3 Minute Thesis at UWS

UWS 3 MT Winner Jan Townsend, School of Medicine

*Infertility: What's the man got to do with it?*

Principal supervisor – Dr Laura Surmon

Valeria Peretokina, MARCS Institute, co-winner of the “People's Choice”

“Sorry, could you say that again? Or the ways second language listening can be improved”

Principal Supervisor – Prof Cathi Best

Tracey Steinrucken
Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (HIE) Runner up

*Dieback Murder Mystery*

Principal supervisor – Dr Jeff Powell.

Toby Raeburn: School of Nursing and Midwifery

*A Case Study of Recovery Practices at a Clubhouse Psychiatric Rehabilitation Service.*

Principal supervisor – A/Prof Michelle Cleary.
3 Minute Thesis at UWS – continued

School of Humanities and Communication Arts
Nukte Ogun
What Legal Recognition Means for Multiculturalism
Principal supervisor – Prof Timothy Rowse.

Mat Donald, School of Business
Organisational Barriers to Change
Principal Supervisor – Dr Jim Mitchell

Mr Kwok-Shing Wong
Institute for Infrastructure Engineering (IIE)
Effects of wind-induced tall building motions on occupants’ manual task performance
Principal supervisor – Prof Kenny Kwok.

Adam Sutton, School of Science and Health
Smart Dishwasher Detergents
Principal supervisor – Dr Patrice Castignolles

Co-winners of the People’s Choice, Valeria and Nolene

Isaac Lyne, Institute for Culture and Society
Social Enterprise – Theory and Practice in Cambodia
Principal Supervisor – Prof Katherine Gibson
3 Minute Thesis at UWS – continued

Mohammad Haque, School of Law
Empower Local Government: Ensure Food Security
Principal Supervisor – Professor Donna Craig

Nolene Walker, School of Education
Inclusion of Students with Additional Needs and Implications for Teacher Training
Principal Supervisor – Prof Michele Simons

Sangeeta Bhatia, School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics
My Cousin Minnie – Mouse to Man in 100 Easy Steps
Supervisors – Prof Andrew Francis, A/Prof Volker Gebhardt
Dr Mark Tanaka.

All UWS Competitors with Prof Scott Holmes (far left) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Development)

Catherine O’Gorman,
School of Social Sciences and Psychology
Another Time – With Feeling!
Principal supervisor Dr Agnes Petocz.

Tracey Steinrucken representing UWS at UWA
3 Minute Thesis at UWS – continued

Getting ready

Judges, in front seats, Prof David Tait, Aunty Frances Bodkin and Penrith Mayor Mr Ross Fowler

The Mullein Tryptch

A practice workshop was run for UWS finalists and participants enjoyed feedback and advice from Prof Andrew Francis, Dr Penny Rossiter and Dr Lisa Armitage. Many thanks to all three for giving their time and wisdom.

The 2014 Trans-Tasman Competition was held at University of Western Australia in November. Speakers represented 48 Universities in Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The winner was Sarah Marley, from Curtin University, topic “Say what? Coastal dolphins and noisy environments”. Curtin will host the Trans-Tasman event in 2015.

Here is a link to the presentations of the finalists.

All the Competitors at the Trans-Tasman Competition
Editing of theses

There are often question about editing of theses, from staff and students.

Editing should not be seen as an alternative to developing good writing skills but rather as a last step in polishing the work. Please read the UWS Editing Guidelines (DOC, 171.5 KB) (opens in new window) for a full explanation.

The Deans and Directors of Graduate Study (DDoS) Australia negotiated guidelines for editing theses (opens in new window) with the Society of Editors.

To find a professional editor visit IPED find an editor (opens in new window).

Staff in Schools/Research Institutes may know of a reliable editor in their discipline area. It is wise to ask the HDR Director or professional staff contact if they have any recommendations.

Students may be eligible for candidature project funds to pay for editing.

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All HDR Graduates are expected to be excellent communicators. Written communication skills are essential for further research, grant application writing and disseminating of findings.

Research that is not published is, in essence, not done. It is expected that all HDR graduates will have the capacity to be excellent researchers in their post graduation careers.

Academia uses theses as one way of testing the ability of graduate students to use written words for communicating ideas and arguments.

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Confirmation of Candidature

Are you due to conduct your Confirmation of Candidature?

Here is some information and links to help you get started

“Don’t be afraid of receiving comprehensive advice on your confirmation, including recommendations to make changes.

Confirmation is an introduction to academic review of your work.

Recommendations will make your work stronger and should be welcomed”.

The essence of the Confirmation of Candidature (CoC) is to test whether the planned research will produce an excellent thesis within a specified timeframe. It is a thorough test of the research question or theme, the research case, methodology, identification of knowledge gaps, expected outcomes, likely sources of information and anticipated contribution to the advancement of knowledge. For detailed information look for the heading Content of the Document on page 4 of the Confirmation of Candidature Document.
Confirmation of Candidature – continued

Research Merit and Integrity

Researchers must foster and maintain a research environment of intellectual honesty and integrity, and scholarly and scientific rigour (2007). UWS Research Code of Practice.

The value and benefits of research are vitally dependent on the integrity of research (Singapore Statement in Research Integrity 2010 endorsed by Academic Senate 2013).

The trend among researchers is to embed research ethics into all aspects of the research, right from the design stage through to all the activities that form their ethical research practice. This is essential where research involves human participants (National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007) or animals (Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition (2013).

These quotes signal three key aspects of the Confirmation of Candidature and more detail is provided here.

Human Ethics applications cannot be submitted until the Confirmation of Candidature has been successfully completed. The research merit and integrity aspect of Ethics applications is tested at the Confirmation of Candidature. It is applicable to all students, whether formal Ethics approval is required or not.

The Confirmation of Candidature is compulsory for all first year research students, usually completed within the first six months of candidature, and no later than 12 months. This time range applies to full and part time students. Postgraduate Essentials (PG.E) must be completed before Confirmation of Candidature.

Look for “Preparing for Confirmation of Candidature” at the HDR Workshops site in vUWS, under the tile “workshop resources”. You can login to vUWS using your student id and selecting “HDR Workshops 2014” the left side of the page.

Here you’ll find, videos, reading lists, information on how to prepare the document and examples of confirmation documents. Contact May Krone if you don’t have access, m.krone@uws.edu.au

In this audio recording Dr Marie Fellbaum Korpi talks about how to prepare for the Confirmation of Candidature proposal.

Video Confirmation of Candidature: A Student’s Perspective, Jen Li PhD student, Institute for Cultural and Society

The Confirmation of Candidature Guidelines have comprehensive advice about preparation, the process, requirements and outcomes.

There are attended workshops on presentation skills and you can check the program here.

Post from the Thesis Whisperer on Confirmation
News from the Library

SAGE Research Methods (SRM)

Are you about to embark on the research project of a lifetime? Are you wavering over which methods are best suited for your research? Are you going down the qualitative or quantitative or mixed method route?

Never fear SAGE Research Methods is here to help. This online resource provides focused, comprehensive support for all phases of the research process. It is a valuable tool for individuals pursuing advanced research, supervisors and those teaching research. In addition, it offers a helpful start for beginners new to the world of conducting research.

Available via the Library Website this excellent resource offers a range of online material, tutorials and added features for researchers:

» Material from approximately 463 book titles, 6 major works, 6 dictionaries, 9 encyclopedias, 344 journal articles, and 27 videos

» A Methods Map feature to visualize the connections to a chosen methodology

» Helpful tutorials for a resource overview, for help with starting research, and for working with the Methods Map and Methods Lists

The research methods used to research are many and varied. SRM is a collection of online resources and tools that will assist the long and bumpy research journey.

For any further queries regarding this excellent resource contact your School Librarian.
Congratulations

Writing and Society

Arka Chattopadhyay has had a piece published in the Oxford based web journal ‘The Oxford Philosopher’. His piece is titled “ ‘I Write Therefore I Am’: Feminine Inscription between Desire and Jouissance in Tagore”.

Louise Carter has had a poem accepted in Meanjin. In late 2013 Louise also has had a poem published Cordite and in June of this year another in Westerly. She is also on the long list for inclusion in this year’s Best Australian Poetry.

School of Business

Mat Donald recently gave a paper at the Australian Institute of Project Management National 2014 Conference.

Matt said that competing in the 3 minute thesis helped him to crystallise his thoughts for the paper “the 3MT is good preparation and is much harder – a good opportunity to be able to make your topic relevant to the average listener”.

Matt’s paper Conference website

Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

Sarah Facey won the best student poster award (the only prize given) at the prestigious triennial International Symposium on Insect-Plant Interactions, held in Neuchatel, Switzerland. The award is 500 Swiss Francs (A$600) and was selected by an international panel of judges.

Sarah presented her work “Testing the interactive effects of elevated temperature and carbon dioxide on an above-/belowground herbivore system”.

Sarah attended this conference in Switzerland and another conference in the UK with a number of peer HIE PhD students, as well as her supervisor Dr Scott Johnson.

Lisa Bromfield was awarded the 2014 Wiley Fundamental Ecology Award.

This is a prestigious award by the Ecological Society of Australia, and it is fantastic that Lisa has won this award for her project. Please find more about Lisa's research project “Individual strategies to cope with environmental change: A test of the pace-of-life syndrome hypothesis” on the ESA website here.

Tim Sutton’s project “Ecology & evolution of fig pollinator – parasite interactions” was highly commended by the award committee (also on the website).

School of Humanities and Communication Arts

Cathy Aggett was recently the winner of one of the 2014 Art Music Awards, presented by APRA AMCOS and the Australian Music Centre.

The award for Excellence in Music Education was awarded to Cathy Aggett for new Australian art songs for low voice, a project culminating in 21 new works by Australian composers. This prestigious award recognized Cathy’s project idea and its outcomes all of which are linked to her doctoral thesis topic titled ‘Australian art song: pedagogical strategies framed for singers and singing teachers’.

Songs by Australian composers, including UWS Music academics and composers Clare Maclean and Diana Blom, were performed in Canberra at the Australian Society for Music Education in October last year by leading Australian singers contraltos Jenny Duck-Chong, Lotte Latukefu, Susan Reppion Brooke and bass Clive Birch, and a two-volume publication of the scores, with pedagogical material by Cathy Aggett, was published by Wirripang Pty. Ltd. The award is also recognition of Cathy’s long support as singer, teacher and researcher, of Australian art song.
Congratulations – continued

School of Education

Dr. W. D. Chandrasena (pictured left) who graduated from UWS in September, 2014 won the “Young Scholar Best Paper Award” at the Asia Pacific Educational Research Association and Hong Kong Educational Research Association International Conference – 2014 held in Hong Kong Institute of Education, Hong Kong from 19th November, 2014 to 21st November, 2014. Dr. Chandrasena is currently attached to the Science Education Unit, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka as a Senior Lecturer and his research paper was based on the studies that he conducted for his PhD at UWS.

Links, blogs, handy hints etc.

Inger Mewburn, The Thesis Whisperer

“I’m writing a book no one will read” and other reasons the PhD can get you down.

When good supervisors go bad…

What will you do when your doctorate is done?

How to survive a ‘mid PhD crisis’

How to deal with forgetful supervisors.

How to stop those unhealthy thoughts.

In this post Eve Hermansson-Webb confronts negative self talk that many of us fall into and offers some ideas for changing it.

*The best two books on doing a thesis.*

*How Mendeley Helps PhD Students Become Successful Scientists.*

Via the Thesis Whisperer — Julio Peironcely writes about the good and bad of Mendeley as a tool to handle academic literature, for science students.

Pat Thomson

*Choosing a Thesis Examiner.*

“It is important to find examiners who really do have the right kind of expertise to make a well-informed judgment. And for the very specialised nature of some PhDs, for the increasing number that are interdisciplinary and/or for those texts that break the boundaries of the conventional thesis, it is absolutely crucial to find examiners who grasp the intent and the scholarly context of the work. Having someone who just doesn’t ‘get it’ can be a disaster”.

*Keeping Your Thesis Examiner on Track.*

“I’m currently reading my fifth doctoral thesis for the year. I realized a while ago that I’ve now examined at least fifty doctorates. I guess that’s a lot. I recently decided to go back to my examination reports to see if there was any common pattern in my responses — and there was”.

9
Feedback Survey

This is a short user feedback survey about the new HDR Workshops vUWS site. We would appreciate your feedback as it will help us to improve the site and continue to develop online resources to support you throughout your candidature.

Link
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7DXL53D

If you haven’t visited the site, log on to vUWS using your student id and you will find a link on the left of the page.

For comments, questions or contributions please contact Mary Krone, m.krone@uws.edu.au