Supervisor's statement regarding Lorenzo Davoli's request for extension of PhD studies

The PhD students overall performance, including individual progression, goal fulfilment and course completion based on general and individual study plan,

Lorenzo Davoli began his PhD studies September 15th, 2010. Initially working in the project Satin, part of his funding was provided by an external project until 2012. From 2012 onwards, however, Davoli were able to establish a more focused research agenda. This in combination with the completion of the necessary courses has made it possible to ensure a very effective progression towards a final thesis during the past two years including several significant publications. In general, the specificity of the individual study plan has been continuously improved, as has the overall goal fulfilment. The more detailed time plan established at the start of last study year has been followed in detail. Two courses need to be finalised.

The current state of the work is that the manuscript for the 90% seminar is being finalised, and will be sent to the external opponent (Molly Wright Steenson, Carnegie Mellon University, USA) on September 4th. The 90% seminar will take place October 1st. Overall, Davoli presents a strong research trajectory and several significant results and there are reasons to believe he will deliver a very good PhD thesis.

Supervision during the studies with respect to frequency, extent and special support.

Initially, main supervision was provided by Mikael Wiberg but as he left (2010/2011), Erik Stolterman took over the responsibility. As the PhD education was restructured in 2012, I took over the role as the main supervisor. With Stolterman and me, supervision has been regular, with meetings approx. every second week and more intense supervision when needed.

Date for final defense /Time remaining until final defense.

While the 90% seminar will provide more detailed external feedback, I would estimate that Davoli will need three to four months of additional work to complete thesis, the final formalities and public defense process not included. A final defense early spring next year would be a feasible plan.

Is further supervision needed? If so, to what extent. What other support is needed?

Davoli will need continuous supervision during the time remaining, most likely 3-4 hours/month. He would also benefit from support when it comes to the design and print of the thesis book.

Hönö, September 2nd 2015

Johan Redström