Article-based thesis or monograph?

Choice of format in a digital era

Peter Koerver Schmidt
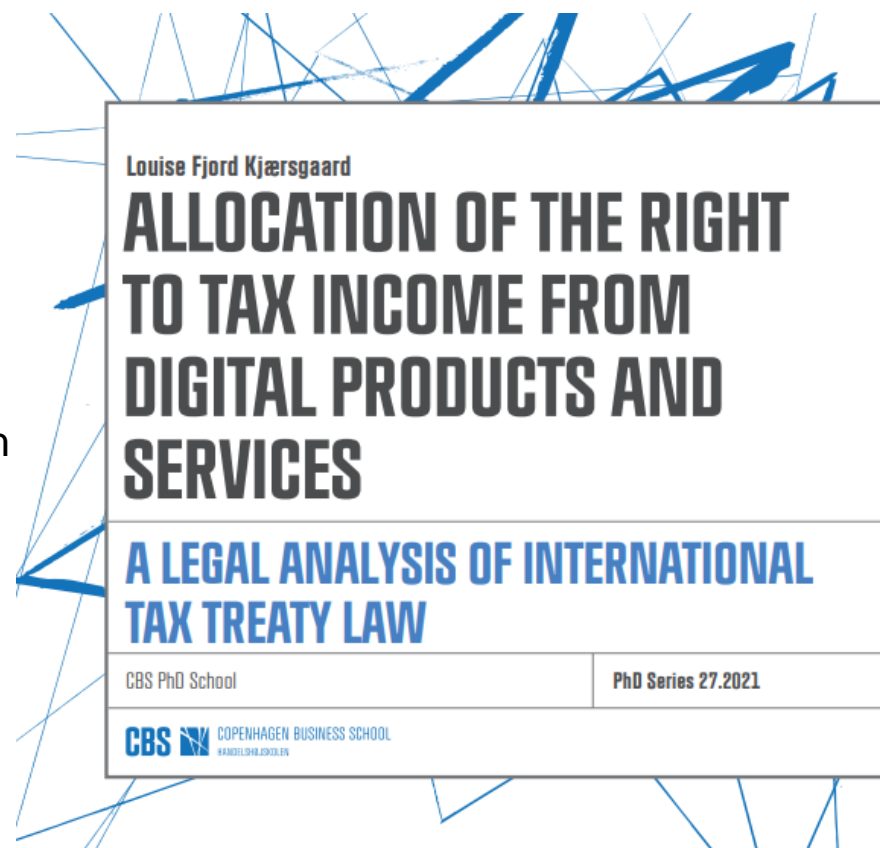**Professor WSR, CBS LAW**

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 Framework

- 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

Louise Fjord Kjærsgaard

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A LEGAL ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL TAX TREATY LAW

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Pros and cons

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
- Continous 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?

Choice of format in a digital era?

Conclusions and questions

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