

## **Reflection on Seminar in Cyprus (29-30.8/2015)**

The seminar was a perfect learning experience for me, as a PhD student. Thank you all for contributing to this empowering challenge.

The following are my comments regarding the various aspects of the seminar:

### Preparation

I appreciate very much that each participant received in advance the articles of the other participants and had a chance to read them prior to the meeting. This enabled us to understand the difficulties and the important issues in the sessions.

The fact that we were asked to prepare a written feedback greatly contributed to the depth and the effectiveness of the discussions during the meeting.

### The sessions

The structure of the meeting was perfect: Presentation, assigned feedback and feedback from other participants. However, it seems it was not clear feedback receivers, how to react. The fact that many of us immediately replied comments caused that we did not have time to elicit all the issues.

Time allotted per participant was a bit too short (extra 15 minutes for each presenter could have been useful). I agree with Kari that a Power Point presentation was not necessary.

The atmosphere at the meeting was very pleasant and friendly. I did not feel threatened by the critical comments. The feedback comments were very concrete and focused and it was excellent for me.

Personally, the articles suggested for further reading and the repeated emphasis on the nature of scientific writing were very meaningful and useful. I also was very impressed by the comments and feedback given to other participants. This gave me a broad perspective on AFL, scientific approach and feedback cultures..

### The socio cultural aspect

It was very interesting, happy and tasty having dinner together and singing in eight languages. There is no doubt that it contributed to the friendly atmosphere and openness in the sessions.

I wish we had more time to spend together and getting to know each other, to deepen professional relations, towards an international professional community of AFL PhD students.

In summary, it was an excellent experience from both academic and social aspects.

Thank you, Kari, for the invitation and the perfect organization!

Hope that there will be more opportunities for this kind of meeting!

All the best

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