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# Article-based thesis or monograph?

## Choice of format in a digital era

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# Agenda

- CBS Framework
- My own experience
- Pros and cons
  - Article-based vs. monograph
- Choice of format in a digital era
  - Input statement
  - Professor Eleonor Kristofferson
- Conclusions and questions



- CBS PhD Study Handbook, 2023, p. 31-32
- “The format of the PhD thesis is either a monograph format or an article-based format. For both formats, the PhD thesis must not exceed a maximum of 500 pages...
- The monograph format organises all its chapters around a central problem and has an introduction and a conclusion. It must be single-authored...
- The article-based PhD thesis should as a minimum contain three and as a maximum five articles as well as a mandatory introduction that presents the independent articles of the PhD thesis in a theoretical frame presenting existing literature, clarifying the overall contribution etc.
  - For each individual article, it is a requirement that it provides an independent and separate analytical contribution to the academic field; that it is of the same extent as a standard article in the field; and that it is suitable for publication in respected scientific journals.
  - One of the articles must be single-authored...”
- The decision of the type of PhD thesis must be made by the submission of the third bi-annual report...”

# My own experience

- Main supervisor on one article-based thesis
- The first ever at CBS LAW
- Lots of resistance
- Excellent outcome
  - 1) Nordic Journal of Commercial Law (with co-author)
  - 2) World Tax Journal
  - 3) Intertax
  - 4) Tax Notes International (with co-author)
  - 5) Intertax
- Since then at CBS LAW
  - One more successfully defended
  - One more in progress



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## Structure and work-flow

- Helps the student to be precise/short
- Gives the student a sense of making progress
- Published articles are "binding"
- Harder to establish a "red thread"
- What if the subject is highly dynamic?

## Quality

- Continuous external/blind peer-review along the way
  - Pushes the student towards excellence or...
  - "Forces" the student to adapt and make amendments
  - Less freedom?
- Possibility of co-authorship

## Personal

- Makes the PhD student visible along the way
  - Resembles what will be required in a subsequent academic career
  - Extra entries on the publication list
  - Perhaps harder to establish "topic ownership" – Output less tangible
  - Harder or easier?
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# Choice of format in a digital era?



# Conclusions and questions

No "one-size-fits-all" answer!

