

File 20110315.1043: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin: I met with Dr Martin in his office at 10:00 AM. Technical problems prevented me getting an agenda printed beforehand; it was written, just couldn't get through on the wireless network to transfer it to a system from which I could print.

New plan: short-term objective: COS application before Easter. This requires chapters be written. I went in with a plan to write three chapters in three weeks (with time for polishing them), but Dr Martin modified my plan slightly, making it better. Better to have for the assessors a draft thesis with some gaps than three finished chapters. What they really want to see is a thesis. It should be a full skeleton. Doesn't need to be finished and polished. More content, less polish.

You are probably planning to restructure your literature survey, that's fine. Spend less time on this. The methodology chapter is key. What is your outline?

I. Introduction
II. Literature Survey
III. Methodology
IV. Case Study No. 1
V. Case Study No. 2
VI. Case Study No. 3
VII. Analysis and how it ties to the risk market
VIII. Summary and Conclusions
IX. Appendices

The methodology chapter is key. You have four pieces of the methodology; preliminary results are key. Take a stab at your introduction.

Two weeks before the date of the viva, send the assessors a new version of the thesis WITH CHANGE BARS. It is a courtesy to the readers.

Aim to submit a document (before Easter) that feels like a thesis. Start thinking of it as a thesis now. Each chapter should have a Section 0 that says what needs to be done yet. It should say, this bit is good, this bit needs validation, and so on. It is better to do it this way than to submit a separate report. Keeps the information close to the source, said Dr Martin.

The plan I came in with was:

- Short term objective (three weeks): COS application
 - Sub-objectives: three chapters, one a week
- Medium term objective (summer): COS viva
- Long term objective (January): finish

The new plan is to begin a whole thesis right away. Get the entire end-to-end outline done, add Section-0 to each chapter, then start fleshing it out with discussion.

There are two dangers:

1. Spending too much time on small bits. Dr Martin knows I have a tendency to do that.
2. Making the thesis too large, so that you can't devote enough attention to 'this Grounded Theory malarkey'.

Dr Martin said I should say hi to Ivan Fléchais. Security Reading Group tomorrow at 12.30 (special time). John's viva should take two hours from 11.30, so expect him to come kick the door off its hinges before the end of Reading Group.

I left Dr Martin's office feeling significantly less stressed. Motivated, yet. Busy, yes. But less worried. Then I had a long discussion with Shamal on the way out. Heading to the Radcliffe Camera now to read a book from the stacks [1].

References

- [1] Antony Bryant and Kathy Charmaz, editors. *The SAGE Handbook of Grounded Theory*. SAGE, Los Angeles, California, paperback edition, 2010.