

Dear fellow HGGGS PhD students,

writing a dissertation and navigating the PhD process can be deeply rewarding, but also challenging at times. That is why I believe our greatest resource lies in our networks. By connecting with one another, offering mutual support, and ensuring that our university and graduate school provide the structures we need, we can grow and learn together toward our successful PhD journeys.

My name is Nadja Samira Fraenkel and I studied German language and literature as well as media, communication, and cultural studies in Mannheim, Heidelberg, and Budapest. I am currently pursuing my PhD at the Faculty of Modern Languages, where I am writing my dissertation in comparative literature.

I have held several leadership and representative roles, involving organizational, communicative, and public-facing responsibilities — ranging from school and debating societies to theatre groups, the youth city council, volunteer work, and professional management positions during internships and jobs. My doctoral studies are funded by the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk, where I have recently also begun representing my regional group.

As someone who values both structure and connection, I would love to strengthen the social and informal exchange among HGGGS PhD students — through gatherings, peer support, and shared initiatives. I would be committed to representing our interests and concerns within the graduate school and to make sure that our course program reflects our interests and challenges as doctoral researchers.

Let's do this – together!