

# **Welcome & Guidelines**

**Land Economy Practical Research**

Camilo Calderon-Morales, PhD

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Welcome to the PGR Dissertation Workshops. These sessions are **user-centred** and focus on the *real* issues Mphil researchers face while writing the dissertation — frequent questions, practical problems, and how to diagnose and improve drafts using good (and not-so-good) examples from past work at diverse universities.

### 💡 Tip

#### How to use this site

- Start with the brief **overview** below.
- skimming the **Workshop at a glance** table helps you plan your attendance.
- Bring a short excerpt of your current writing; most sessions include **live diagnosis** and applied activities.

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## Workshops at a glance

#	Date (2025–26)	Focus	Notes
1	<b>Tue 4 Nov</b>	Research objective, questions, and problem framing	We'll look at strong vs weak research questions and rationale.
2	<b>TBC</b>	Inside the literature review	Scope, search, theming, turning reading into writing.
3	<b>TBC</b>	Methods chapter setup	Paradigms, designs, and process (e.g., surveys, cases, longitudinal).

#	Date (2025–26)	Focus	Notes
4	<b>TBC</b>	Writing results & conclusions	What belongs in results vs. discussion; referencing; what goes to an appendix.
5	<b>TBC</b>	Drop-in Q&A	Final polishing: intro, abstract, editorial control.

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## What you'll actually do

- Work through common stumbling blocks for dissertations (structure, argument, evidence, clarity).
  - **Review excerpts from previous dissertations** together—what works, what doesn't, and why. :contentReferenceoaicite:8
  - Apply checklists/templates to *your* text so you leave with concrete next steps.
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## Workshop details & indicative content

### Workshop 1 — Research Objective & Questions (7 Nov)

- Research objective, research problem, rationale, and **well-formed RQs**.
- Sample dissertations: **LE471, LE400, LE468 (2017–18)**. :contentReferenceoaicite:9

## **Workshop 2 — Literature Review (30 Jan)**

- From objective → RQs; what a literature review **is / is not**.
- Scope, search, read, **theme**, and **turn reading into writing**.
- Dissertations: **LE115, LE123, LE149, LE110 (2021)**. :contentReferenceoaicite:10

## **Workshop 3 — Methods Chapter (6 Feb)**

- Paradigms (positivism, realism, interpretivism), logic (inductive/deductive), designs (experiments, surveys, case study, grounded theory, ethnography, action research), cross-sectional vs longitudinal; data collection and **method process**.
- Dissertations: **LE382, LE379, LE334 (2018–19)**. :contentReferenceoaicite:11

## **Workshop 4 — Results, Conclusions, Referencing (13 Feb)**

- What belongs in results vs conclusions; **appropriate referencing**; when to move a table to the **appendix**.
- Dissertations: **LE221, LE201, LE296 (2021–22)**.

## **Workshop 5 — Drop-in & Polishing (20 Feb)**

- Q&A and final shaping: **Introduction, Abstract, Editorial Control**.
  - Dissertations: **LE702, LE682, LE635, LE697 (2023)**.
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## **Logistics: booking & venue**

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- Bring a laptop, your most recent outline or 1–2 pages of writing, and any data/notes you want feedback on.

## **Readings & helpful links**

A few useful pieces from the plan (plus DRDS resources):

- Ivanochko, *Writing Research Questions*. Cambridge University Press (chapter). :contentReferenceoaicite:15
- Brown (2007), supervising international masters students, *Journal of Further & Higher Education*. :contentReferenceoaicite:16
- Pemberton (2012), a “how-to” guide for the thesis/dissertation process. :contentReferenceoaicite:17
- Golding, Sharmini & Lazarovitch (2014), what examiners do / what students should know. :contentReferenceoaicite:18
- Golding (2017), advice for writing a thesis (based on what examiners do). :contentReferenceoaicite:19
- Royal Literary Fund: *What is a literature review?* :contentReferenceoaicite:20

You can cite these formally using the project’s `references.bib` and `apa.csl` on any page.

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## **Quick checklist (bring this each time)**

- A short excerpt (or outline) of your dissertation chapter-in-progress
  - One concrete question you want answered
  - Any figures/tables you're unsure about (move to appendix?)
  - Your planned next step after the workshop
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## **Contact & support**

If you have accessibility needs or want tailored feedback (e.g., methods or data setup), email me ahead of time so I can prepare materials aligned to your topic.

**Booking:** Moodle/DRDS → “PGR Dissertation Workshops” → choose your slot.  
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