ‘title name xx’ opened.”***



Everybody but doctoral candidate  
sits down





# DOCTORAL CANDIDATE LECTIO PRAECURSORIA

= Max. 20 min. introductory lecture (Finnish/English)

- Start: *“Mr/Madam custos, Mr./Madam opponent, ladies and gentlemen”*
- Background of the thesis and its connections to academic or practical problem
- Not a summary of your thesis!

Ending: *“Dear Professor (Doctor, etc.) xx, as the opponent named by the University of Oulu Graduate School, I now call upon you to present your critical comments on my doctoral thesis”*



## Opponent's speech: (Opponent and Doctoral Candidate standing)

- Brief opening statement
- Start of detailed examination

## Examining the thesis

- General questions
  - Research topic, methods, data...
- Detailed examination
  - Chapter or article at time



**HOX! The role of the opponent is to ask tricky questions!  
BUT! No one knows your research better than you!**

**Your performance is one part of the evaluation.**

**MAX. 4 hours  
(2-3 h)**



## Opponent's Final Statement

(opponent and doctoral candidate standing)

Summary: Significance of the results

## Doctoral Candidate (opponent sits)

Thank the Opponent

Turn to audience: *“ I now cordially invite anybody who has comments regarding my doctoral thesis to offer their comments by asking the floor from the custos”*

## Custos

*“I declare the public defence of the doctoral thesis to be concluded.”*



## **DOCTORAL CANDIDATE:**

**Invite audience for coffee and cake or sparkling wine reception**

**Congratulations, flowers, gifts**

**Speeches by the faculty, department or major subject**

**Different traditions and practices**



# KARONKKA PARTY = Evening celebration on the examination day (starts at 6-8 pm)

Arranged in honour of the Opponent!

Usually in restaurant

Paid by the Doctoral Candidate fully or partially (dinner tickets)

Seating:

DC in the middle, Opponent on the right,

Custos on the left



# Speeches:

Doctoral candidate delivers speeches usually after the dinner and before the dessert

1. Opponent,
2. Custos
3. Supervisor(s)
4. Others: people that have helped you in your research; parents, spouse etc.

These people give speech back to the doctoral candidate in the same order.



# What to wear in Karonkka-party?

**Units have different preferences for the dress code, consult your colleagues!**





# WHAT TO REMEMBER BEFORE THE DAY

Defence date

Lecture hall

Coffee/sparkling wine reception (university restaurants,  
in front of lecture hall)

Karonkka party arrangements (invitations, food, drinks,  
entertainment, speeches)

Treat your Opponent well:

Organize travel and accomodation  
meeting the day before (dinner)

Dress code

Printed thesis placed on public display (10d before)

Visit the lecture hall

**Go listen to other doctoral examinations!**



## EVALUATION OF THE THESIS

After defence:  
statement and evaluation by Opponent  
(to Lead Specialist)

Proposal for final grade

Possibility to respond to the statement

Doctoral Training Committee gives  
approval for the thesis and grade



## FINISHING THE DEGREE

Student requests the degree by **filling in a *Diploma Request* and submitting it to the Lead Specialist.**

The service point prepares the **degree certificate, the transcript of studies and the diploma supplement.**

Check that your courses are in Oodi before the defence!

The degree certificate will be ready for collection within 24 days following the meeting of the Doctoral Training Committee. The days of the meetings are announced on the website of the Graduate School.

The student can obtain the degree certificate at the Faculty service point, or can request that it be sent by post.

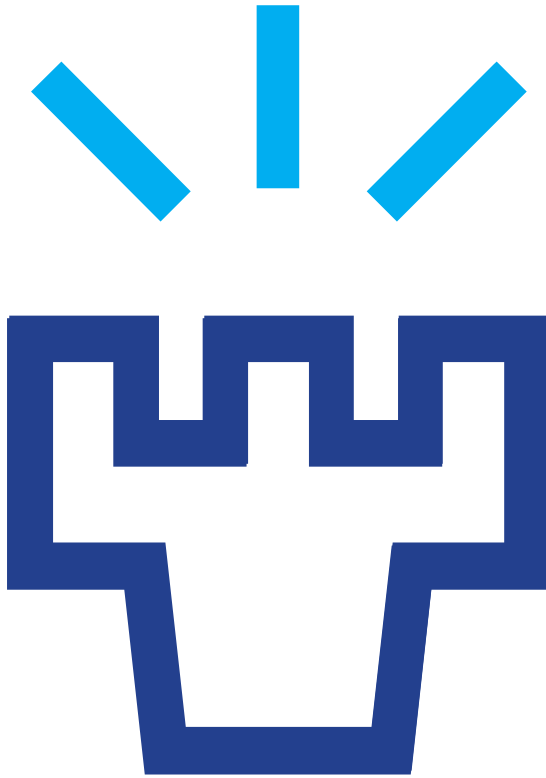


More information can be found from UniOGS  
webpages!

[http://www oulu.fi/sites/default/files/content/End-  
process\\_1.pdf](http://www oulu.fi/sites/default/files/content/End-process_1.pdf)

**Ask your supervisor and custos!**

**THANK YOU!**



**OULUN  
YLIOPISTO**