Speeches

It is customary to give formal speeches during meal and after dessert. The doctoral candidate gives the first speech, which is directed at the opponent. The candidate shall thank the opponent for examining the dissertation and for giving valuable comments of it.

The content of the speech is up to the doctoral candidate’s own discretion. If there are two opponents, the candidate shall address them both at the beginning of the speech.

Next the candidate shall address the custos of the public defence. Since the custos is customarily also the official supervising professor of the dissertation, the candidate shall express his/her gratitude for the successful completion of the dissertation. The content of the speech is up to the doctoral candidate’s own discretion.

After these formalities the candidate may direct his/her speech to other guests, such as the supervisor and other people involved in the dissertation process, spouse, parents etc.

The next one to give a speech is the opponent, who shall direct his/her speech only to the doctoral candidate. The content of the speech is up to the opponent’s own discretion. If there are two opponents, both of them shall give speeches.

The custos of the defence shall give the next speech, which is directed at the candidate. Often the custos shall express his/her gratitude also towards the candidate’s parents.

After custos' speech, others may give speeches as well. When all speeches are given, the post-doctoral party may continue freely, although the candidate must see to it that the opponent’s glass is never empty.

It is customary to have an after-party, so that more people can join the party at a later stage.