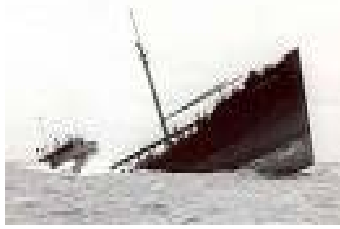


Getting The PHD Research Done



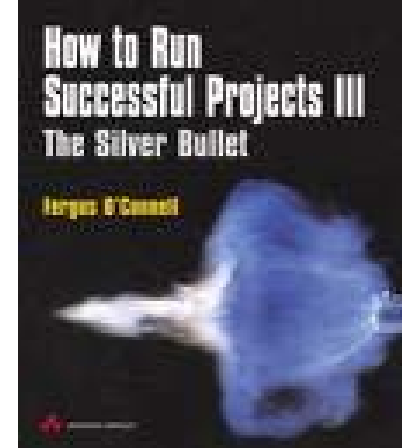
Deakin University 30th November 2016

**Presenter: Professor Leslie P. Willcocks
London School of Economics
And Political Science**



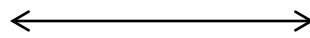
Potential Coverage Today

1. Effective Performance
2. How To Make A PHD Difficult
3. How To Make It Easier:
Getting OUT!
4. The Three Year PHD
5. Some Important Things the Methods
Books Do Not Talk About...
6. Getting Published

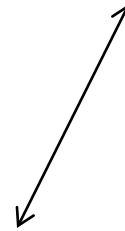
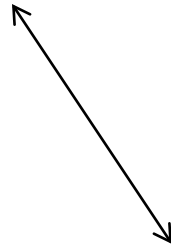


Context

Supervisor
Top CSFs



PhD Student
Top CSFs



Effectiveness
Measurement

C
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C
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Context

Questions For You

What are the top three attributes of an effective supervisor? – 3 CSFs?

What are the top three attributes of an effective PHD student? – 3 CSFs?

What outcomes do you want from the PHD process? – benchmarks?

What contextual factors can you control/not control?

**As a student you will have to think like
At least FOUR people....**

‘Scholar’ - Intelligent, curious, critical

‘Marathon Runner’ – energy, resilience, discipline

‘Seller’ – of proposal, output

‘Project Manager’ – getting TCQ done effectively

**As a supervisor, who do you have to think like
for best results?**

Doing a PhD: Ten Steadily Failing Projects

1. The Perfect Project

**2. The Global Project -
'Going Global'**

**3. Consultancy
Assignment
as PhD (or
vice versa)**



**5. a) The 'Manifestly
Different' Project
b) The 'Loner' Project**

**4. The Lack of Access
Project**

Doing a PhD: Ten Steadily Failing Projects

**6. Failure to Observe
the 6 P's**
(see 'the 3 year PHD')

7. The Disappearing Research Base



**8. Failure - A
Script Waiting
to be Written**

**10. The 'Priority Number 4' Project -
'not urgent, probably not important'**

**9. The 'Mark Thatcher'
Project**

Not urgent

Urgent

**Not
Important**

PHD As ‘Hobby’

PHD as ‘Quick Fix’

Important

**PHD as
‘Long Haul’**

**PHD As ‘Time
Box Project’**

How To Make It Easier: Getting OUT



1. To where?
2. Know when to finish - It's only a PHD
3. Problems, problems - usually from doing earlier things badly e.g. an 'unphased' project
4. A firm logical structure is key
5. Get people to read and comment
6. Write as you go - and keep writing
7. Give yourself targets
8. Make it number One priority - 'gun in the back'
9. Viva management – in Australia?

THE THREE-YEAR PHD

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5	PHASE 6
	FINDING YOUR FEET	DISCOVERING THE RESEARCH APPROACH	FINALISING THE RESEARCH APPROACH	COLLECTING THE DATA/ EVIDENCE	ANALYSING/ CHECKING	WRITING UP
ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify area Identify reference literatures Read and criticise Sort out the most useful references as the research topic begins to focus more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empirical pilot/test Find out in the field Develop some hypotheses and views Research methodology and questions and try these out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise research methodology + questions Project plan research phase Secure/ confirm access Structure data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive contact of an iterative nature with research sites Project manage the nine-month period Fill in non-access time with on-going tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse Iterate Identify and cover research gaps and limitations Identify significant findings 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Area and critique of relevant literatures Initial gaps + research questions Pilot study and results Full research approach. Description + limitations/rationale Detailed empirical evidence Generalisations Analysis/findings Contributions References Appendices
TIME	6 MONTHS	5 MONTHS	3 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	5 MONTHS	6-8 MONTHS
PRODUCT (A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 400+ references Draft literature review: Area + some research questions 	Draft chapter on pilot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method Evidence Findings 	Draft research methodology section	Lots of data collected and put into analysable form	Writing up the empirical chapters (draft)	Draft chapters refereed through independent and self-criticism
(B)	---	Refereed WIP/Conference paper <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 20px;"> → </div>		Possible refereed papers as empirical study is completed and produces significant results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definite papers for academic journals. Look for 3/4 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 20px;"> → </div>	PhD Thesis Academic papers

Allow 6 months for further academic publication

Notes: 1. Each phase indicates only dominant activities. In practice, there will be parallel activities, e.g., continue to update References across 3 years.
 2. Experience is that PHASE 3 is the critical one on which time spent and PhD quality depends.