Approaches to Assessment in Higher Education

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## Proposal for 3-Paper Dissertation

This document outlines a proposal and rationale for a 3-paper dissertation. The rationale for this suggestion is that the topic, approaches to assessment in higher education, lends itself well to approaches from different frameworks, namely, a theoretical framework, a measurement or validation framework, and a framework more descriptive of the role and impact of technology on assessment in higher education. In our discussions as a committee, it has become clear that further work is warranted in addressing both the *Approaches to Classroom Assessment Inventory* in higher education and also the role and influence of technology on assessment in higher education, especially in light of the last two years of emergency remote teaching. Further advantages of the 3-paper dissertation model include the built-in mentorship in the publication workflow including peer-review, revisions, and communicating with editors and journals.

UVic Graduate Studies supports this model of dissertation, and Dr. Irvine has observed colleagues supervising students in this model. You can find my notes based on a conversation Dr. Irvine had with [a student who completed a 3-paper dissertation here](https://cmadland.github.io/Dendron/notes/4HuJK1YbDiF5JO1p0COda/). [Queen’s supports this model](https://www.queensu.ca/politics/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.polswww/files/files/Graduate/Article-Based%20Dissertation%20Guidelines.pdf), as does [UAlberta](https://www.ualberta.ca/linguistics/media-library/gradforms/paperbaseddissertations.pdf).

## Sample 3-Paper Dissertations

Alves Ballón Tedesqui, R. (2019). [Personality, Deliberate Practice, and Expertise Development in Sport](http://ruor.uottawa.ca/handle/10393/38702) [Ph.D., University of Ottawa]. (5 papers)

Knowles, R. (2015). [Ideology and education: A three-article dissertation exploring implications for democracy](https://doi.org/10.32469/10355/46870) [Ph.D., University of Missouri–Columbia].

Miller, M. (2015). [Leveraging CSCL technology to support and research shared task perceptions in socially shared regulation of learning](http://hdl.handle.net/1828/6582) [Ph.D., University of Victoria].

## 3-Paper Dissertation Structure

3-paper dissertations come in a variety of structures, but the most common requirements include:

* Individual dissertation papers must be determined by the committee to be *publishable*.
* At UVic, it is typical that one is in publication at the time of the oral defense and the other two should have been submitted for publication.
* The PhD student must be first author on all papers considered for the dissertation, but co-authors are common and can be determined within the committee.
* Each paper must stand independent of the others, yet be connected to each other in addressing the same theme or problem.
* There are typically 5 chapters in the dissertation, but more may be determined to be necessary.
  + Introduction, Problem, and Research Questions
  + Article 1
  + Article 2
  + Article 3
  + Conclusions and Recommendations

## Proposed Timeline

* Link to Google Doc

## Oral Exam Strucutre

The oral exam for a 3-paper dissertation covers all sections of the completed dissertation, with the PhD candidate responsible for all frameworks, methods, analyses, findings, conclusions and recommendations in all three papers as well as the overall conclusions and recommendations of the complete dissertation.

## Back-up Plan

In the case of an unforseen adjustment in plans (job opportunity, or similar), it may be possible to drop paper three and turn papers one and two into a traditional monograph format.