Co-supervision

Ira Assent, Roberto Trifiletti
Co-Supervision Session

1. Brief overview talk about supervision and co-supervision
2. Group work
3. Presenting results to plenum
4. Open discussion
Supervision

- What is supervision?
  - Academic guidance and support
  - Training in research practices
    - What is research?
  - Feedback
  - Problem solving
  - Career advice
How to be a good supervisor - some general principles

- Be available
- Be clear - the good and the bad news
- Be consistent in feedback
- Point out risks
- Determine the right level of ambition, scope
- Guide to independence - reasonings
- Establish a good working relationship
The supervision relationship

- Supervision is always a relationship
  - Students and supervisors have different expectations, needs, and personal styles
- There is no one size fits all
  - Some prefer hands-off supervision, some clear task definitions
  - Some like to chat about weekend plans, some prefer a strictly professional relationship
  - Some prefer regular meetings, some prefer ad-hoc encounters
  - ... 
- Establish expectations, agree on a working style that works for all parties
  - Adapt to requirements of the situation (e.g. beginning of thesis vs. finishing)
The "sandwich"

- As a co-supervisor, you’re in-between the supervisor and the student
- What is your responsibility and what is not?
  - Defining the task, level of ambition, or "just" problem solving
- What would you like to learn as part of the supervision?
  - Supervision as a skill
- What is the purpose of the co-supervision?
Group work - tips and tricks for supervision

- In small groups, fill in a flip-chart
  1. My best supervision experience was...
  2. My worst supervision experience was...
  3. I found most difficult to handle a supervision situation where...
  4. What really worked for me in supervising students is...

- You have 20 minutes
- Then we return and present result to everyone
  - Followed by open discussion