

## **ICO Fall School 2014 Evaluation Report November 10-14, De Duinse Polders, Blankenberge, Belgium**

### **Background**

The ICO International Fall School (IFS) is part of the educational PhD-programme of ICO, the Interuniversity Centre for Educational Sciences in the Netherlands. The ICO International Fall School 2014 was an international event for PhD candidates who do research in the domains of learning, instruction and/or education. Attending an ICO International Fall School is a compulsory educational activity for ICO PhD candidates, but also non-ICO PhD candidates in these fields are welcome to participate. All attending PhD candidates were expected to attend two workshops and two Keynote speeches, and to present their ongoing work to each other. Also experienced researchers provided feedback to the junior researchers. More information on the workshops, presentations, study/work load can be found on the [ICO Fall School website](#).

### **Facts and figures**

There were 67 PhD candidates present at the Fall School:

- ICO members: 52 (78%)
- Non-ICO attendants: 15 (22%), coming from universities in the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Finland, Germany, and Denmark

This means that the goal to attract at least 33% non-ICO attendants was not reached.

There were 38 IFS-staff members (organizers and workshop leaders) present for a short or longer period of time, varying between a few hours up to the full five days. 19 of these IFS-staff members are ICO member, 15 of them are not. Some of the non-ICO IFS-staff members do qualify to become an ICO staff member, which has resulted in requests to join ICO after the ICO Fall School.

70 participants and staff members filled out the evaluation form, which represents a 67 % return rate.

### **Analysis**

The organization of the Fall School was appreciated by almost all attendants, with clear information on the website and clear information in the emails send to the attendants. Most participants and most staff members will recommend going to the Fall School to others. And most attendants have established valuable relationships with the other attendants (staff and participants), which indicates the networking function of the ICO Fall School apparently succeeded.

*There is room for improvement on the following areas:*

*The venue:*

Although the venue was excellent for organizing an event like the ICO Fall School, the dinner was not good. Also the beds in the rooms that were shared by the participants should have been separated from each other, although the participants could have done this themselves.

*The programme:*

- The programme on Tuesday and Wednesday was quite long, with presentation sessions lasting until 19:15 hours. Some participants indicated it was hard to concentrate at the end of the day
- The appreciation of the keynote lectures was very diverse, probably due to the highly specified subject choice
- The organizing committee had a hard time preventing people to leave early on Friday, before the last keynote session
- Some workshop leaders did not give sufficient - or even any - feedback on the assignments given
- Some workshops were criticized for not containing enough hands on-activities, and were too much like a lecture.
- The instructions on how to prepare for the workshops were not always clear to everyone.
- The role of the discussant did not always lead to a lively discussion, although it seems all discussants prepared very extensive feedback on the paper they received.

*Suggestions for improvement*

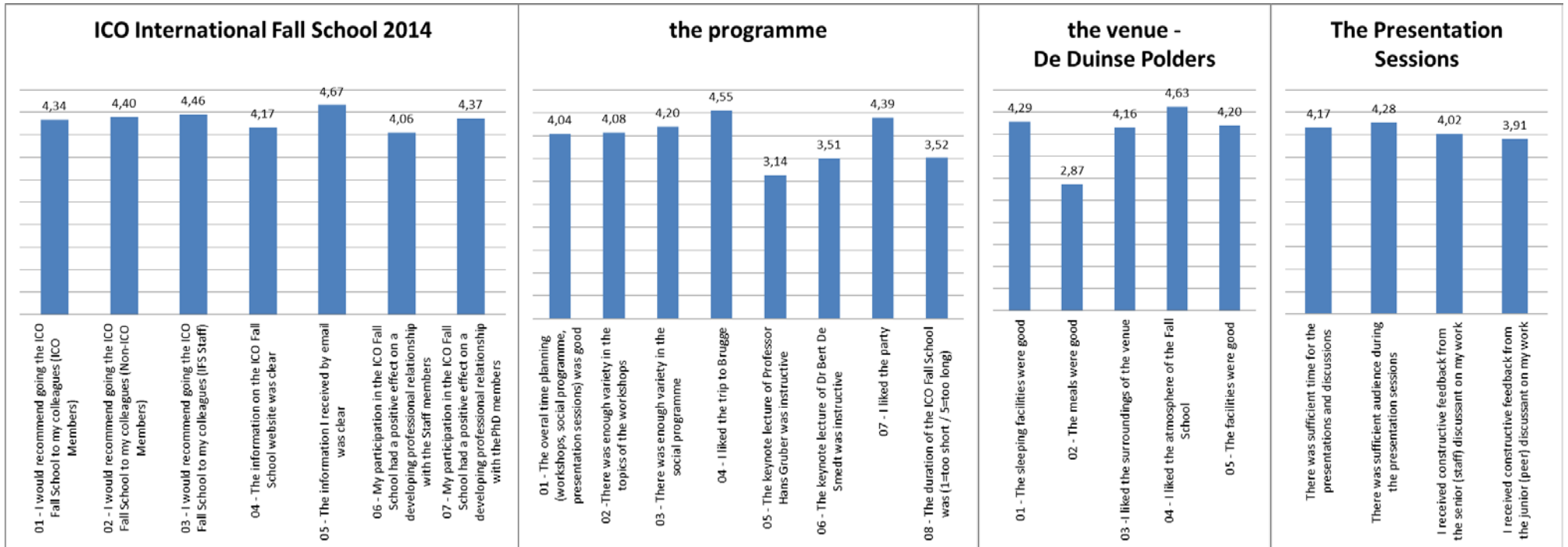
- Find a location outside of the Benelux. This will stimulate the international character of the International Fall School, by also attracting local PhD candidates that are not native Dutch speakers.
- Try to avoid the days being too long, by avoiding presentation sessions after 18:00 hours
- Try to plan the last keynote in the morning, before the final part of the workshops. This helps to prevent people leaving early, before the keynote session
- Although many of the workshop leaders stimulated active participation during the workshops and gave useful feedback on their assignments, it is to be advised to point this out to all workshop leaders more clearly beforehand.
- Try to stimulate lively discussions after the presentation sessions by further improving the instructions given to the assigned discussants

**The following workshops could be attended:**

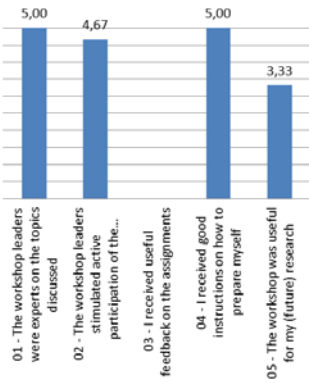
MA1.	<b>Exploring connections: An introduction to social network theory and analysis</b> Nienke M. Moolenaar, Bart Rienties
MA2.	<b>Content analysis of interaction in computer-supported online environments</b> Bram De Wever, Teresa Guasch
TA1.	<b>Evaluating the effectiveness of (data use) interventions</b> Mei Lai, Cindy Poortman, Kim Schildkamp
TA2.	<b>Conceptualizing and measuring professional knowledge</b> Andreas Gegenfurtner, Christoph Helm
TA3.	<b>What is the missing link between teacher's cognition and action in practice?</b> Fred Janssen, Hanna Westbroek, Walter Doyle
TA4.	<b>Team Learning in many disguises</b> Piet Van den Bossche, Regina Mulder

MB1.	<b>Multilevel Models in SPSS</b> Sven de Maeyer, Huub van den Bergh
MB2.	<b>Mixed methods in educational research</b> Judith Schoonenboom, R. Burke Johnson
TB1.	<b>Diversity in classrooms</b> Sarah Crafter, Marieke Meeuwisse
TB2.	<b>Adaptivity in learning and instruction</b> Ard Lazonder, Liesbeth Kester, Anouschka van Leeuwen
TB3.	<b>Researching the effects of ICT in education</b> Johan Van Braak, Wilfried Admiraal
TB4.	<b>Evaluating Teachers' Instructional Development in Higher Education</b> Ann Stes, Mariska Knol

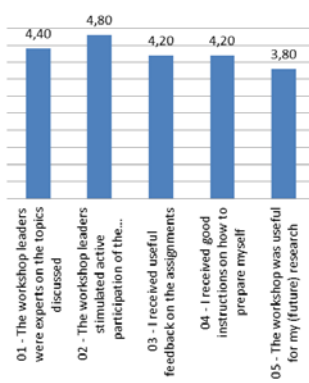
## The ICO Fall School 2014 in graphics



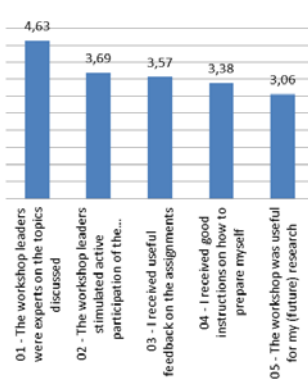
**Workshops MA1.**  
**Exploring connections:**  
**An introduction to social**  
**network theory and**  
**analysis -**  
**3 respondents (60%)**



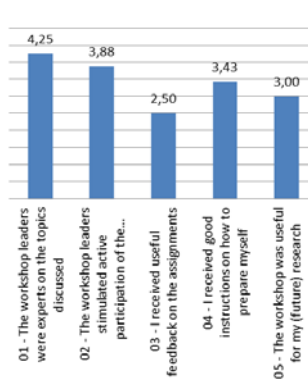
**Workshops MA2.**  
**Content analysis of**  
**interaction in computer-**  
**supported online**  
**environments -**  
**5 respondents (71%)**



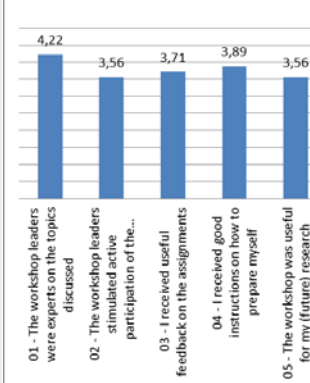
**Workshops TA1.**  
**Evaluating the**  
**effectiveness of (data**  
**use) interventions-**  
**16 respondents (89%)**



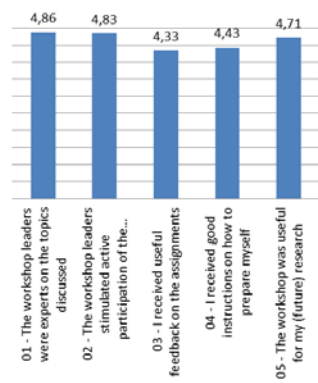
**Workshops TA2.**  
**Conceptualizing and**  
**measuring professional**  
**knowledge-**  
**8 respondents (67%)**



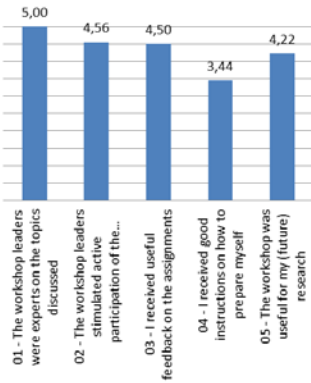
**Workshops TA3. What is**  
**the missing link**  
**between teacher's**  
**cognition and action in**  
**practice? -**  
**9 respondents (64%)**



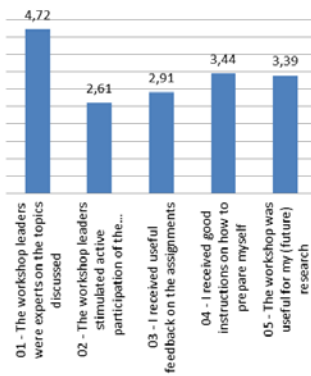
**Workshops TA4. Team**  
**Learning in many**  
**disguises -**  
**7 respondents (78%)**



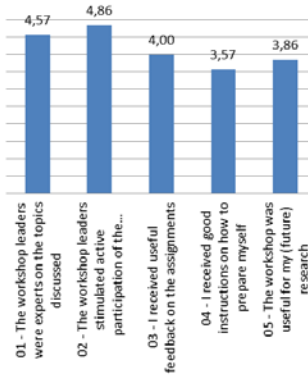
**Workshops MB1.  
Multilevel Models in  
SPSS -  
9 respondents (75%)**



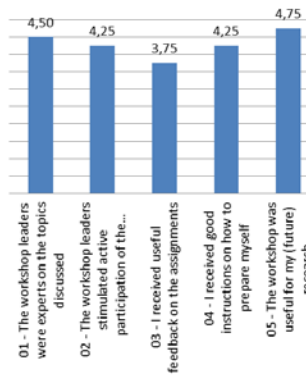
**Workshops MB2. Mixed  
methods in educational  
research -  
18 respondents (95%)**



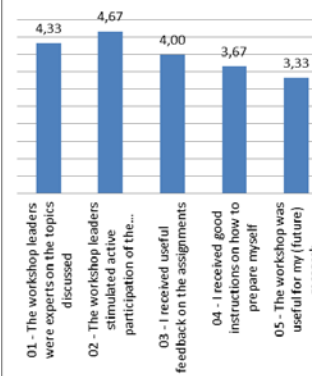
**Workshops TB1.  
Diversity in classrooms -  
7 respondents (70%)**



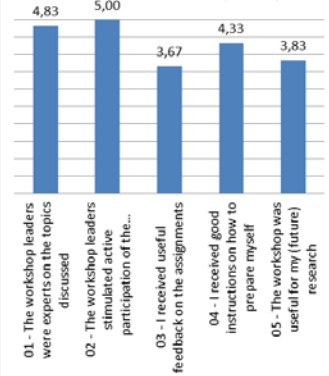
**Workshops TB2.  
Adaptivity in learning  
and instruction -  
4 respondents (57%)**



**Workshops TB3.  
Researching the effects  
of ICT in education -  
3 respondents (50%)**



**Workshops TB4.  
Evaluating Teachers'  
Instructional  
Development in Higher  
Education -  
6 respondents (67%)**



## The ICO Fall School 2014 in numbers

	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - I would recommend going the ICO Fall School to my colleagues (ICO Members)	0	1	4	16	20	41	4,34	0,76
02 - I would recommend going the ICO Fall School to my colleagues (Non-ICO Members)	0	0	1	4	5	10	4,40	0,70
03 - I would recommend going the ICO Fall School to my colleagues (IFS Staff)	0	0	0	7	6	13	4,46	0,52
04 - The information on the ICO Fall School website was clear	0	2	7	32	22	63	4,17	0,75
05 - The information I received by email was clear	0	0	1	12	29	42	4,67	0,53
06 - My participation in the ICO Fall School had a positive effect on a developing professional relationship with the Staff members	0	2	12	33	20	67	4,06	0,78
07 - My participation in the ICO Fall School had a positive effect on a developing professional relationship with the PhD members	0	0	7	27	31	65	4,37	0,67

Programme	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The overall time planning (workshops, social programme, presentation sessions) was good	0	2	11	39	18	70	4,04	0,73
02 - There was enough variety in the topics of the workshops	0	2	12	29	21	64	4,08	0,80
03 - There was enough variety in the social programme	0	1	5	38	20	64	4,20	0,65
04 - I liked the trip to Brugge	0	2	2	15	37	56	4,55	0,74
05 - The keynote lecture of Professor Hans Gruber was instructive	5	7	24	19	3	58	3,14	1,00
06 - The keynote lecture of Dr Bert De Smedt was instructive	1	2	18	21	3	45	3,51	0,79
07 - I liked the party	0	0	10	14	32	56	4,39	0,78
08 - The duration of the ICO Fall School was (1=too short / 5=too long)	1	1	31	26	5	64	3,52	0,73

The Venue	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The sleeping facilities were good	0	2	8	28	32	70	4,29	0,78
02 - The meals were good	6	22	20	19	3	70	2,87	1,05
03 - I liked the surroundings of the venue	1	0	10	35	24	70	4,16	0,77
04 - I liked the atmosphere of the Fall School	0	0	2	22	46	70	4,63	0,54
05 - The facilities were good	0	2	8	34	26	70	4,20	0,75



The Presentation Sessions	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
There was sufficient time for the presentations and discussions	1	2	6	32	24	65	4,17	0,84
There was sufficient audience during the presentation sessions	0	2	2	37	24	65	4,28	0,67
I received constructive feedback from the senior (staff) discussant on my work	2	4	7	19	22	54	4,02	1,09
I received constructive feedback from the junior (peer) discussant on my work	0	4	11	13	15	43	3,91	1,00

MA1. Exploring connections: An introduction to social network theory and analysis	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	0	0	3	3	5,00	0,00
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	0	0	1	2	3	4,67	0,58
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	0	0	0	0	0		
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	0	0	0	3	3	5,00	0,00
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	0	0	2	1	0	3	3,33	0,58

MA2. Content analysis of interaction in computer-supported online environments	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	1	1	3	5	4,40	0,89
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	0	0	1	4	5	4,80	0,45
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	0	0	4	1	5	4,20	0,45
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	0	1	2	2	5	4,20	0,84
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	1	0	0	2	2	5	3,80	1,64

TA1. Evaluating the effectiveness of (data use) interventions	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	0	6	10	16	4,63	0,50
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	1	8	2	5	16	3,69	1,01
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	0	4	2	1	7	3,57	0,79
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	2	7	6	1	16	3,38	0,81
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	1	5	4	4	2	16	3,06	1,18





<b>TA2. Conceptualizing and measuring professional knowledge</b>	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	1	4	3	8	4,25	0,71
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	1	2	2	3	8	3,88	1,13
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	1	1	0	0	2	2,50	0,71
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	2	1	3	1	7	3,43	1,13
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	1	2	2	2	1	8	3,00	1,31

<b>TA3. What is the missing link between teacher's cognition and action in practice?</b>	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	1	5	3	9	4,22	0,67
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	2	1	5	1	9	3,56	1,01
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	0	3	3	1	7	3,71	0,76
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	0	2	6	1	9	3,89	0,60
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	0	1	3	4	1	9	3,56	0,88

<b>TA4. Team Learning in many disguises</b>	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	0	1	6	7	4,86	0,38
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	0	0	1	5	6	4,83	0,41
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	0	0	4	2	6	4,33	0,52
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	0	0	4	3	7	4,43	0,53
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	0	0	0	2	5	7	4,71	0,49

<b>MB1. Multilevel Models in SPSS</b>	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	0	0	9	9	5,00	0,00
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	0	0	4	5	9	4,56	0,53
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	0	0	1	1	2	4,50	0,71
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	0	7	0	2	9	3,44	0,88
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	0	0	2	3	4	9	4,22	0,83

<b>MB2. Mixed methods in educational research</b>	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	0	5	13	18	4,72	0,46
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	4	4	6	3	1	18	2,61	1,20
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	1	3	4	2	1	11	2,91	1,14
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	2	7	8	1	18	3,44	0,78
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	0	5	5	4	4	18	3,39	1,14

<b>TB2. Adaptivity in learning and instruction</b>	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	0	2	2	4	4,50	0,58
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	0	1	1	2	4	4,25	0,96
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	0	2	1	1	4	3,75	0,96
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	0	0	3	1	4	4,25	0,50
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	0	0	0	1	3	4	4,75	0,50

<b>TB3. Researching the effects of ICT in education</b>	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	0	2	1	3	4,33	0,58
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	0	0	1	2	3	4,67	0,58
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	0	1	1	1	3	4,00	1,00
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	0	1	2	0	3	3,67	0,58
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	0	1	0	2	0	3	3,33	1,15

<b>TB4. Evaluating Teachers' Instructional Development in Higher Education</b>	1	2	3	4	5	n	gem	st.dev
	--	-	+/-	+	++			
01 - The workshop leaders were experts on the topics discussed	0	0	0	1	5	6	4,83	0,41
02 - The workshop leaders stimulated active participation of the participants	0	0	0	0	6	6	5,00	0,00
03 - I received useful feedback on the assignments	0	1	1	3	1	6	3,67	1,03
04 - I received good instructions on how to prepare myself	0	0	0	4	2	6	4,33	0,52
05 - The workshop was useful for my (future) research	0	1	1	2	2	6	3,83	1,17

## Appendix: Candidates' comments

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• best: the workshops and the possibility to have a longer break/social event after lunch Need improvement: the food during dinner</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well done for organising this event. I really liked the vibe and the opportunities meeting staff and PhD candidates. Well done!</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - dinner was really bad - social programme took a bit too long, an hour would have been sufficient, and dinner would not have been so late - mix between workshop and presentation sessions was nice</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All was perfectly organised. Compliments. Minor detail is evening meal at location. Rest of program is perfect template for subsequent Fall Schools</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very good learning climate</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I presented a paper, assuming that there would be a useful and constructive discussion. However, this wasn't the case. In my session the chair made it a one direction. Discussants could criticize on the paper and the presenter was allowed 20 sec (approximately) to reply to a list of comments given by each discussant. As such this wasn't informative for me, as this format doesn't give me to reply to misconceptions, or direct questioning to more in depth discussion. I became very frustrated. I met great people, and at times it was very fun, however, the program was too packed up. You shared a room, did things together, attended workshop together etc... There was no room or time to be alone, reflect on everything etc... though it was fun at times it was also very draining. I would have rather followed 1 workshop for 3 days, than following 2 workshop for twice 2 days. Or it would have been nice to have more free time. The party was fun, and people were very nice. Thanks for everything,! The organization was TOP:)! </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good: time to discuss, reflect and present</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It seems long, but I don't think that shortening it would make it better/more valuable. I prefer to have sessions lasting until 19h, but to be back by Friday. It could have also started a bit earlier. What would be nice is to end the fall school with a 1 to 2 hour workshop about the publication process (e.g. writing a good letter to the editor, what to pay attention to when selecting a journal etc.). I know it is addressed during the ICO introduction, but a hands-on workshop would be nice. As this is relevant for all, it may also be a good way to end the fall school. I would do it in smaller groups (around 20 people).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I liked the combination of presenting, workshops and social activities.  During the presentations, very often there was no more time left for the audience to ask questions, the two discussants often took too much time.  Very well organized! Thanks!</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Liked best: Exchanging ideas. Learning from other perspectives, on content and methodology. Improvement might be on specific subject expertise but mine is a bit off line education. Suitable location might be Bergen (aan Zee) where are multiple suitable accomodations and very beautiful surroundings.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In general it was very nice and interesting. What I liked best was the combination of workshops, presentations and social program, and the general atmosphere. I would have liked more choice in workshops, because none of them really fitted my research topic. Also, in the evenings, after dinner, it would maybe be nice to have one more social activity. (not every day, but maybe one more day, for instance on the first day)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The wifi connection could have been better (there was no wifi in the bedrooms). The programme was very full, it would have been nice to have some open slots, so that you can either have some rest or do some work (answer e-mails etc.).</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Positive: The ICO Fall School is good for beginning researchers to learn how to give a presentation.  Which aspects need improvement? It was a very intensive week, maybe one day shorter next time?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I thoroughly enjoyed the multilevel workshop. The instructors were both very enthusiastic and helpful. This workshop was intense, but the tempo made you feel like you were really learning something. For points of improvement I can only think of the lack of a dependable wifi connection as it is at the bottom of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. First wifi, then food. But overall, job very well done.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I liked one of the two workshops I have joined the most, because it was very interactive. Furthermore, interaction between PhD candidates and staff was very useful during the workshops and during the social program / meals.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Best: one location that combines sleeping facilities and workshop facilities, flexibility during social program to do whatever you like to do, options to walk in nature (should be a feature of every future IFS location I think), warming and supportive social atmosphere  Improvement: I liked the keynotes, but should be made more domain-independent I think (to fit all) and thus (perhaps) be more focussed on methodological or science philosophical topics? I would also enjoyed more a panel discussion about these themes between a prominent speaker and staff with the candidates, opposed to a plain keynote lecture where we just sit and listen.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The atmosphere was great! I met many inspiring colleagues. The presentation sessions from 17h - 19.15h maybe were a bit too much at the end of the day, it was hard to keep being focused for so long. But in general, I think the fall school was very well organized.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The sessions in the evening were too long (until 19.15). Next time, the sessions should stop a bit earlier, because is was difficult to concentrate and give the presenters the full attention they deserved at the end op the day. Also it would be better if there were more chairs during a poster presentation it was exhausting to stand through two hours of poster presentations or even more hours if you attended two poster sessions (people had to sit on the ground).</li></ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I really liked the workshop sessions. They were very useful for my PhD project. I also liked it that the venue was so close to the sea! The program of Tuesday and Wednesday a bit too long.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Like best: the workshops and the fact that we were at a conference center together (&gt; many opportunities for meeting other PhDs and staff) Suggestions: skip the paper presentations, so that the Fall School can be less long</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Goede afwisseling tussen programma/sociale activiteiten</li><li>- Discussianten waren erg goed voorbereid en hadden waardevolle feedback. Echter, dit ging soms ten koste van de discussie omdat de discussianten al hun verbeterpunten wilden benoemen. Dit was voor het publiek lastig te volgen omdat het paper niet door hen gelezen was. Misschien is het een idee om elke discussiant twee punten te laten benoemen waarover gediscussieerd kan worden, de overige feedback kan dan individueel.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I liked best: the workshop Mixed Methods and the trip to Brugge. :)</li></ul> <p>Suggestions for future Fall Schools: During many paper presentations, the discussions started with a 'speech' of the reviewers in which they enrolled all of their feedback. The Phd candidate was kind of forced to listen and not to react directly. As the reviewers often had many points of feedback, there was no/limited time left for discussions with the other attendants. That would have been useful. Both for new input for the presenting candidate, but also for the other attendants. In other words: it would have been useful to organize the 'feedback-giving' in a more interactive way.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Over het algemeen vond ik alles zeer goed geregeld, zoals de afwisseling van het programma (niet heel de dag workshop, maar afgewisseld met presentaties), de locatie, duur voor elke presentatie, feedback voor elke presentatie. Het enige verbeterpunt is dat misschien in het vervolg het programma iets korter zou kunnen, dus niet tot 19.00 uur, maar bijvoorbeeld 18.00 uur.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I really liked the opportunity to meet other PhD candidates and have plenty of time with them to discuss both work related and non-work related issues. Furthermore, I enjoyed the presentation sessions and workshops. Improvement: I thought the presentation sessions from 17.15 until 19.15 were planned too late on the day. I found it hard to stay focused during those sessions.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I don't mind sharing room with a stranger but sharing bed was too much for me. If it is possible to find a place, where the room is maybe a bit bigger, so you don't have to lie next to each other that would improve the experience.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Somewhat more (time for the) breaks would be good</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The days were a bit too long with a time schedule from 09.00 to 19.15, maybe a bit shorter will improve the attention during the last sessions.</li></ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Best:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The combination of following courses and attending presentations</li><li>- The possibility to receive feedback on your own work</li><li>- The network possibilities</li><li>- It was very good to have social activities every day :)</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discussions during paper and round table presentations. It was striking for me that (most of the times) the PhD presented his/her paper, the first discussant summed up his/her feedback, then the second discussant, and then it was already time to proceed. So what I missed, was a lively discussion between the PhD student and the discussants (and the public). I would suggest that the discussants discuss one or two of their main feedback points, so that there is time for the PhD student to respond on the feedback. -</li><li>- The dinner ;) but I don't think that it was possible to influence the meals more.</li><li>- Sometimes the schedule was very tight. For instance, 45 minutes for lunch is not much (certainly if you take into account that almost every session takes a bit longer than scheduled).</li></ul> <p>Thanks a lot for organizing the fall school! The organizers were very energetic and happy :) which was great to see! They really created a nice atmosphere!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I'd liked the variety within the programme (mix of presentations, workshops and social activities), though it was very intensive. My suggestion would be to plan presentations not too late in the afternoon.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• - The ICO Fall School is a good opportunity to get to know PhD-candidates from other countries in (western) Europe. Moreover, the broad choice between workshops makes it really relevant for young PhD-candidates' research. I would even like to follow more workshops on another occasion because a lot of them seem interesting for my specific research topic.</li><li>- The guidelines with regard to the duration of the presentations should be communicated the same to everyone. For example, it was communicated in the e-mails and on the website that we got 20 minutes for our presentation, whereas we only got 15 minutes from the chair in our session.</li><li>- The preparation for the workshops could be reconsidered because there was a lot of difference between the workshops with regard to the time you needed to prepare and the amount you had to do. Furthermore, not a lot was done with the preparations in the workshops I attended. Moreover, candidates who did not prepare at all still did not have any problem to pass for the workshop.</li><li>- For future Fall Schools, it could be considered to find a location further away from the Netherlands or Belgium to make the atmosphere a little bit more international.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I really liked the atmosphere, which gave me a safe feeling also to give presentations and actively participate during the workshops and in presentation sessions. I do think the fall school was very intensive and especially the Tuesday and Wednesday were very long. However, even though I thought it was intensive, I did not dislike it since I thought the sessions were very useful and interesting. I was really tired at the end of the week, but also really satisfied. I think it is good that everyone did his/her presentation in the first part of the week, so that everyone is able to enjoy the party.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I really enjoyed the whole week. I believe I learned a lot, got good feedback and had fun with the other participants. Unfortunately the Mixed Methods workshop was not so much a workshop as well as a lecture. They had really interesting subject-matter, but I would have liked a more hands-on approach. Now, I got to do a lot of work here back at work translating what I learned to my research.</li></ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I appreciated the different program items (presentations, social activities etc.), however I do think there could be more variation in the scheduling of the particular activities. Especially the first three days were very alike: the order of the activities were quite similar each day, making it a bit more difficult to keep focused. Therefore I liked the fact that thursday and friday had a totally different program.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Mixed Methods workshop needs improvement. The workshop leaders were very nice, but too much materials were handed out during the sessions (it would have been more useful to receive them before the session). During the workshop it was too much of a 'lecture' instead of a workshop. In the future it would be good to receive the materials two weeks before the workshop and to make an assignment which can be discussed during the workshop. In this way it will be an actual workshop.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• five days are very long - on the last two days it was hard to take in new things, unfortunately</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I liked the workshops, the location and the social events very much. The poster presentations were nice, but the rooms were not very good. We had to stand for 3 to 4 hours sometimes if there were 2 posters sessions next to each other. The food at diner was not good, this could be improved. Still, great organization and great week.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• · It was an intensive and informative week. I like the social activities you arranged, to allow everyone with a break for 1-2 hours; · I hope there is a place to show all posters before and after the presentations so everyone can pass by and talk with presenters if they are interested. Every poster was shown for only 20 mins... And the poster is always more interesting &amp; attractive than the abstract text.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Combinations workshops and presentations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Questions on effect: remains to be seen regarding further cooperation e.g. +: everything was organized very well. -: A more central location would be great; I do understand the idea of an isolated location but it was a really long and unpractical trip compared to the actual distance. Maybe a location in Germany, Belgium or ? that is better connected to a main railway station?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I really liked the ICO Fall School, I learned a lot and had great discussions. But it was also very intensive, the program was very full, and it was quite hard to be always with people. I would have prefer to have a room for myself to have some private time. But at the other hand, that would have really raised the costs (although this might me an option to choose for yourself) and I am already quite relieved that there were no sleeping halls! The same is true for the program schedule. The last sessions was actually too late to stay focussed. But if not, the timetable would have been too packed to really get into detail in the workshops and so on. Furthermore, the social program after lunchtime was a brilliant idea. So, I think you organised it very well, and that some "negative things" are just something to deal with. Thanks!</li></ul>