



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY

Some (*hopefully useful*) advice on:

“life as a PhD student”

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## My thesis:

- Examines ‘Stock hyping’ by corporations prior to equity offerings.
  - How issuing firms manage investor expectations prior to an offer.
  - Whether and how firms “condition the market”.
- In the area of behavioural corporate finance.
  - Interdisciplinary – the psychology of investing.

## Stage of progression:

- Now nearing the end of the process (phew!).
- Submitting in the next couple of months.
- Preparing for the viva.
- Developing the work into publishable papers.

- A PhD does not end with merely a certificate
  - View this as the beginning of your career
    - Keep regular office hours
    - Set broad goals/deadlines as well as more specific ones
    - Develop skills that you will need later in your career
    - Make the most out of the training resources available
  
- If planning to stay in academia:
  - Attend whatever conferences you can
    - Network with the wider academic community
    - Try to get yourself and your work known
  - Keep up to date with your discipline broadly
  - Get some practice teaching
  - Retain presence within your school

# The work can be frustrating and exhausting

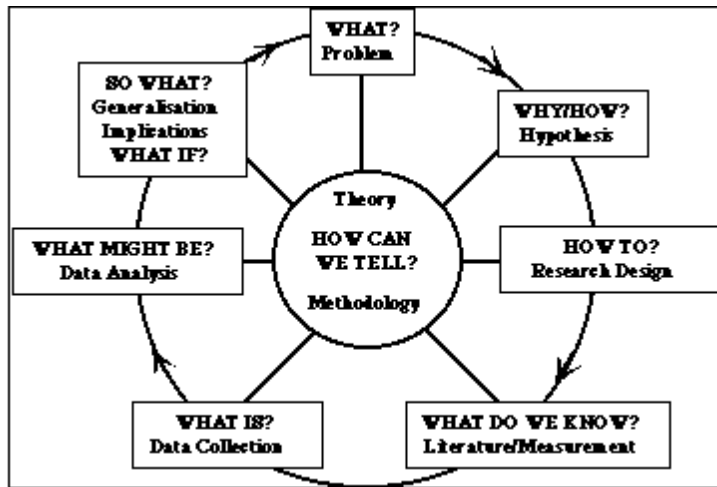
You may end up in a rut from time to time...

... but remember – this is normal!

– Some coping strategies:

- Don't panic
- Drink plenty of coffee (but not too much!)
- Work on something else for a few days
- Go for a run, swim, wash the dishes, ...
- Talk to your friends/colleagues, they can be extremely helpful!

# The Research Process?



The academic community often gives the impression that the research process is a cleanly defined, straightforward, and that everything typically goes to plan.

Sometimes, things might not progress as you expect, and you may get a little lost at times...

**Remember, this is normal.**

**The best of us lose sight of the big picture at times.**





- Be structured and organised
- Break tasks down into small steps
- Have a timeframe, and stick to it
- Get feedback where possible
- Identify, confront, and overcome weaknesses.

- Don't rely on a mental map of your data
  - You will need to come back to some data after several months. If it is unorganised, you may spend many more months in frustration!
    - Keep notes/label your data
    - Organise your file system logically
- How valuable is your data?
  - Was there any financial cost?
  - How long would they take to reproduce?
  - Can they be reproduced?
    - Backup! – Make sure to keep additional up to date copies
    - Consider investing in storage devices for large/sensitive datasets

# Present whenever/wherever you can

- Presenting your work is vital in terms of:
  - i. Disseminating your work
  - ii. Receiving early feedback on your work
  - iii. Developing effective communication of your ideas
  - iv. ‘Sense-making’ – presenting forces you to be concise
- Don’t take criticism of your work personally.
  - critical comments demonstrate that:
    - i. You have effectively communicated your ideas
    - ii. That people are taking an interest in your work
    - iii. That improvements can be made
- Also make an effort to attend when others present
  - Support your colleagues with constructive criticism



# It may sound obvious, but...

- **Own your work.** Manage your research process.
- **Back-up your work.** Otherwise you will lose it, and it will be painful.
  - With Dropbox et al, there is no excuse
- **Organise your references.**
  - Some great reference managers are available i.e., Mendeley
- **Don't stay too narrow.** Read broadly, even if it is not directly relevant to the thesis (You won't be working on it forever).
- **Strike the right balance between your work and personal life.**
  - If you have a family at home, make sure they see you!
- **Make friends with the people around you.**
- **Don't overdo it, do take breaks.** Don't forget, you are only human.