

What does my post-defence hindsight of 20/20 say?  
If I were to advise myself...

Pratik Bhandari

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SFB 1102, Saarland University, Germany

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# Common pre-defence worries

- Can I answer the committee's questions?
- What if their questions refer to a specific chapter/sentence/citation?
- Can I really **defend** *myself* in front of a mass?
  - Will anyone even attend my defence?
- What if the internet stops working?
  - For online and hybrid defence
- What food and drink should I serve?

# Common pre-defence worries

## Good to remember

There are a lot of things that you **can** control. Prioritise them instead of worrying a lot about what is out of your control.

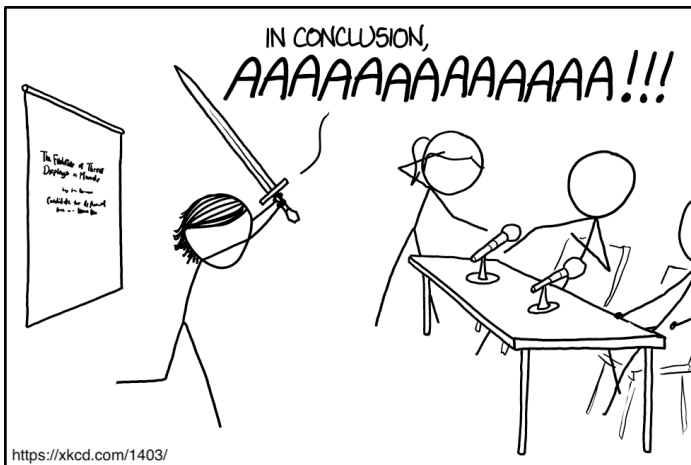
# Really? What could I possibly control?

- Book a room ASAP.
- Check in advance if the AV works. Prepare a backup.
- Do as many dry runs as possible with a diverse set of audience.
- Know the committee members' works and the questions they tend to ask.
- Read the dissertation, and take one with you.
- Sleep, eat, and hydrate!

# Really? What could I possibly control?

## ! Change of mindset

It is not a duel, you are not defending *your worth*. Go in with the confidence and attitude of an academic discussant.



THE BEST THESIS DEFENSE IS A GOOD THESIS OFFENSE.