



Stepping Stones to Achieving your Doctorate: Focusing on your viva from the start (Open Up Study Skills)

Vernon Trafford, Shosh Leshem

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- What criteria are used to assess the scholarly merit of a thesis?
- What is the level of conceptualization that is expected in doctoral theses?
- How can you prepare to defend your thesis?
- What is the most effective route to achieving your doctorate?

The starting point to achieving your doctorate is to appreciate how your thesis will be examined. The criteria that examiners use, the questions they ask in vivas and their reports provide templates against which theses are judged. So, why not start from this endpoint as you plan, undertake, write and defend your research?

This book focuses specifically on how you, as a doctoral candidate, can raise your level of thinking about your chosen topic. Doing so will improve the quality of your research and ultimately contribute to knowledge. It also explores the nature of conceptualization which is sought by examiners in theses. As a candidate, the book provides those essential characteristics of *doctorateness* that examiners expect to find in your thesis.

The book will also appeal to supervisors, examiners and those who conduct workshops for doctoral candidates and supervisors.

This practical book includes extracts from theses, examiner reports and cameo accounts from doctoral examiners, supervisors and candidates. It also contains numerous visual models that explain relationships and processes for you to apply and use in your doctoral journey.

Based upon contemporary practice, *Stepping Stones to Achieving your Doctorate* is an essential tool for doctoral candidates, supervisors and examiners.

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