

File 20110909.1105: I met with Dr Ashbourn in her office, room 22 at the top of the stone staircase near the Hall, shortly after 10.30 this morning. I reported that yesterday's viva was the best possible outcome; my new co-supervisor will make me work for it, but the result will be guaranteed to please the external examiner. It will be a higher quality result, worthy of Oxford. We discussed whether I should call him Ivan—Dr Ashbourn said to pronounce it like *ee-vón* and he will like it. Names are important, she said. She confirmed that I cannot fail now, although extensions are only ever given for one term at a time, to avoid people sticking around forever. Just apply for them with the form, giving a justification for why you ask for extra time, state that you are on Chapter *whatever*, make it sound compelling that you're right on the verge of finishing. *Don't* ever say anything about having difficulties, about problems. Be upbeat. Say how close you are to finishing.

She asked when I would submit. I said Trinity 2012.

I did not mention the department admin's advice on lapsing DPhil status. It did not seem appropriate to do so. We talked about hotels in Oxford; she recommended B&Bs called Linton Lodge, on Linton Road, and Parklands on the Banbury Road.

She gave me advice, told me to sleep more, and warned that she does not want to see any more 4am emails from Colorado. She can subtract 7 hours and figure out what time it is, she said.

She gave me a sheet published by UK Physical Sciences Centre called 'An Introduction to Qualitative Research' [1].

I told Dr Ashbourn about going to the King's Arms pub with Aimee and Roy and Irwin and Colin and Michael Nielsen last night, and about Egger's regression, and she told me 'well done' for passing confirmation. You can no longer fail out, she said, and yesterday that had still been a possibility, even though there might be an appeals process, maybe. The pressure now is different, a different kind. It's a good kind of pressure. There's still time pressure, but no failure pressure. Use it, do good work, worthy of Oxford work, and stop worrying.

She told me I was correct to come out in person and not try to do the viva over Skype.

(Afterwards I made a fool of myself before Mr Wicking in the Lodge, which was dumb, but not harmful.)

References

- [1] Tom Lemanski and Tina Overton. An introduction to qualitative research, June 2011.