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MRM – Research Methods (The PhD Journey)

Introduction

This course is intended to give students an understanding of the overall PhD journey with its many milestones. Class discussions will cover a broad range of topics, from managing the PhD process to anchoring oneself within the broader academic community while working toward their advanced degree and beyond.

Objectives

It is very difficult to write a handbook or find a source explaining the PhD journey as it is different for everyone who undertakes it. Each individual student deals with many different issues during her PhD studies and their journeys can involve so many variations on an array of issues that there are often no clear answers. Indeed, it is this inherent ambiguity that makes the journey sometimes frustrating but, at the same time, motivating. Our goal is to provide some structure and best practices to help students along the PhD journey. The course aims to provide a general overview of the process and prepare them to master the initial milestones. In particular, we will focus on working towards the 2nd-year paper and presentation that are the key formal milestones in the transition from to MRM to PhD. The best way to learn about the PhD journey is to discuss it with peers, scholars alike, learning from each other and building upon everyone's experiences. This course is designed to serve as the beginning of that experience.

Learning Outcomes

- Students can work towards the 2nd year deliverables for the MRM: paper and presentation.
- Explore ideas and databases that could help them move forward during the summer period and beyond.
- Increase understanding of the process of the PhD and the milestones that must be met along the way.
- Understand the challenges that come with any PhD journey and gain exposure to tools and processes that can help to overcome these challenges.
- Practice communicating research interests and ways to engage with interested faculty and advisors.
- Learn to systematically assess papers submitted to conferences and journals.
- Anticipate opportunities and challenges in the job market and how to plan for them.

Competences

Basic
CB1. Possess and understand knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity to be original in the development and / or application of ideas, often in a research context.
CB2. The students can integrate knowledge and face the complexity of formulating judgments based on information that, being incomplete or limited, includes reflections on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments.
CB3. Students possess the learning skills that allow them to continue studying in a way that will be largely self-directed or autonomous.

Specific
CE1 Document next steps and milestones for the 2nd year, that will help in writing the 2nd year paper and the 2nd year paper presentation.
CE2 Understand the importance of papers and journal positioning for the academic career.
CE3 Develop the ability to deal with upcoming issues and frustrations during the PhD.
CE4 Communicate research ideas and one's research identity more comfortably.
CE5 Analyze databases that help you and your peers create for research papers.
CE6 Create a framework how to cultivate a relationship with an advisor and possible co-authors.

SDG Goals:

SDG 1 – Good Health and Well-Being
SDG 2 – Quality Education

Evaluation

Grading is based on three factors:

SE1: 30% participation and engagement in class. Contribution to the class learning will be determined by active participation in class discussions both in terms of quality and quantity.

SE2: 30% individual assignments for classes. We open an assignment in virtual campus that students have to submit 2 hours prior to the session.

SE3: 40% the final 2nd year contract, which is developed over the term and presented on the final day of classes.

IMPORTANT: Everyone will read all papers BUT I will put names behind each those that may be called initially to provide a brief overview.

Course Outline

READINGS HERE:

Session	Title of session and material(s)	
1 & 2 **11 April.**	**The PhD Journey – Introduction and General Issues**	
	<u>Focus:</u>	In this session we will discuss some of the issues around the broader PhD journey. Students should also be prepared to articulate a research interest in terms of what they envision themselves pursuing for the 2nd year paper/presentation (and maybe beyond) – I understand this may still be a very rough start of a proposal (see below).
	<u>Readings</u>	Mueller, E. F., & Schnurbus, J. Heeding the Call of Science: What Leads PhD Graduates to Pursue an Academic Career? Academy of Management Learning & Education, 0(ja): 2023 (online) (Ray, Grace) Hazell, C. M., Niven, J. E., Chapman, L., Roberts, P. E., Cartwright-Hatton, S., Valeix, S., & Berry, C. 2021. Nationwide assessment of the mental health of UK Doctoral Researchers. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, 8(1): 305. (Hoarui) Levecque, K., Anseel, F., De Beuckelaer, A., Van der Heyden, J., & Gisle, L. 2017. Work organization and mental health problems in PhD students. Research Policy, 46(4): 868-879. (Chen) Berry, C., Niven, J. E., & Hazell, C. M. 2021. Personal, social and relational predictors of UK postgraduate researcher mental health problems. BJPsych Open, 7(6): e205. (Steven, Lorenzo)
	<u>Issues:</u>	• Discuss the study design and the inferences drawn. • Reflect on what these studies mean for you.

	<u>Deliverable</u>	• 2 slides (feel free to reuse a proposal you have already presented in a class if you are confident that you will pursue this path further):
		    ○ Submit to virtual campus: 2 hours before our session starts.
		    ○ Slide one: Broader research interest you are currently pursuing or want to pursue for the summer, which could lead to a 2nd year paper.
		    ○ Slide two: Initial ideas on the next steps: What will you do over the next 5 months?
		    ○ Be prepared to talk for 5 min about both slides.

3 & 4 **18 April**	**PhD Journey: Research Papers**	
	<u>Focus:</u>	We discuss different milestones of the PhD journey – with a special focus on the 2nd year paper.
	<u>Readings</u>	Papers that started as 2nd year papers: Understanding the Link between Post-Acquisition R&D Organization and Technology Commercialization (Steven)

		Klueter, T., & Monteiro, F. 2017. How does Performance Feedback Affect Boundary Spanning in Multinational Corporations? Insights from Technology Scouts. Journal of Management Studies, 54(4): 483-510.(Grace)

(Paper started end of year 3): Kapoor, R., & Klueter, T. 2015. Decoding the Adaptability–Rigidity Puzzle: Evidence from Pharmaceutical Incumbents' Pursuit of Gene Therapy and Monoclonal Antibodies. Academy of Management Journal, 58(4): 1180-1207. (Ray)

Other papers:
Aguinis, H., Cummings, C., Ramani, R. S., & Cummings, T. G. 2020. "An A Is An A": The New Bottom Line For Valuing Academic Research. Academy of Management Perspectives, 34(1): 135-154. (Lorenzo)

Bajo, E., Barbi, M., & Hillier, D. 2020. Where should I publish to get promoted? A finance journal ranking based on business school promotions. Journal of Banking & Finance, 114: 105780. (Che, Haorui)

Assignment: Submit a mini presentation (ppt format - 8 min) in teams of two regarding:

REF ranking in the UK (Che, Ray)
UT Dallas list & FT 50 Ranking: (Grace, Steven)
AACSB: https://charteredabs.org/academic-journal-guide-2021/ (Harorui, Lorenzo)
Some instructions::
- Provide an overview over the ranking process
- Discuss which journals are considered the top!
- Try to find out how each of the lists is used in business schools around the world.

5 & 6

25 Sep.

PhD Journey – Mentors, Advisors & Co-Authoring I

Focus: Mentors, advisors and co-authors are all crucial in the PhD journey. We discuss some of the issues that may emerge along the journey. We, also, explore the role of co-authorship in publications.

Readings: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/monsters-and-mentors-phd-disasters-and-how-to-avoid-them

Li, E. Y., Liao, C. H., & Yen, H. R. 2013. Co-authorship networks and research impact: A social capital perspective. Research Policy, 42(9): 1515-1530. (Lorenzo, Ray)

Li, W., Aste, T., Caccioli, F., & Livan, G. 2019. Early coauthorship with top scientists predicts success in academic careers. Nature Communications, 10(1): 5170. (Steven)

Macdonald, S., & Kam, J. 2007. Ring a ring o'roses: Quality journals and gamesmanship in management studies. Journal of Management Studies, 44(4): 640-655. (Grace, Che)

Scaffidi, A. K., & Berman, J. E. 2011. A positive postdoctoral experience is related to quality supervision and career mentoring, collaborations, networking and a nurturing research environment. Higher Education, 62: 685-698. (Haorui)

	Assignment:	Write a half-page (bullet points are fine) how you would organize, manage and follow up a meeting with an advisor or faculty in general. Add a few sentences what you do after your have read an interesting research paper (if anything 😊).
7 & 8 **4 May**	**PhD Journey – Mentors, Advisors & Co-Authoring II**	
	Focus:	We will host Arie Levin and have a conversation with him about his career. A good part of the session will be with other PhD students.
	Readings:	van Rooij, E., Fokkens-Bruinsma, M., & Jansen, E. 2021. Factors that influence PhD candidates' success: the importance of PhD project characteristics. Studies in Continuing Education, 43(1): 48-67. Wright, T., & Cochrane, R. 2000. Factors Influencing Successful Submission of PhD Theses. Studies in Higher Education, 25(2): 181-195.
	Assignment:	None to hand in for this week! BUT - Meet in groups of three: Group 1: Che, Haorui, Steven; Group 2: Grace, Lorenzo, Ray. It should be at least 30 minutes per student. - Explain a possible path towards a 2nd year topic to your peers – explain some of the relevant literature you have already identified. - Reflect on possible ideas you have in terms of data collection. - Address questions from peers. - Begin preparing for NEXT WEEK's assignment
9 & 10 **9 May** **incomplete**	**PhD Journey – Towards the 2nd year**	
	Readings	None
	Assignment:	Two submissions are due based on the conversation with your peers. - Write a 1 pager brainstorming about the research interest for each peer. Include recommendations for literature, empirical approaches. - Prepare a 10-min presentation making a recommendation to both peers regarding an interesting database, dataset, they might find useful. Be ready to showcase on the screen. Explain underlying data, accessibility, etc.
11 & 12 **16 May** **incomplete**	**PhD Journey – Communication Matters**	
	Focus:	We will have a communication workshop to help confidently discuss research topics. Some later-stage students may join to hone their "my research is about" pitch.
	Assignment:	None to hand in for this week! BUT use the time to prepare for the next week as you will have to submit several assignments: - A review - A presentation (which also has to be practiced for the class). - A short summary about a conference
13 & 14 **23 May** **incomplete**	**PhD Journey – Networking and Conferences**	
	Focus:	Conferences are part of the academic life and may be a first opportunity for you to connect with academic outside of IESE.

	Readings	**Paper Submissions (which you will review) – will be provided 3 weeks prior to the session.**
	Assignment:	1. Submit the review to the conference submission (1 page) in virtual campus.
		2. Select a paper you really like! Prepare an 8-min presentation as if it's yours and you are presenting at a conference. Check with me if you have questions on structure. Submit your paper presentation to virtual campus.
		3. Prepare one slide explaining the following conferences:
		Academy of Management (Grace)
		SMS (Lorenzo)
		EGOS - OR ANY OTHER you find interesting (Ray).
		American Finance Association (AFA) annual meeting (Che)
		European Finance Association (EFA) annual meeting (Steven)
		Society of Financial Studies (SFS) Cavalcade North America (Haorui)
15 & 16 **2 June** **incomplete**	**PhD Journey – Reviews and Revisions**	
	Focus:	We will explore the R&R process.
	Readings:	I will provide paper, review process documents 3 weeks pior to the session. **More readings may be added**
17 & 18 **6 June** **incomplete**	**PhD Journey - Ethics**	
	Focus:	Classes by Nino Vaccaro
	Readings:	Will be communicated
19 & 20 **13 June** **incomplete**	**PhD – Journey - 2nd year contract and Defending**	
	Focus:	Commit to the work of developing your 2nd year paper over the summer. The 2nd session will be Giacomo's dissertation defense. Block out sufficient time as it can take 2 and more hours!
	Readings:	**https://www.franklin.edu/blog/6-reasons-people-fail-to-finish-their-doctorate-how-to-finish-yours** **More readings may be added**
	Assignment:	2nd year contract to take next steps. Details will be communicated.

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Thomas holds a PhD in Managerial Science and Applied Economics from University of Pennsylvania, an MA from University of Pennsylvania and University College Dublin and a BA Science from Duale Hochschule Baden-Wuertemberg. Prior to pursuing an academic career, he was a financial analyst and project manager at IBM and JP Morgan. In those functions, he was involved in several worldwide projects in corporate finance and business development.

Thomas' research interests lie at the intersection of strategic entrepreneurship and innovation. He focuses on how established and emerging firms manage technological change and the strategies firms pursue to develop and commercialize new technologies. His work has been published in Academy of Management Journal, Organization Science, the Journal of Management Studies, Research Policy, Nature Biotechnology, and Sloan Management Review.