Effective Research Degree Supervision

A One Day Seminar at the University of

Presented by Dr Dan Remenyi

What this seminar is about
Increasing numbers of research degree candidates have meant that there is a growing demand for supervisors and quality supervision. Whereas only a few years ago anyone who had a research degree or even a modest track record in publishing research was virtually automatically deemed to be a competent supervisor, today we have realised that this is not actually the case.

The supervision of research degree candidates can be a demanding business for which new or novice supervisors need careful preparation. There are many issues involved and to competently undertake this work is not trivial. Furthermore in the past few years’ more and more part-time research degree candidates have registered for degrees. These are often experienced individuals who are highly accomplished in their own right. It is therefore essential that all research degree candidates be supervised by well-prepared supervisors.

How the seminar works.
This is a one-day intensive seminar that covers a wide range of issues relating to the research degree supervision process. The seminar clearly spells out what is required for successful supervision and how this can be managed to produce the result required of successful research degrees.

This seminar is intended only to those who wish to supervise research degree candidates. These supervisors will normally have a research degree themselves. However individuals who have a good track record in the publication of research will also be considered. The format of the seminar consists of lectures and class discussion. A comprehensive set of notes is supplied.
Seminar outline

Seminar begins at 0830

Research degrees
Different options available

Why supervise?
5 compelling reasons

Getting ready to supervise
Knowing the standards
Knowing the house rules of the institution and how they are implemented
The Supervisor and the Director or Dean of Research

Accepting a student
A checklist for determining the suitability of a potential student

Rules of engagement for the research process
How to set up rules for working with your research students

The Research Proposal
Helping a student choose a suitable research question
Helping the student choose a research strategy

Research Strategies Available
Step by step to the research strategy
Factors Influencing the Choice of Research Strategy
Research Problem or Question
Skills of the Researcher
Funds available
Time allocated for the degree
The Place for Theoretical Research
Critical Research Strategy

Helping the student choose a research tactic
Action research
Case Studies
Ethnography
Field Experiments
Focus Groups
Forecasting
Futures Research
Game or Role Playing
In-depth Surveys
Laboratory Experiments
Large-scale Surveys
Participant–Observer Approach
Scenario Research

Lunch 1300-1345

A Research Protocol
What is a research protocol?
What should it contain?
How should a research protocol be used?

Getting the research started
How to make a start with the research

Helping the student to finalise the work for submission
Checking that the work is ready to be examined

How the research will be evaluated
How is the dissertation evaluated?
The Traditional Masters Degree by Dissertation
Course Work and the Masters Degree
A Holistic Evaluation Approach
Research Report for a Masters Degree by Course Work
Evaluating a Masters Degree by Dissertation

Details that Examiners Inspect Closely
Introduction to the subject
Literature Review
Research Questions
Methodology
Data or Evidence Collection and Analysis
Interpretation of the research findings
Summary and Conclusion of the Dissertation
The Limitations of the Research
Management Guidelines or Recommendations

The Grading of Research Degrees
A Checklist for Doctoral and Masters Degree Candidates

Summary and conclusion of the research

The choice of examiner
The way to help select an examiner

The Viva Voce
Preparing for the oral examination

Helping the student make changes after examination
The job isn’t finished until the student’s work has finally been accepted

Ethics of research
Making sure that a sound ethics codes is followed

Completion Issues
Finalising the responsibilities of the supervisor

The seminar will close at 1600.

Seminar Facilitator
Professor Dan Remenyi is an external member of Faculty at Henley Business School, University of Reading and an Honorary Professor at the University of Winchester and the University of the Witwatersrand. He was for more than a decade a Visiting Professor in Information Systems Management at the School of Systems and Data Studies at Trinity College, University of Dublin. In recent year he has taken a strong interest in research methodology and the sociology of research. He now works extensively with research candidates and their supervisors at both doctoral and masters level. He conducts a number of seminars to topics related to improving effective academic research and obtaining better results. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 books and some 50 academically refereed papers. He is published in all 4 of the ’A’ rated Journals in the United Kingdom in Information Systems Management. One of his papers was voted by the IS community to be one of the 50 most influential papers in that field. He is on the Editorial Advisory Boards of a number of Journals in the IS field of study. He holds a B Soc Sc, an MBA and a PhD.