



# **POST GRADUATE RESEARCH PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

**AP DR. SHANTHI NADARAJAN**

**FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION**

**UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK**

# OUTLINE

Where do **YOU** begin?

How do you **Take charge** of your research?

How to **MAKE** a difference?

How to **Seize the Opportunity?**

How to **have (scientific) fun?**



# RESEARCH PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

- **Define the aim of your research**

- ☐ Make a **plan**

- ☐ Manage

- ☐ Take Charge of your research
- ☐ Perform research
- ☐ Document your work
- ☐ Make your work visible
- ☐ Learn to enjoy during your PhD



# IN THE BEGINNING

You want to :

- make a difference
- develop something new
- learn about a specific field
- Use this opportunity to your benefit
- Have some (scientific) fun

# AIM OF RESEARCH

Focus:

What are you trying to achieve?

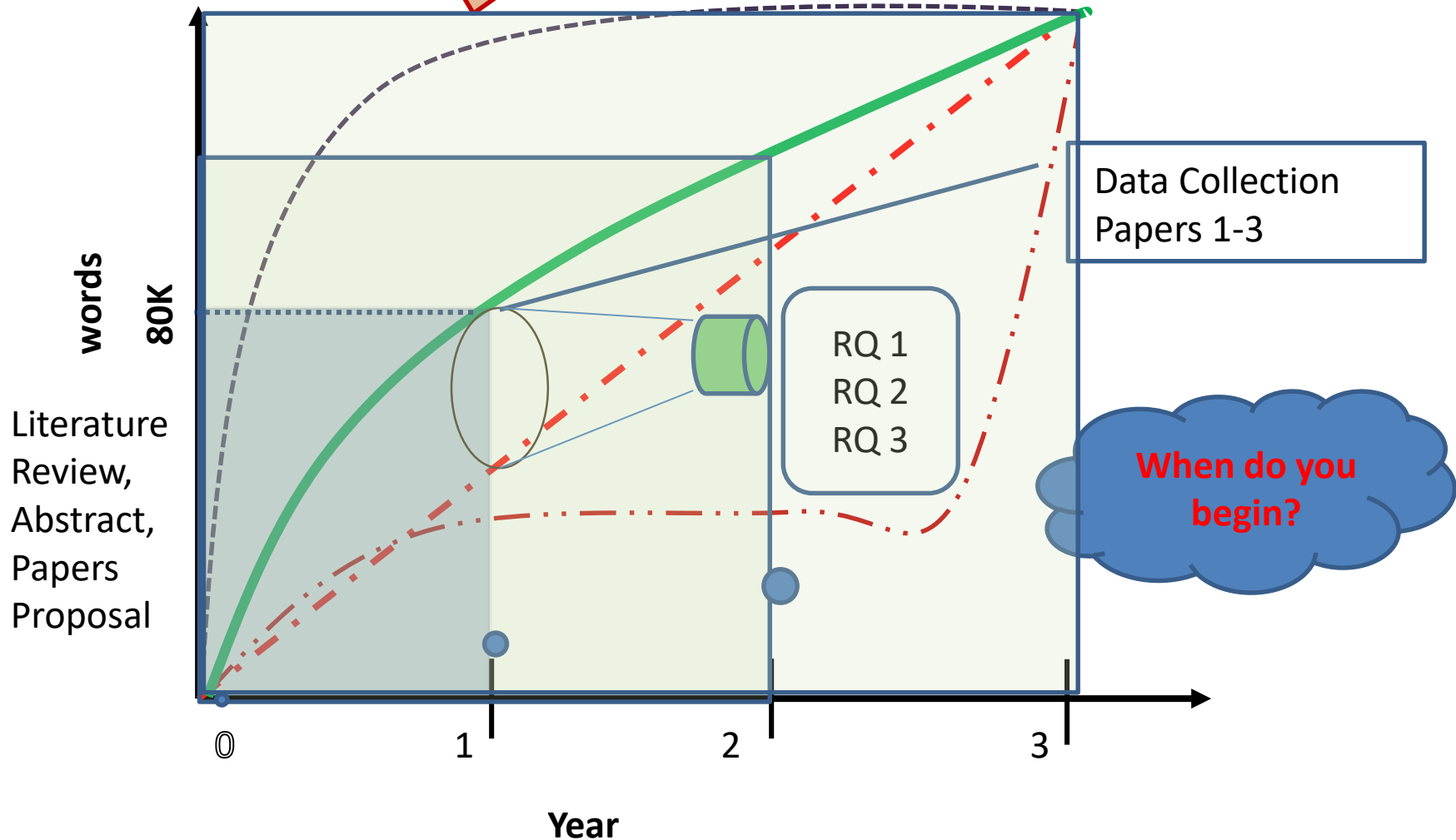
Who will this effect?

What do you need to do to achieve this?

What knowledge and resource exists and what is missing?



Divide your subject into manageable topics



# Plan

- **What** must you achieve in the 1<sup>st</sup>. Year
- **What** should you achieve each month?
- **What** should you achieve each week?
- **What** should you do each day?
- **Are you** on schedule?
- **Why not?** What can you do better?
- **Make necessary adjustments** to your goals.

By the end of

- Year 1, I must have .....
- Each Month .....
- Each week...
- Each day ...
- Monitor personal development.
- Source an end product.

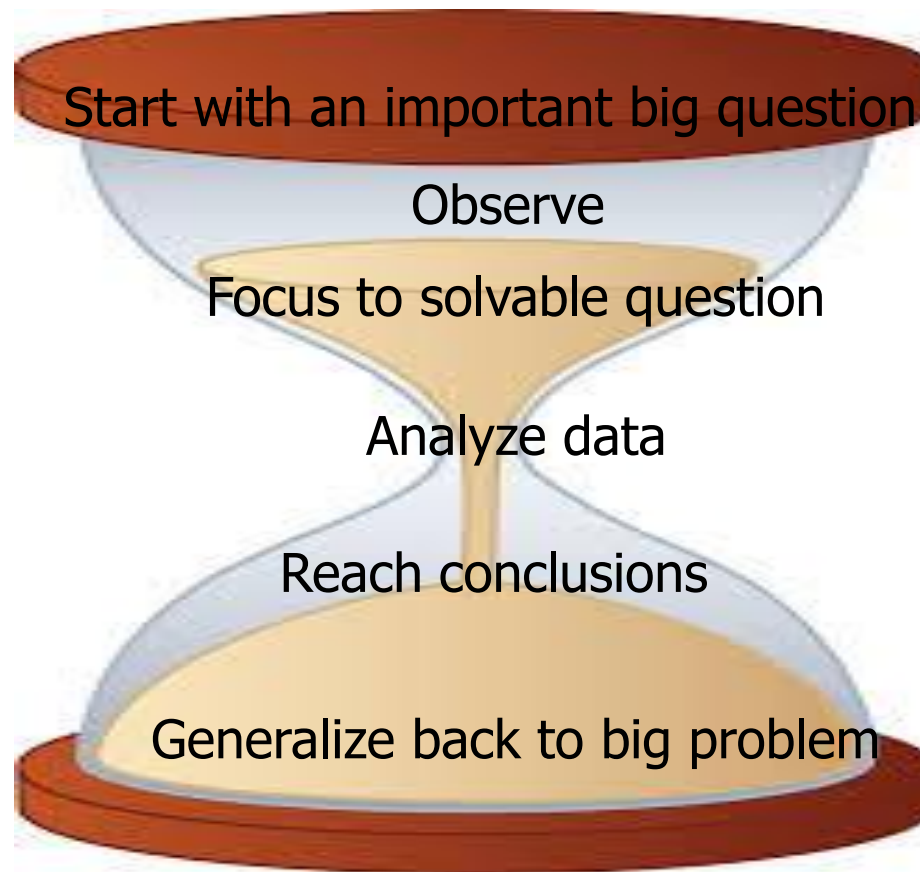
# CHALLENGE 3 :

- Managing your writing
  - Develop a way of looking at your research (Meta Science)
- Self-Management
- Structure
- Academic Writing
- Research Journal
- Knowledge curve





# THE HOURGLASS PICTURE OF RESEARCH



# THE HOURGLASS PICTURE OF RESEARCH

Need to Convince  
that it is solvable

Limit problems to the  
ones that reviewers  
think can be solved

Start with an important big question

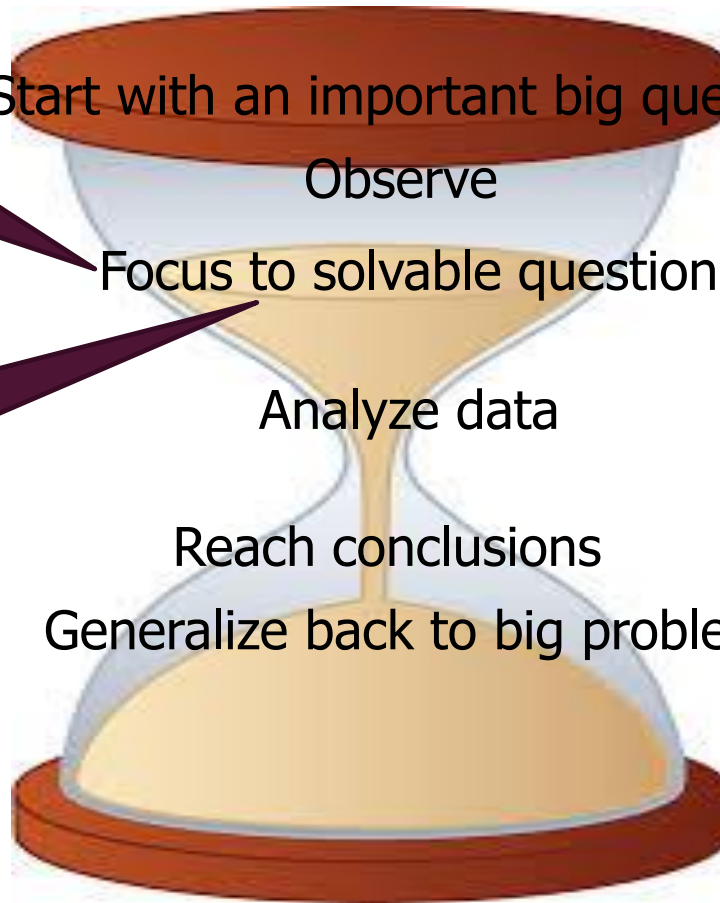
Observe

Focus to solvable question

Analyze data

Reach conclusions

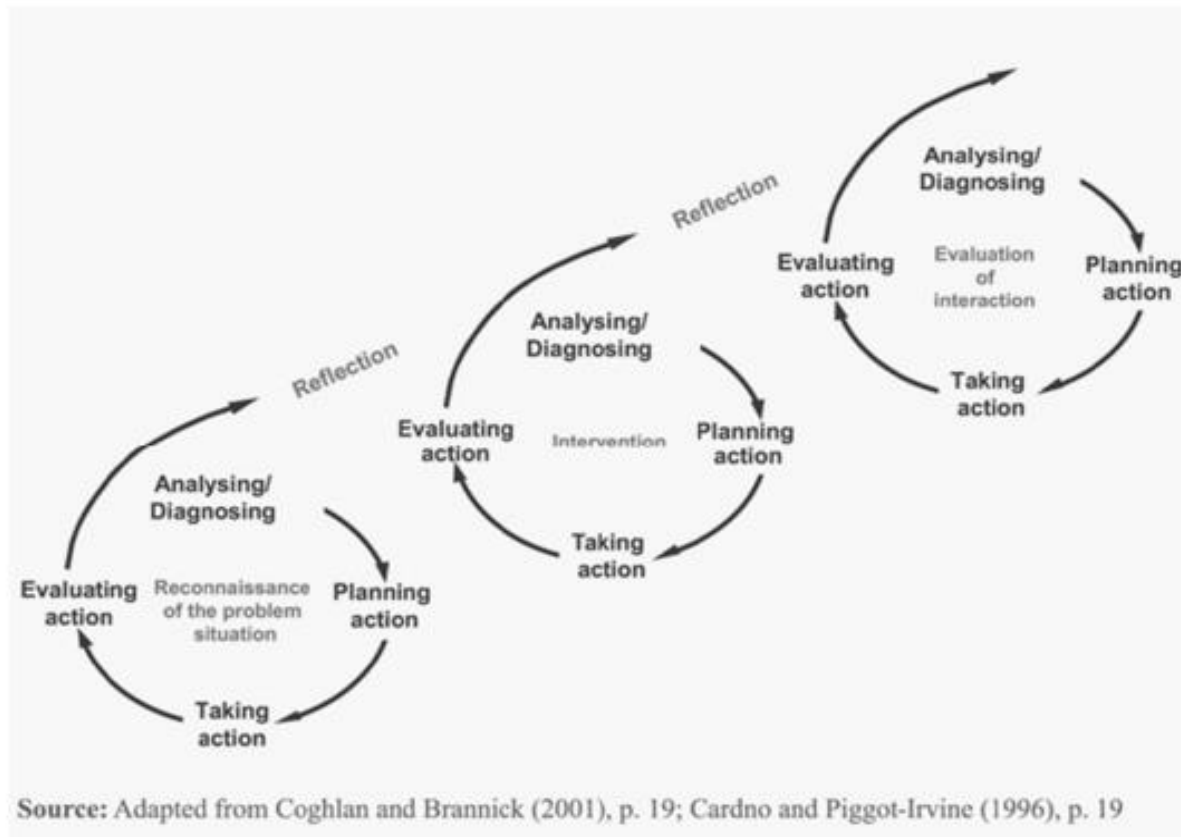
Generalize back to big problem



Joachim Cornell

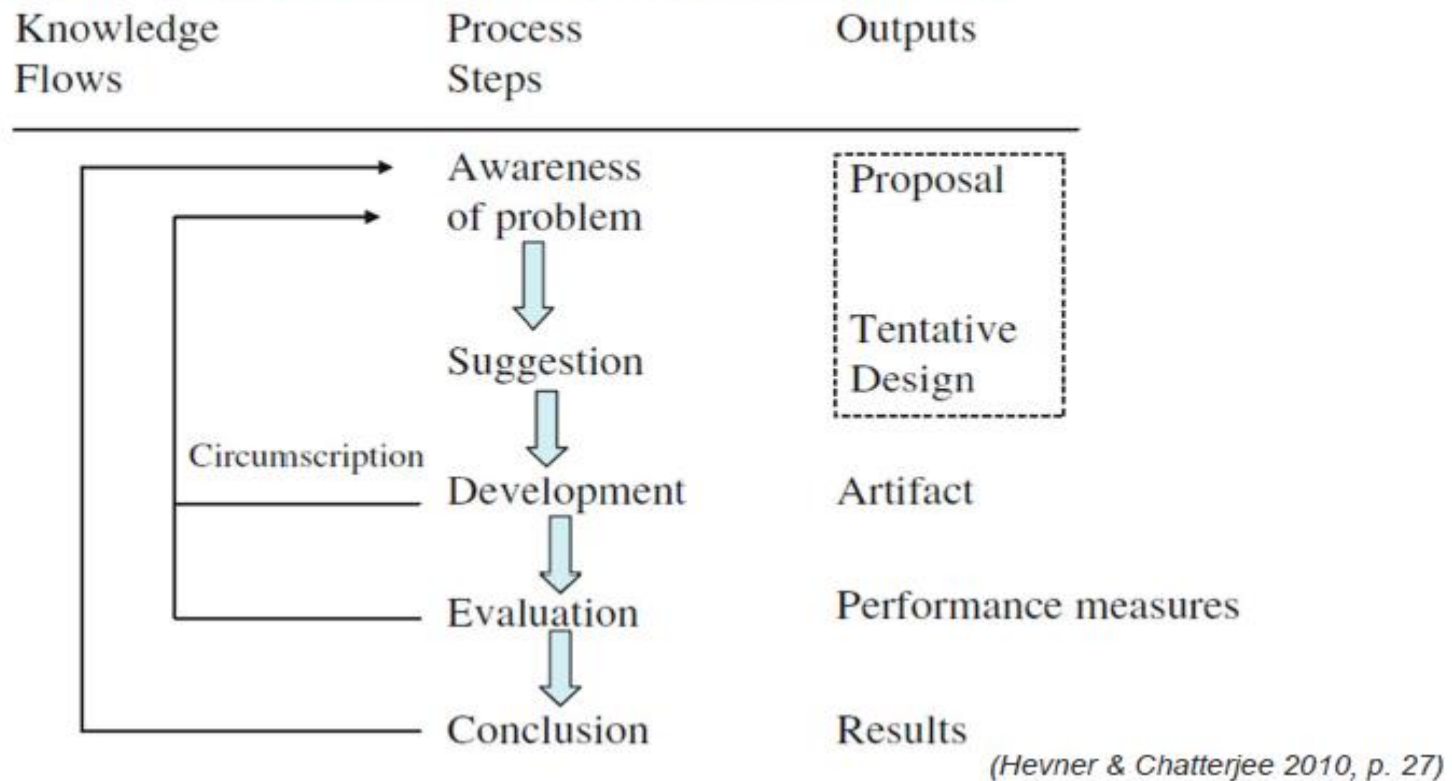
# Plan

## Action research – procedure



# Plan

## Alternative Procedure: Design Science Research Framework



# RESEARCH PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

- **Define Aim of Research**
- **Make a plan**
- **Manage**
  - **Take Charge**
  - **Perform research**
  - **Document your work**
  - **Make your work visible**
  - **Learn to enjoy during your PhD**



# PERFORM RESEARCH

<https://michaelrucker.com/having-fun/why-you-need-more-fun-in-your-life/>

- **Research is team work**
- **Make use of your experienced co-workers and Supervisor to help you perform your research.**



Discover your mistakes- improve.

Do not be disillusioned.

R &D not a phase in your life- an on going cultural experience.

Discover theories and prototypes in the field.

Submit to high impact journals.

# DOCUMENT YOUR WORK

- Make a clear system for yourself to document your research
- Document not only your successes, 'failures' may provide you with even more information.
- Make a habit of re-reading your collection of documents.

# MAKE YOUR WORK VISIBLE

- Publish your work in different journals
- Present your work in as many conference as you can
- **Personal visibility** will make you a part of the scientific community and lead to new ideas and opportunities

You need to be seen  
When you meet people you get reviewed  
The feedback from Journal and proceedings differ



# YOUR SUPERVISOR

- Research Interests
- Recent publications
- Experience supervising
- How much time they will have
- Will you be able to get on?
- What kind of role does your supervisor expect?

## CHALLENGE 6 – MANAGING CONTENT

- Set task targets with your supervisor
- Make maximum use of resources
- Get your material reviewed by peers (seminars, conferences, publish)
- Make contact with people doing similar research (network)



**It always seems  
impossible until it's done.**

Nelson Mandela







*Good luck*