POST GRADUATE RESEARCH PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

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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

When do you begin?

Year

Data Collection Papers 1-3

words

80K

Literature Review, Abstract, Papers Proposal

RQ 1
RQ 2
RQ 3
Plan

- **What** must you achieve in the 1st. 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 betters?
- **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

Start with an important big question

Observe

Focus to solvable question

Analyze data

Reach conclusions

Generalize back to big problem

Adapted From William M.K. Trochim, Cornell
THE HOURGLASS PICTURE OF RESEARCH

Start with an important big question

Observe

Focus to solvable question

Analyze data

Reach conclusions

Generalize back to big problem

Need to Convince that it is solvable

Limit problems to the ones that reviewers think can be solved
Plan

Action research – procedure

Plan

Alternative Procedure: Design Science Research Framework

Knowledge Flows

Process Steps

Outputs

Awareness of problem

Suggestion

Development

Evaluation

Conclusion

Proposal

Tentative Design

Artifact

Performance measures

Results

(Heyner & Chatterjee 2010, p. 27)
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PERFORM RESEARCH

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