

Thesis Writing Workshop

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**Epidemiology, Biostatistics
and Occupational Health**

Objectives

1. To provide information on university and departmental requirements and guidelines related to thesis preparation, submission and examination;
2. To provide basic guidance on organizing the structural elements of a thesis;
3. To assist students in the written expression of their thesis research in a clear and concise way with regard to discipline norms.

Virtually Everything You Need to Know is Here



<https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/thesis/thesis-guidelines/preparation>

???

Formatting

See GPS
guidelines [here](#)

Content

“...more in depth guidance on how to outline portions of the thesis that would be necessary in addition to my published papers.”

“...guidance on how to bridge projects into a thesis document that are related, but somewhat different...uncertain about the "cohesion" of the thesis and how this is achieved.”



Supervisor + Committee + You

Doctoral Theses

A thesis for the Doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge.

- It must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate ability to plan and carry out research, organize results, and defend the approach and conclusions in a scholarly manner.
- The research presented must meet current standards of the discipline; as well, the thesis must clearly demonstrate how the research advances knowledge in the field.
- Finally, the thesis must be written in compliance with norms for academic and scholarly expression and for publication in the public domain.

"Typical"

- **1 Introduction:** Write at the end?
- **2 Literature Review:** if manuscript is part, or all, of this chapter, bridging text is required
- **3 Study Objectives:** usually 1 or 2 pages; overall, primary, secondary
- **4 Study Methodology:** more details than provided in the manuscripts
- **5 Study Results:** if manuscripts, bridging texts are required
- **6 Discussion:** how does your study add to the evidence base?
- **7 Conclusion:** main messages based on your study; can include future research/next steps
- **9 References:** be complete, be consistent, include ALL references

APPENDICES: Manuscripts = from title/abstract page to references, tables and figures!
Formatted for each journal

Manuscript-based Theses

Generally same format as traditional thesis.

Need additional linking text between papers

Chapters should be identical to manuscripts (tables, figures, references)

Should stand as an integrated whole

Examples? See McGill's Theses & Dissertation database

epidemiology

Go

Advanced Search (beta)

Limit your search

Creator

Contributor

Type

Year

Faculty

Department

Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health 92

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics 4

Degree

Doctor of Philosophy 92

Language

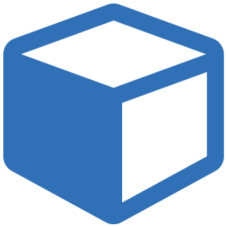
Filtering by: epidemiology Degree > Doctor of Philosophy Department > Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health

Start Over

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10 per page



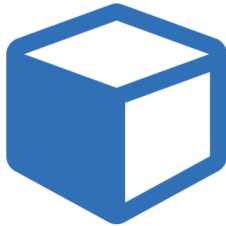
Causal quantile treatment effects at high and extreme quantile levels

Creator: Sun, Shuo

Contributor: Erica Moodie (Supervisor1) and Johanna Neslehova (Supervisor2)

Subject: Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Publisher:



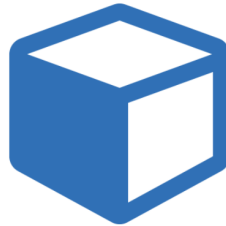
The Epidemiology of cerebral palsy in Ontario, Canada: patterns of occurrence and effects of two maternal exposures

Creator: Ahmed, Asma

Contributor: Seungmi Yang (Supervisor)

Subject: Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Publisher:



Underdiagnosis and overtreatment: provider practices for tuberculosis in India

Creator: Svadzian, Anita

Contributor: Madhukar Pai (Supervisor)

Subject: Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Publisher:

Intellectual Property

Any issues regarding intellectual property deriving from the research, leading up to the thesis, or in the completed thesis itself should conform to McGill's [Policy on Inventions and Software](#). In addition:

- Students, supervisors, and any other collaborators must have written intellectual property agreements regarding thesis research.
- These agreements must be consistent with the requirements of thesis examination and availability in the public domain.
- Students must be aware of any limitations or approvals required for publication of the research, including the examination and publication of a thesis.

Please Note: When previously published copyrighted material is presented in a thesis, the student must obtain signed permissions/waivers from the publisher(s). Permission must also be obtained from co-authors of manuscripts submitted or in preparation for inclusion in the thesis; an email to that effect should suffice. The individual contributions of the student and other authors must be stated explicitly in the “Preface” to the thesis.

Consult the license you *signed* when you published for guidance

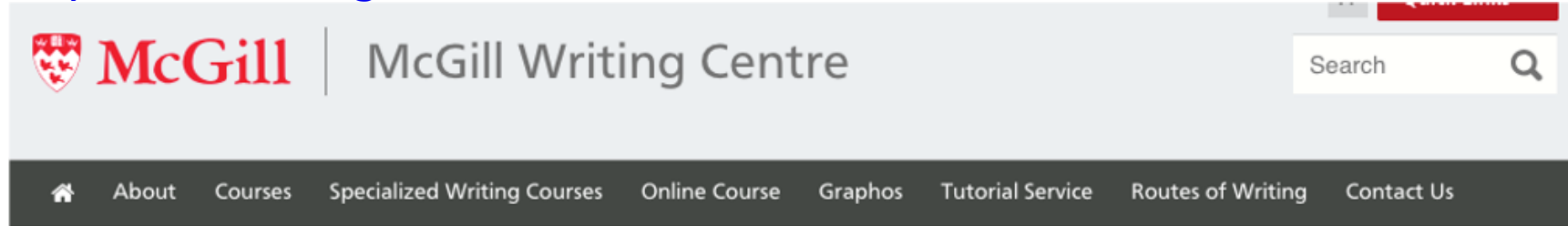
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- The right to include the article in full or in part in a thesis or dissertation, provided that this not published commercially;

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Need Help Writing?

<https://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/>



Graduate courses

MWC graduate-level courses cultivate mastery of oral and written communication for scholarly purposes.

[Find out more](#)



PLACEMENT TESTS

Check the schedule for the [placement tests](#) in 2019.

COMMUNICATING SCIENCE!

Check out our [new elective course](#) for undergrads!

Learn more about the Communicating Science course by reading this [interview with Diane Dechief](#), designer of this course.

THE MCGILL WRITING CENTRE ON FACEBOOK

Welcome to the McGill Writing Centre!

Refine your academic writing skills or learn to write for a specific professional audience with courses offered by the McGill Writing Centre (MWC). As a student in one of the MWC's courses or workshops, you'll learn essential skills, strategies, and techniques that will help you to succeed both at university and in any number of professions.

Graphos

<https://www.mcgill.ca/graphos/>

What is Graphos?

Graphos teaches graduate students and postdocs how to become accomplished scholarly communicators. Across the disciplines, writing is the common practice that all scholars must master. Writing is not simply an afterthought—it is the medium in which we do our intellectual work.



What can Graphos do for you?

Graphos offers different ways for graduate students to become more efficient, precise, and effective scholarly communicators. Some of these are also available to postdoctoral fellows.

Our offerings are designed to address three focal points of the graduate and postdoctoral experience: *research, funding, and publication*.

- **Courses**: 1-credit offerings that complement your degree program.
- **Workshops**: focused events on key writing strategies, conventions, topics, and genres.
- **Peer Writing Groups**: small clusters of advanced graduate students who meet regularly to share and improve works-in-progress.
- **Tutorial Service**: one-on-one sessions to improve your writing skills. (Offered by the McGill Writing Centre)
- **Writing Commons**: a space in which we create conditions for you to write productively in the company of others during thesis retreats and related events.

Graphos is housed within the [McGill Writing Centre](#), the University's central resource for written communication.

LATEST NEWS

- See our [Winter 2019](#) courses and [register](#) in Minerva.
- If any sections are full, email us at graphos@mcgill.ca

Other "helpful" tips

- Begin writing early.
- Write often. Revise often.
- Give sections to your supervisor as you write them...for early feedback and to keep you on track.
- Give sections to a friend, peer,...
- The abstract for the worksheet (to be submitted 2 months prior to submission of the thesis)..need not be the absolute final abstract.
- Check and re-check spelling, grammar, citations...
- Discuss with your supervisor how many manuscripts can be included (minimum 2 for manuscript theses).