



## Template for PhD Research Proposals

Approx. 3000-4000 words

### 1. Title of the research

Mention the title and the subtitle, if applicable, in the language in which the thesis is being written.

### 2. General information

Supervisor, co-supervisor(s), faculty, specialisation subject, personal details

### 3. Personal motivation

Introduction of the subject matter, your personal history with the subject matter, interest and reason for choice of study in this subject.

### 4. Research problem definition

Describe the problem under discussion in this study, thereby making a distinction between problems arising from practice and problems arising from theory (gaps in knowledge, etc.).

### 5. Research question

Present as clearly and unambiguously as possible the central question in this research.

Thereby the following is important:

- The presentation of questions arises from the problem definition. E.g., should the problem definition be: 'Church growth in the Netherlands has stagnated', the presentation of question could then be: 'How can churches in the Netherlands grow?' In short, the answer to the research question must contribute to the solution of the problem identified in the problem definition.
- Define terms which are used in the research question. In this example: what is meant by 'growth' and what is 'church'? It is important that the problem definition is formulated in such a way that the questions remain researchable.
- Work out the central presentation of questions into one or more sub-questions. In this example such questions could be: (i) Why is growth important to churches? (ii) Which churches do display growth? (iii) In what do those churches distinguish themselves from others?

### 6. Theoretical field

Clarify which theories are being used in this research and in which field these are to be found. If the research is anchored in more than one theoretical field (which is frequently the case in practical-theological studies), it must become clear how these fields stand in proportion to each other and in which relation they stand to each other in the research. In the example used, a first starting point could be in the missionary *Church Growth* literature. This can be further delved into by making use of socio-scientific theory shaping which is at the basis of this (such as Rational Choice).

## **7. Relevance of the research**

### *7.1 Relevance for science*

What theoretical contribution does the research provide? Will the existing theory be enriched, complemented, contradicted, etc.?

### *7.2. Relevance for society and practice*

Who is benefited by this research? What contribution does it make to the improvement of existing practices?

## **8. Methods**

Which research methods does this study use in order to arrive at an answer to the research question? It may be possible to itemize them per sub-question.

## **9 Sources**

Describe the sources used in this research. Where does the data come from that has been used in this research? What position does the data occupy in the different components of the research?

## **10. Report**

Indicate the report forms that have originated as a result of the research, including, naturally, a thesis. Has this research led to articles, web publications, speeches, symposia, etc.?

## **11. Provisional division into chapters of the thesis**

## **12. Provisional literature list**

## **13. Time frame and resources**