File 20120127.0829: Dr Fléchais emailed this morning requesting a meeting. I emailed him back and started Skype. We spoke via Skype video for 12 minutes, 21 seconds. Dr Fléchais has sourced a copy of ATLAS.ti for himself, quite an undertaking for some reason. He suggests we try using it to collaborate and work on it together. He thinks it will get me started. He can see that my problem is getting started. ATLAS.ti is only a tool; the main thing is to get the coding going.

I told him thanks for emailing me; it reminded me that I allowed myself to get distracted by family obligations.

Please send Dr Fléchais before Monday some of the documents I want to code. Figure out how to do screen sharing before Monday, and send him information on what times I am available. We will get started together, and then I will keep going until it is finished. The result will be worthy of my doctorate.

Over the weekend, read through my documents and make notes on what my mind is telling me about them. Dr Fléchais has been in the same crunch position, maybe not as severe as mine because O quit my job to focus on it, but he sympathises. I must go through a rigorous process of crystalising what is already in my head.

Don't do anything else besides coding. Don't write. Don't participate in Reading Group. No distractions. (He gave me OK to send my notes on [1] to Reading Group. I have done that.)

People do crack up at this point in the PhD process. It is regrettable and messy when that happens. Dr Fléchais stated that family is my number 1 priority, no matter what my advisors say, and he told me that today is his son's one-year birthday; he's taking him swimming.

This is a milestone, the coding and analysis. It is the first of only three milestones, and by far the hardest. The remaining two milestones, writing the dissertation and defending it in the viva, are much easier.

References

[1] Stefan Viehböck. Brute forcing wi-fi protected setup. Version 3, 26th December 2011.