**The thesis manager: A prospect to better efficiency for post-graduate students in the Natural sciences**

**The thesis manager: A proposed possibility to enable post-graduate students and supervisors in the Natural sciences**

**The thesis manager: A new model for enabling post graduate students and supervisors in the Natural sciences.**

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**Theoretical background:** Self-construction theory provides the lens to interpret the data.

**Purpose:** Exploring the impact of dedicated support by a PhD-graduate to manage post-graduate students individually to cope holistically with their lives and studies to finish their degrees in the required time.

**Research design:** An explanatory single case-study design explores an innovative approach toward post-graduate study support in the Natural Sciences. Self-construction theory was employed as framework to assist a PhD-student with exemplary challenges over the post-graduate study cycle. The student had face-to-face contact with the thesis manager at a dedicated time weekly. Informal assessments were used to serve as tools in the self-construction process over the 18-month period.

**Findings:** The services of a qualified thesis manager with experience in post-graduate studies and psychology effectively assisted a PhD student with ADHDtraits to finish his PhD studies in a record time after struggling to complete for twelve years. Academic supervisors in the Natural Sciences have limited availability for face-to-face contact, tend to be more subject/content-focused and less person-centred which impact on student motivation and self-efficacy especially in intricate cases. Approaching a thesis holistically (without encroaching on the supervisor’s domain) and focussing on idiosyncrasies and autobiographic stories as core part of the study process empowered and simultaneously challenged the student to prioritise and turn problematic stumbling blocks into strengths.

**Conclusion:** The PhD-journey is a lonely path and in South Africa students often don’t have the privilege to study full time. Incorporating a thesis manager in the post-graduate process appeals as a possible efficient option to actively assist post-graduate students to achieve academic success earlier and enable supervisors in the Natural Sciences to deliver on research outputs.

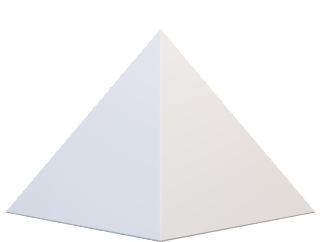
**Implications for future research:** Future research should explore more cases studies in Natural Science and across other faculties.

Facts: PhD wat abandoned word

**Aspects**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-03/sydney-harbours-marine-pilots-guide-cruise-ships-into-port/9611992>

**Supervisor role**

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