

# Research proposal (ca. 4000-6000 words)

## *1. Project title*

## *2. Research questions and motivation*

Here you state your research questions and briefly motivate the research - why is this a productive and interesting problem to investigate? Simply stating that it has not been done before is inadequate. Also address how your research fits into the CWTS knowledge agenda.

## *3. Conceptual approach*

Contextualize your research in relevant literature and outline your own conceptual approach to the project in dialogue with this literature. This means that you should offer a detailed discussion of previous research on your topic and explain how your own approach draws on, complements and innovates what has been done before. Depending on the outlook of the project, you can choose to emphasize theoretical, methodological or societal relevance of your research in this discussion, or a combination thereof.

## *4. Research methods*

Offer a concise description of the empirical materials you will need for research, and what sources and methods you will use to collect and analyze them. You should explain how these materials allow you to address your research questions and reflect on the kinds of evidence your research is likely to produce (incl. any blind spots and limitations). Make sure to consider also any practical problems the collection and analysis of empirical materials may pose.

## *5. Preliminary findings (where relevant)*

In case you have already conducted some empirical work, present and discuss your preliminary findings in relation to your research questions.

## *6. Schedule and output plan*

Prepare a short schedule of your PhD research, indicating when you will conduct empirical work and when you intend to finish writing particular parts of the dissertation. Also include a short overview of your intended publication plan that documents what types of output you intend to produce. A dissertation can take the shape of a monograph or a collection of articles. It is important to ensure receiving proper feedback on your work by external experts. This can take the shape of peer review on a peer review platform, in academic conferences or in academic journals, but it can also mean sharing individual chapters of your thesis with a few external experts and asking them for feedback. If you intend to publish some parts of your dissertation separately, for example in the form of articles or preprints, you should specify where you intend to submit them (e.g., to particular journals, preprint platforms, open peer review platforms). [In planning your outputs, you should adhere to the CWTS Open Science policy [\[link to be added\]](#).]

## *7. Risks and ethical implications of the research*

Briefly address what kinds of ethical issues your research potentially raises, where relevant.

*8. A bibliography of references cited in the proposal (does not count towards word limit)*

*Annex: Data management plan (does not count towards word limit)*