

TSS planning

Leon Bremer

Objectives

Stages

Planning

Take-aways

STREEM Thesis support sessions

Planning research

Leon Bremer

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About me

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Leon Bremer



Postdoc @ Spatial Economics dep't



Empirical research on innovation, investments, policy and the environment



STREEM appearance: EEPID, ERE & RP, thesis



Studied econ @ Tilburg University & Tinbergen Institute



Into running

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Motivation & Objectives

Motivation

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Problem

Research is unpredictable

- ▶ Can I find a good research question?
- ▶ My Stata/R/Python code keeps crashing, math, ...
- ▶ Cannot find the data, data is worse than expected, ...
- ▶ Stuck at solving the model (T), understanding the econometrics

Time is limited

Partial solution: Planning

- ▶ Make research more predictable
- ▶ By thinking about the constraints (deadline, foreseeable challenges) it becomes easier to see how to reach your objective (delivering a good thesis)

Objectives

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Today's meeting objectives

- ① Convince you to make a planning
- ② Share planning best practices and start the conversation
- ③ Get you excited about tackling a big project (thesis)

② Questions? Raise them.

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Research stages

Ingredients and stages (like a recipe 🍴)

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3 ingredients



Idea



Method



Data



Thesis

6 stages

- 1 Orientation
- 2 Research question & problem statement
- 3 Literature review
- 4 Methods & data
- 5 Analysis
- 6 Reporting

💡 Risk analysis

- ▶ Do you have all ingredients?
- ▶ If one fails, what will you do?

Overlap

- ▶ Not a linear process, stages will overlap

Ingredients

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Idea, method, data

- ▶ Great starting point for a brainstorm
- ▶ Do you have an alternative for each? (Reduces risk)

Stages

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- ① Orientation
What interests you?
- ② Research question & problem statement
What would you like to know? Is that (societally) relevant? Is it new?
- ③ Literature review
What has been done? Where is the frontier? Where are the gaps?
- ④ Methods & data
How to answer your RQ? Identification, data accessibility, ...
- ⑤ Analysis
Data wrangling, descriptives, hypothesis tests, regressions
- ⑥ Reporting
Writing, producing tables & figures, layout

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Planning your project

Making a planning

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The planning

- ▶ Put the stages on a time line (or on a calendar view)
- ▶ Allow for overlap
- ▶ Keep margin for error

Notes

- ▶ No one-size-fits-all, but having some planning is beneficial to everyone.
- ▶ Supervisors differ too. Planning is your responsibility.

Tips

- ▶ Write a research proposal.

Example planning

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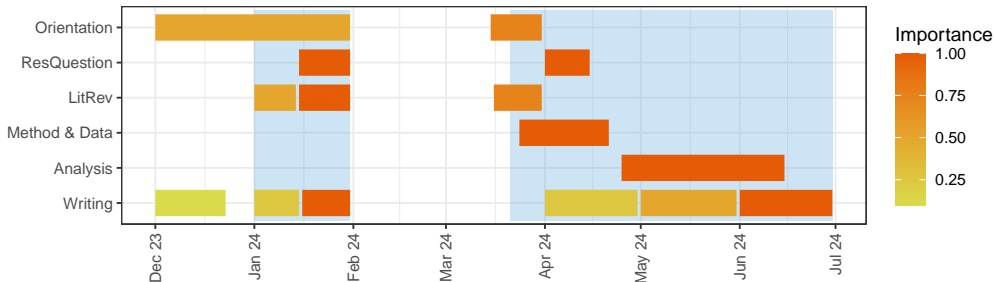
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GANTT chart
Planning for STREAM thesis



EXAMPLE by Leon Bremer



Tips

Many (online) planning tools. Use them, share them. [My creation](#)

Get organized

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Take-aways

- ▶ Keep things in a central place
- ▶ Good structure helps

Documents > PhD > projects > example







Name ^	Date modified	Size
 data	1-11-2022 13:20	
 literature	1-11-2022 13:20	
 output	1-11-2022 13:21	
 scripts	1-11-2022 13:21	
 ideas.md	1-11-2022 13:21	0 KB
 README.md	1-11-2022 13:21	0 KB

Figure 1: Folder structure example.

Sticking to your planning

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💡 Tips

- ▶ Things will go wrong, anticipate this! (Risk analysis & margins)
- ▶ Different stages = opportunity!
 - ▶ Fed up with R crashing? Go write!
 - ▶ Read 10 papers already? Go check for data.
 - ▶ Been writing for two days? Go make descriptives.
- ▶ Write, write, write. Always.
 - ▶ Read a paper? Draft your take-aways into the literature section.
 - ▶ Have a good idea? Write it down.
- ▶ Keep going. Do not get stuck at one stage for too long. Park it, move on.

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Main take-aways

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Summary

- ▶ Ingredients: Idea, Method, Data
- ▶ Stages: Orientation, RQ, LitRev, Methods & data, Analysis, Reporting
- ▶ Not a linear process

💡 Tips

- ▶ Make a planning.
- ▶ Write. Always.
- ▶ Write a proposal and do a risk analysis.
- ▶ Keep going.
- ▶ Zoom out sometimes.

Thanks

Questions?

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Good luck with your RP & thesis!