Eco-system for GOT

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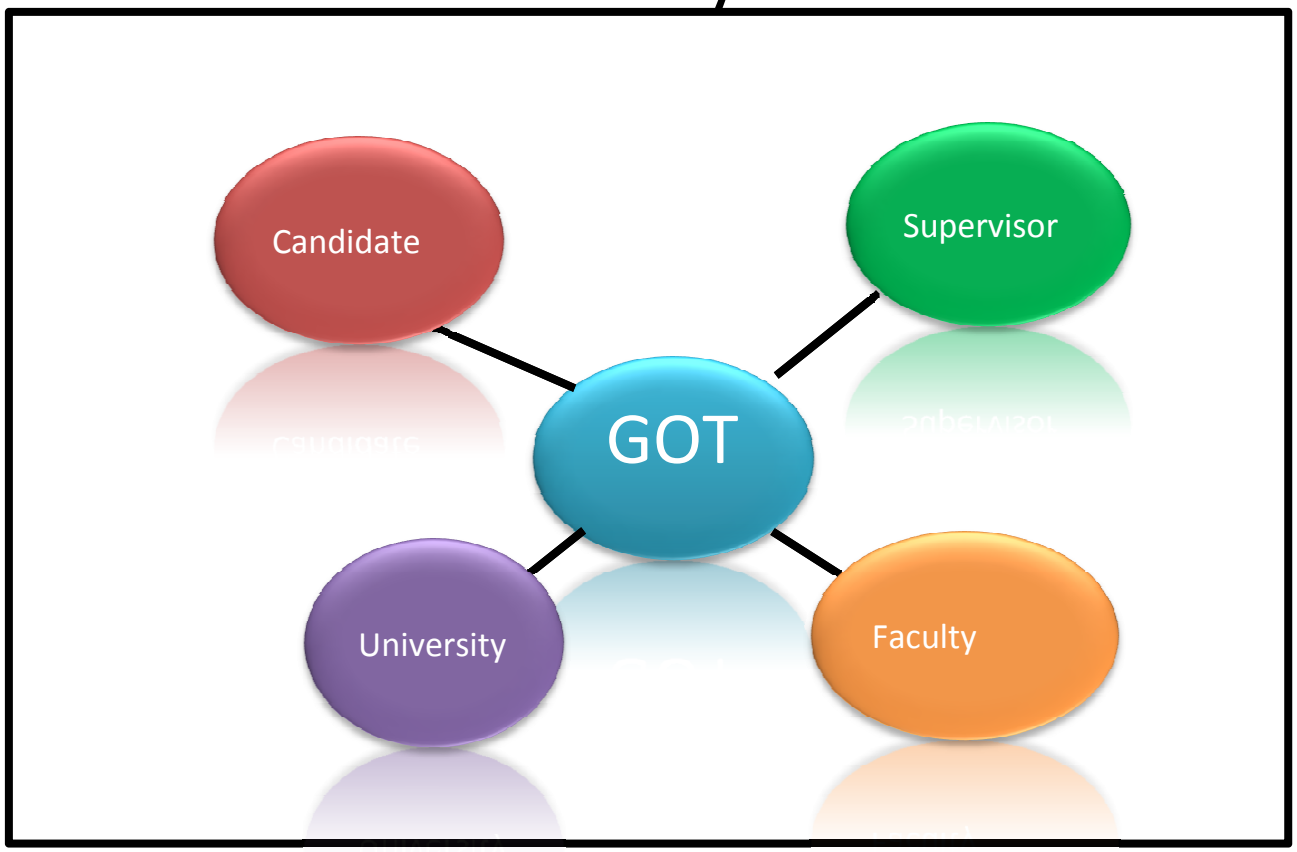
My Own Experience

- Completed my PhD in 3 years

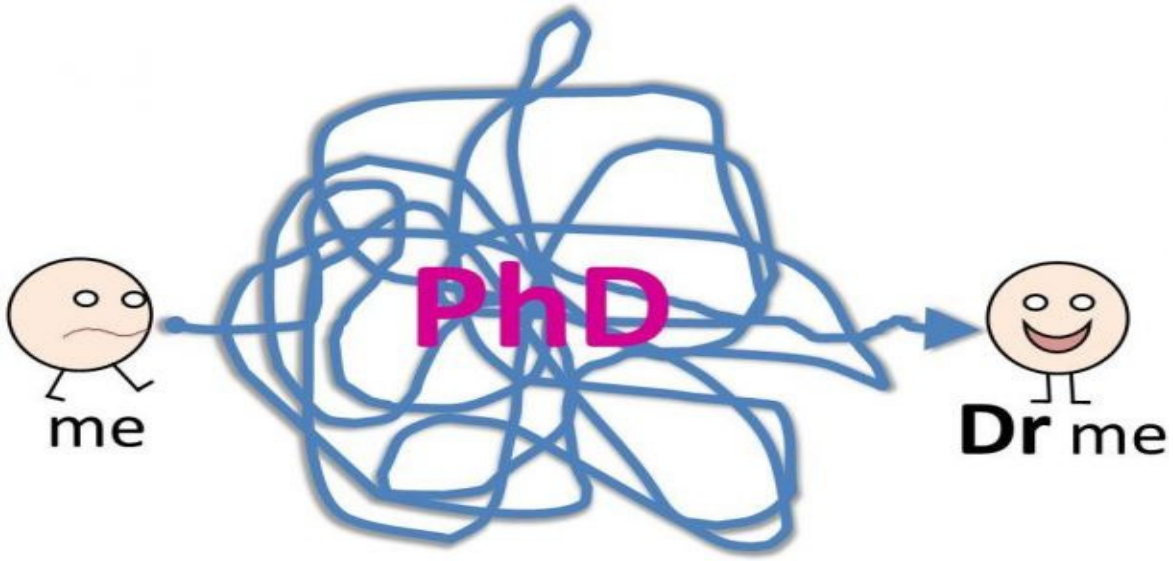
- 3 students GOT (submission at the end of 4th semester to 5th semester since 2013

4 Ecosystems within the Larger Ecosystem system



The Candidate

- Intellectual challenge
- Personal challenge



Intellectual Challenge

- Originality of research
- Independent scholarly endeavour
- Demonstration of competence
- Each supervision is often a session of defending intellectual capabilities

Personal challenge

- The thesis seems insurmountable

CANDIDATE: LOVE THY TOPIC

Choose topics wisely

- Is the candidate's PhD a love affair or a war story?
- Is s/he in a PhD romance or a PhD battle?

To be successful, the first thing to do is to fall in love with your work.

Sister Mary Lauretta

What Candidates Must do

- Look at other people's theses
- Familiarise structure (when to defend proposal; requirements of publication; when to submit notice of submission)
- Know expectations: What to expect when you are expecting (a baby in 3 years)

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Check the library and its resources

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Get to know supervisors

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Get to know supervisors

- How busy are they?
- How often should you meet?
- How do they prefer the work to be sent? (hard copy? Via email?
- How long do they need to read and give feedback?

Plan

Plan your work

- Gantt chart
- Simple table
- Daily reminders

Don’t Go with the Flow – have a schedule

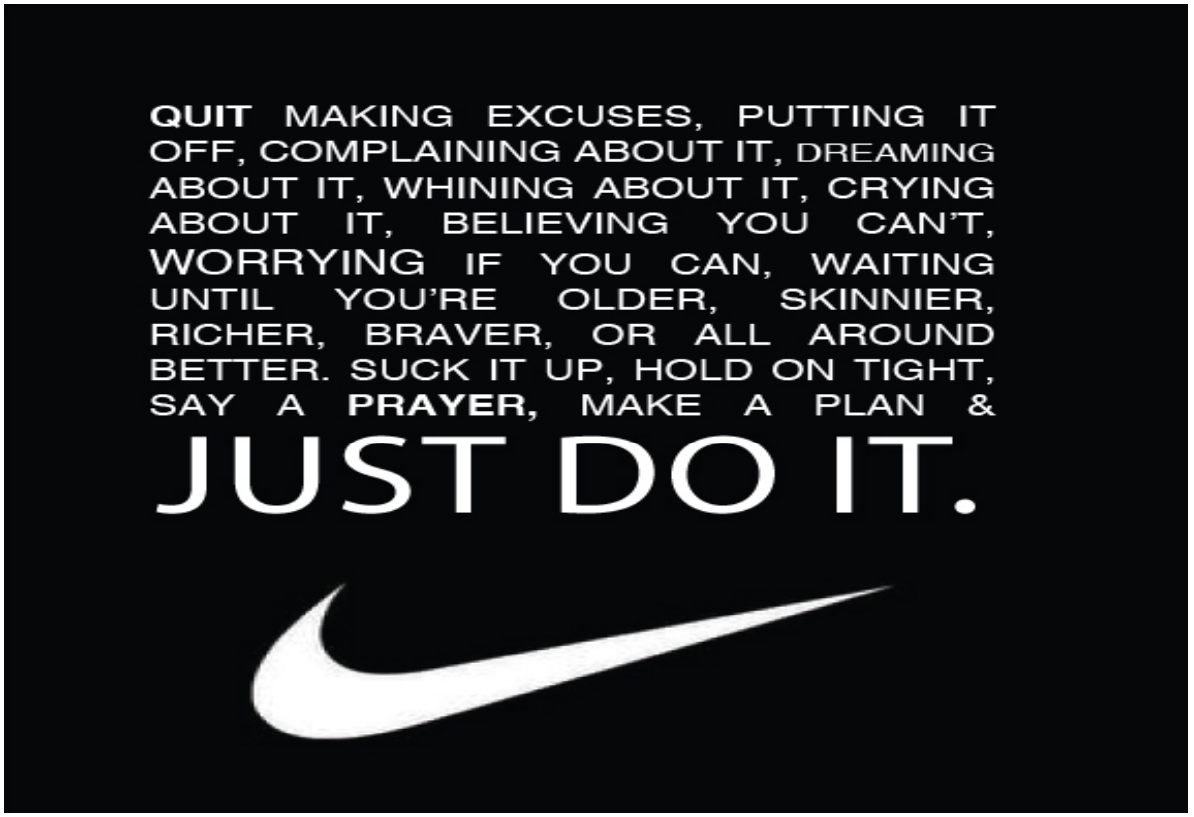
MY WEEKLY TIME PLAN

	FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		NOTES
	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	
6-7							
7-8							
8 9							
9-10							
10-11							
11 12							
12-1							
1 2							

Time

- Treat your PhD like work – clock in and clock out
- 9 am – 3 pm. Weekends were free. School holidays were really holidays.
- If you can do 6 hours a day – Monday to Friday – you can G.O.T

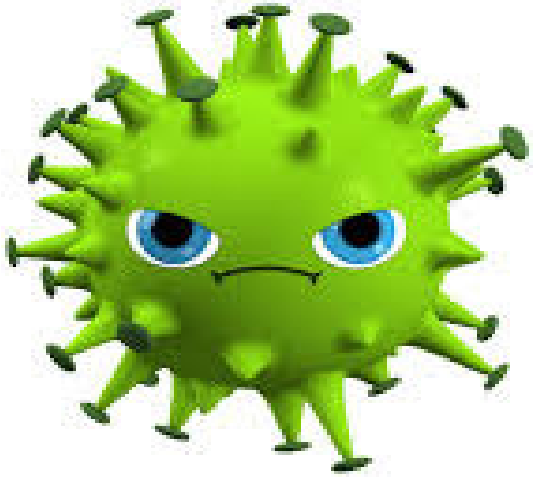
Don’t Procrastinate



Document all sources diligently

- Record all quotes and references.
- Devise a system.

Save, save, save

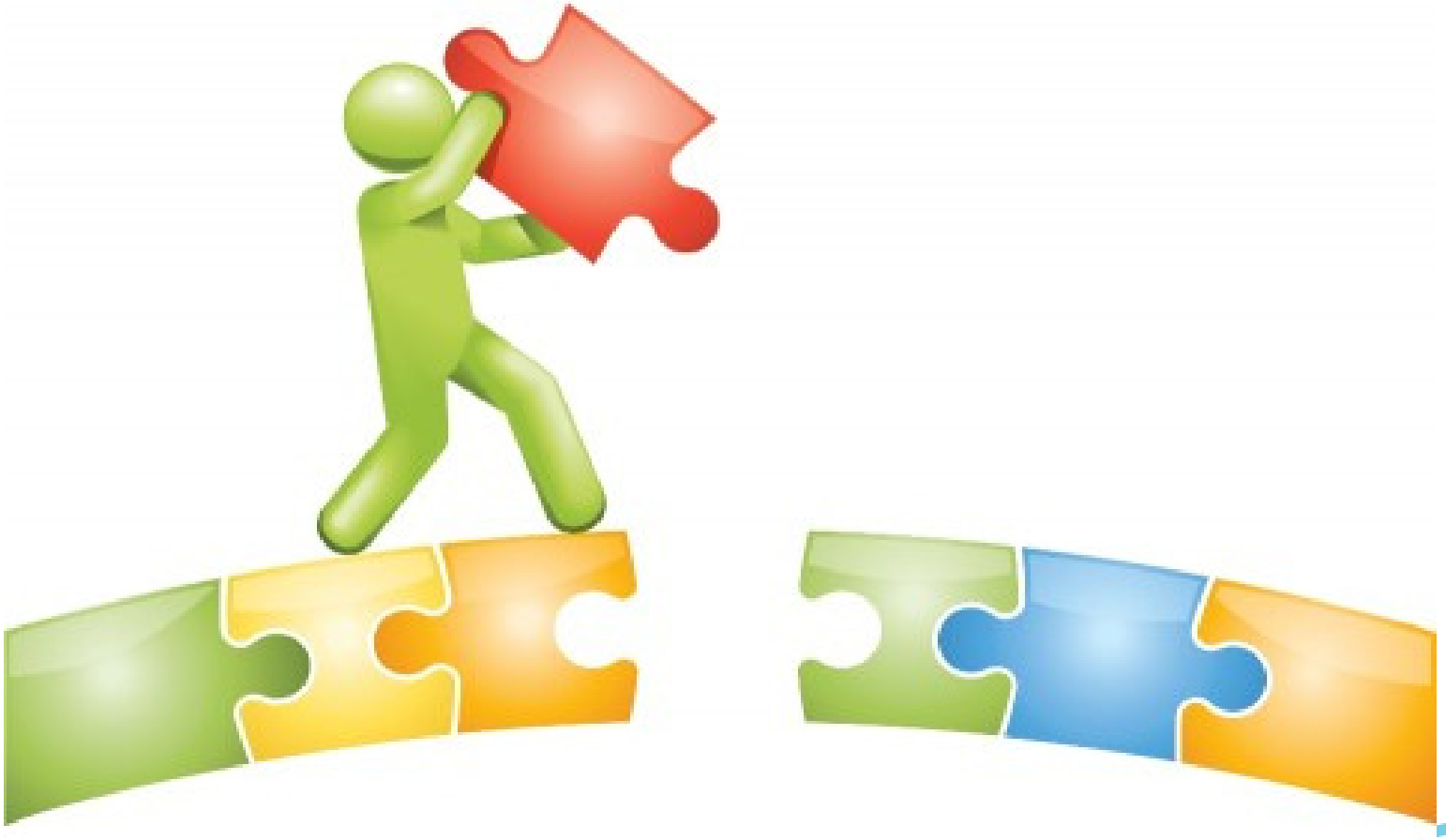


Nothing worse than a virus attack

Save, save, save

- Save your files in memorable ways

KNOW YOUR GAP



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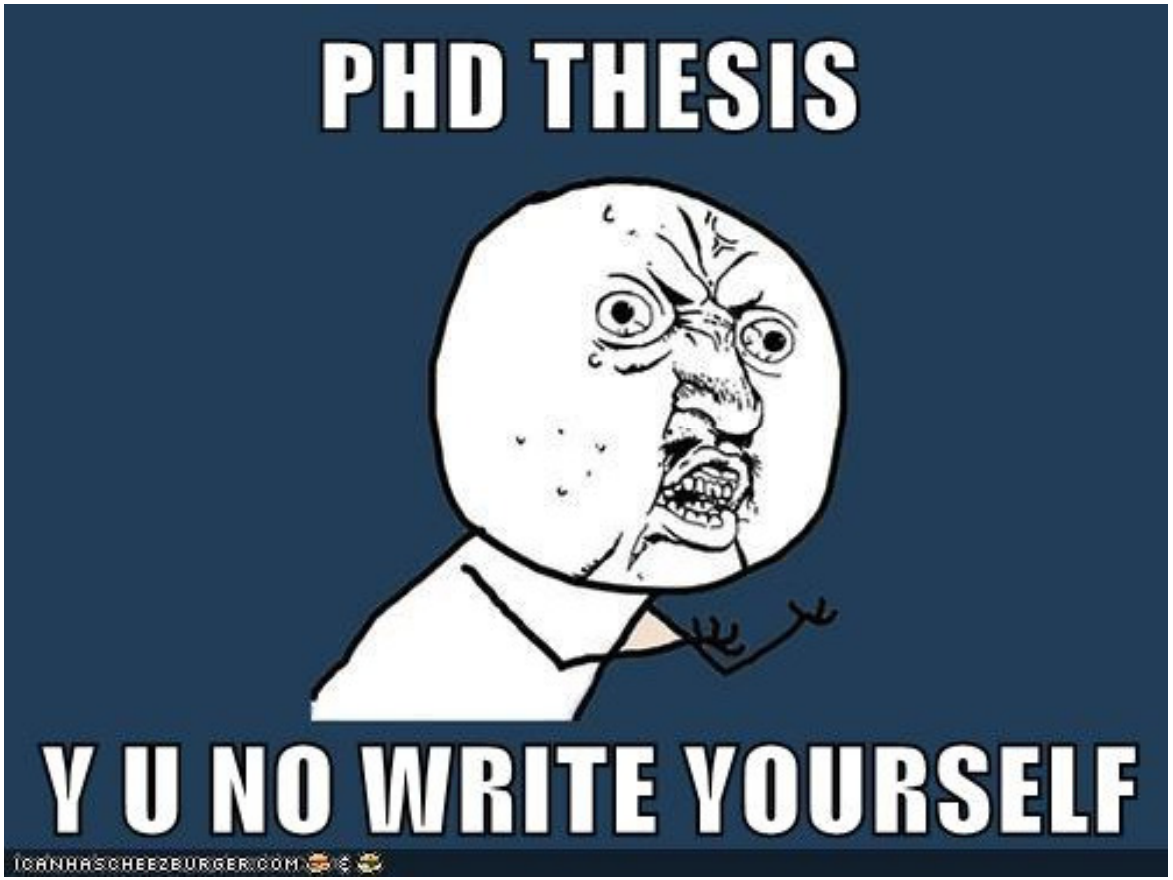
To be in a silo or not to be in a silo?

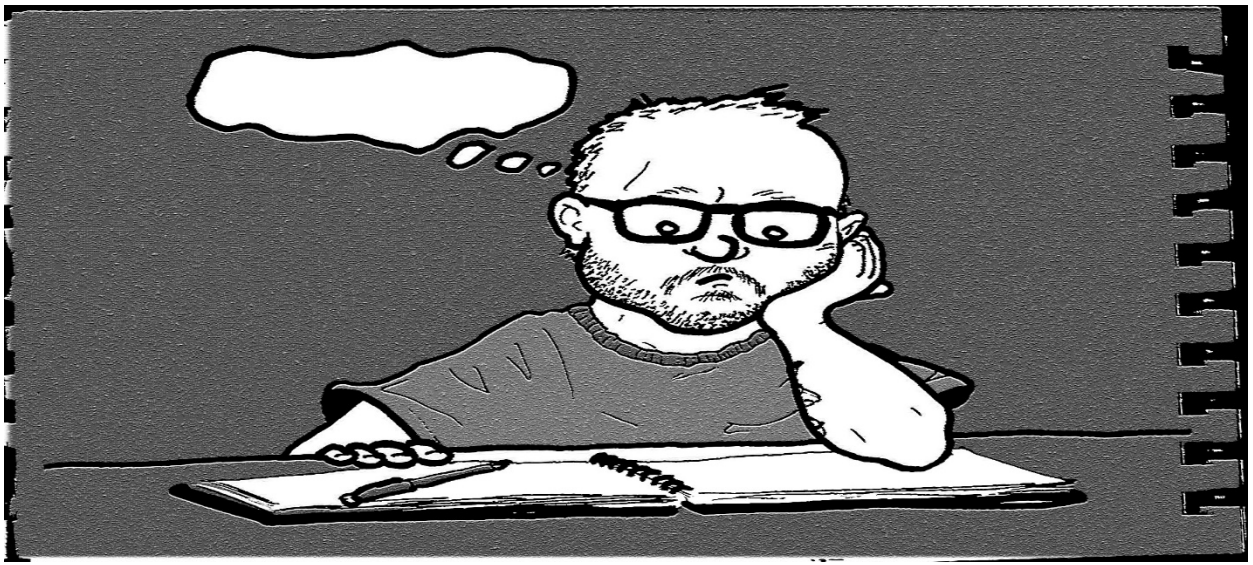
- Create alerts of latest studies on your topic
- Join discussion list online
- Talk to fellow postgraduates

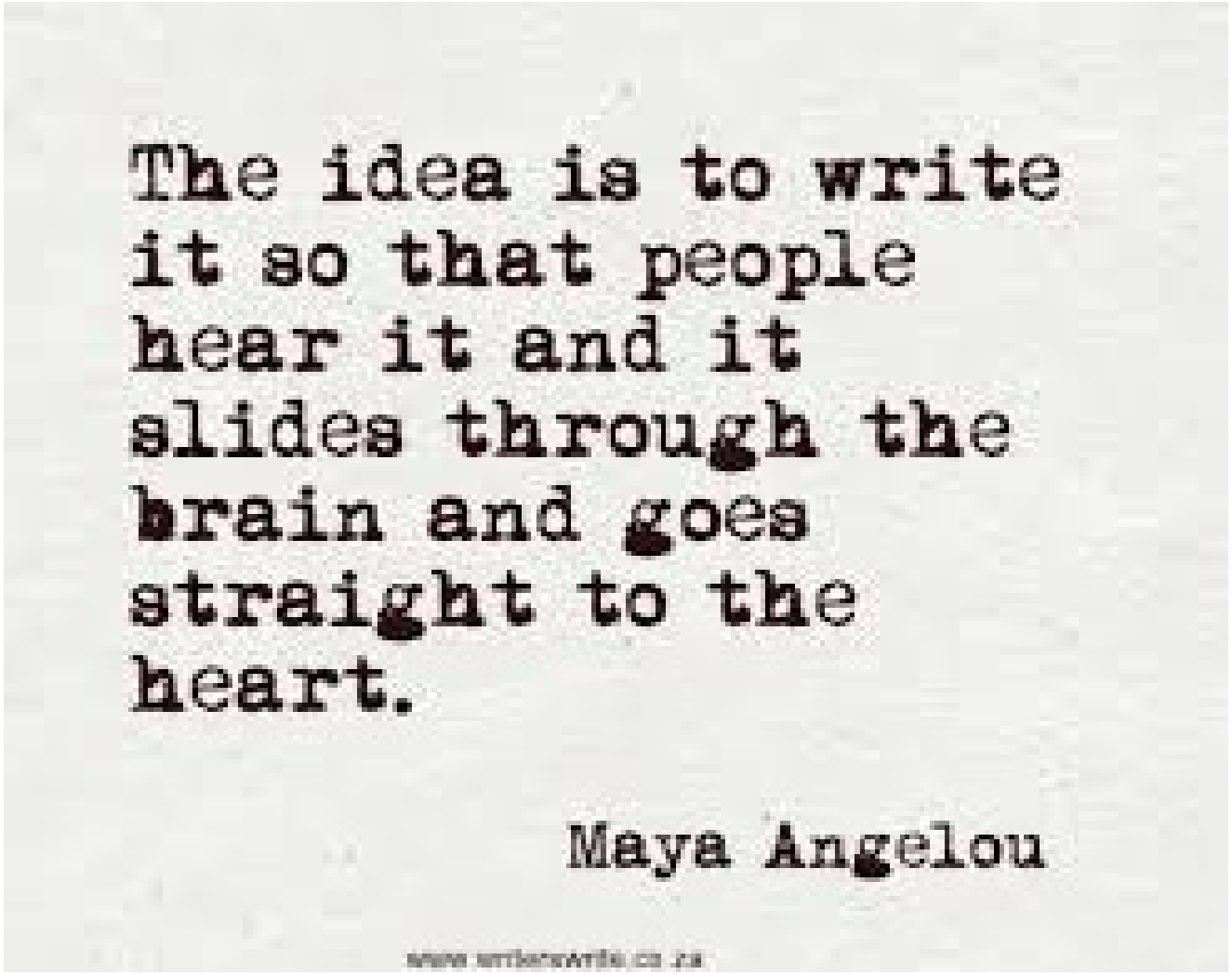
When to start writing?



When to start writing?

- Read, and then write as soon as possible.
- Write after every article that you read.
- If you are stuck, look at the quotes and see how they can be expanded. Or how they relate to your corpus or data




The idea is to write
it so that people
hear it and it
slides through the
brain and goes
straight to the
heart.
Maya Angelou

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Balance is important

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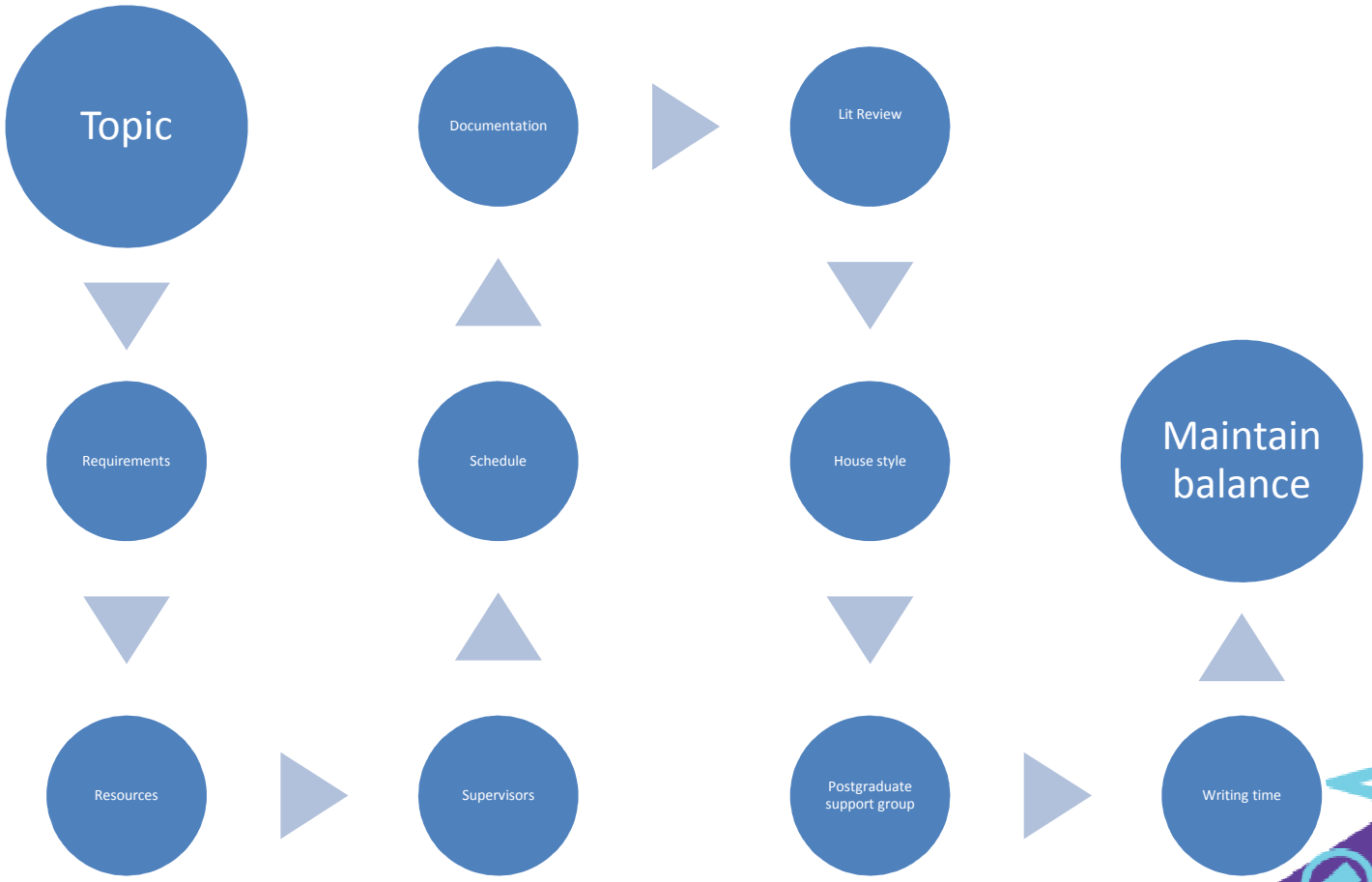
Ecosystem for Candidate



E2: Supervisors

A good relationship with the supervisor will make it an easier road to the PhD finish line

SUPERVISORS

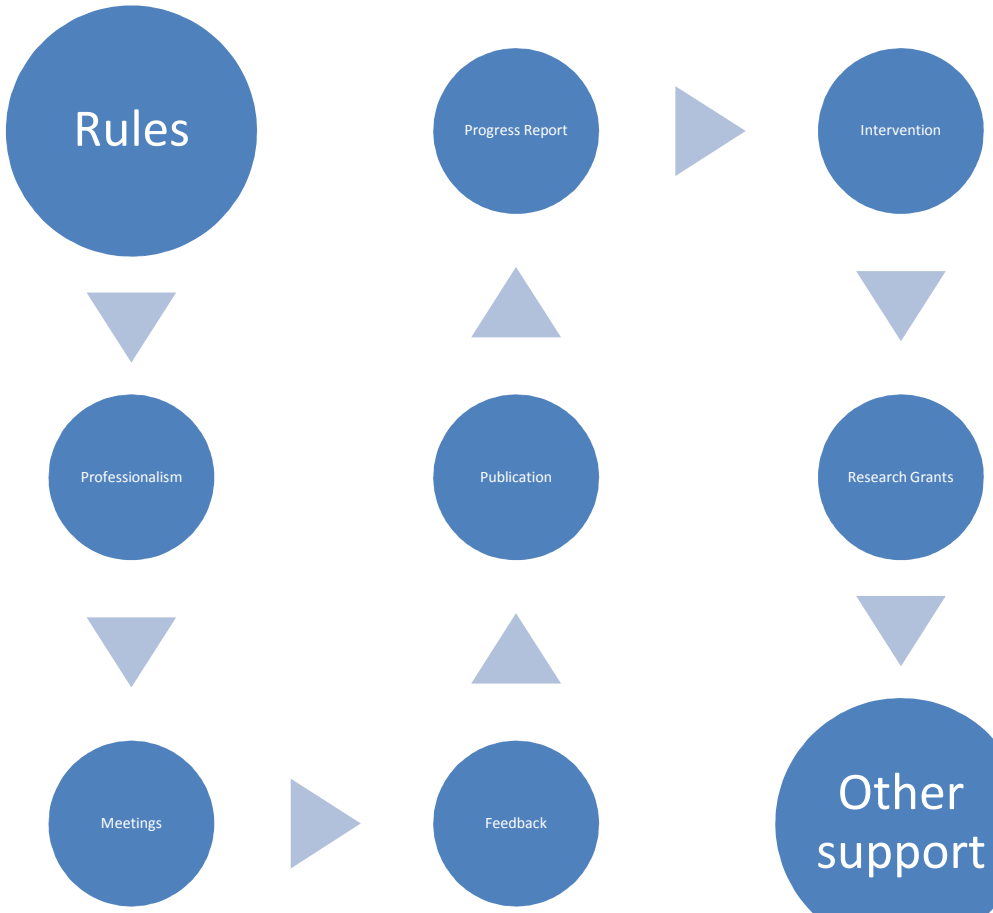
- Clarify mutual expectations
- Meetings - How often should you meet?
- Deadlines
- Quality of drafts - email/hard copy; How rough a draft are you willing to read?
- Feedback - How much time for each feedback?
- How about joint publications – who is first author?

SUPERVISORS

- Maintain professionalism and ethical behaviour
- Some problems
- One supervisor being more dominant/demanding than the other
- Shirking responsibility
- Giving conflicting advice
- Failure to work as a team

Good supervisors
can take you to
incredible heights.
They help you learn
to fly, providing the
wind beneath you,
and providing a net
for when you fall.

Ecosystem for Supervisors



E3: Faculty

- Academic Support
- Social Support

Academic Support

- Courses eg Research Methodology & Academic Writing
- Workshops
- PhD journey – Sharing Experiences (Candidates & Supervisors)
- Literature Review, Data Analysis, How to Publish
- Time Management
- Seminars

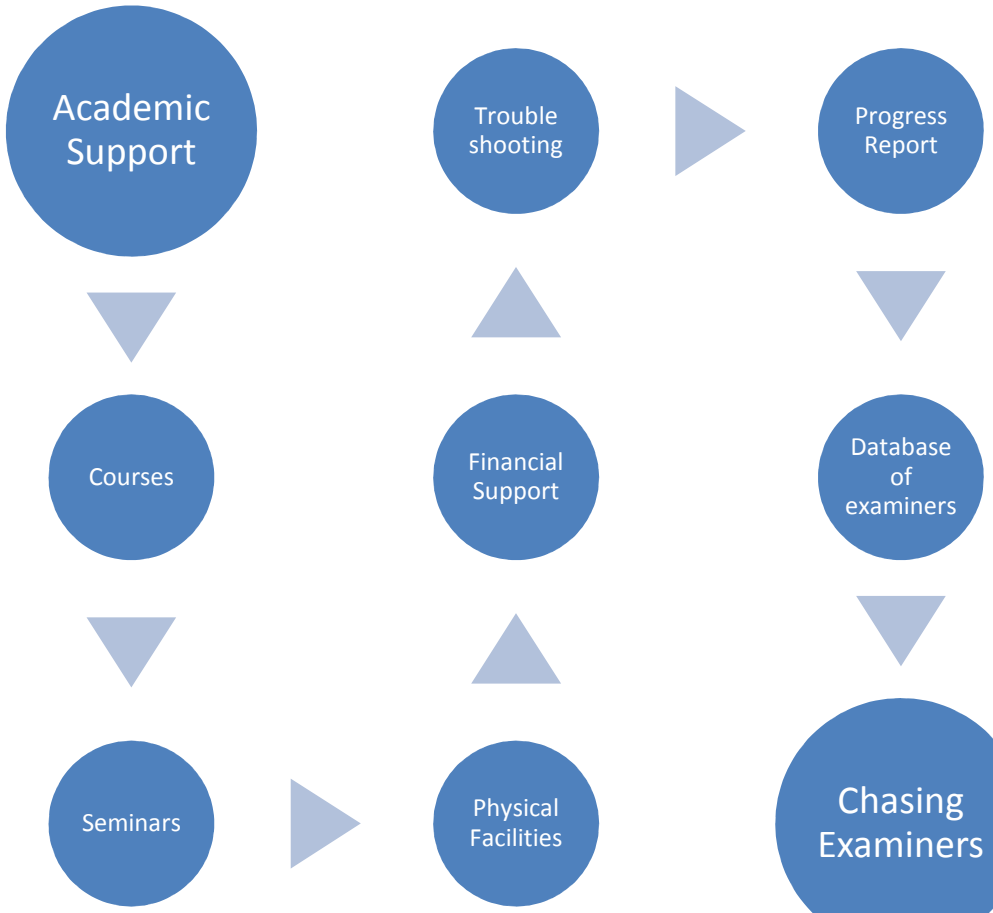
Academic Support

- Procedures in place
- Complaints
- Change of supervisors
- Termination policy
- Funding for research materials
- Funding for conferences and publications

Social Support

- Postgraduate Social Meetings
- Dealing with Stress

Ecosystem for the Faculty



E4: University

- Workshop for Mentoring
- Funding for Research
- Scholarships/Grants
- Graduate assistantship

Facilities

- Upgrading facilities – postgraduate rooms, computer facilities, books & databases
- Comparative data (physical facilities)
- Oxford University – Graduate School Room, printing facilities, lockers, refreshments
- Macquarie University, Australia – Study space with swipe card access, kitchenette with microwave, fridge, wireless access

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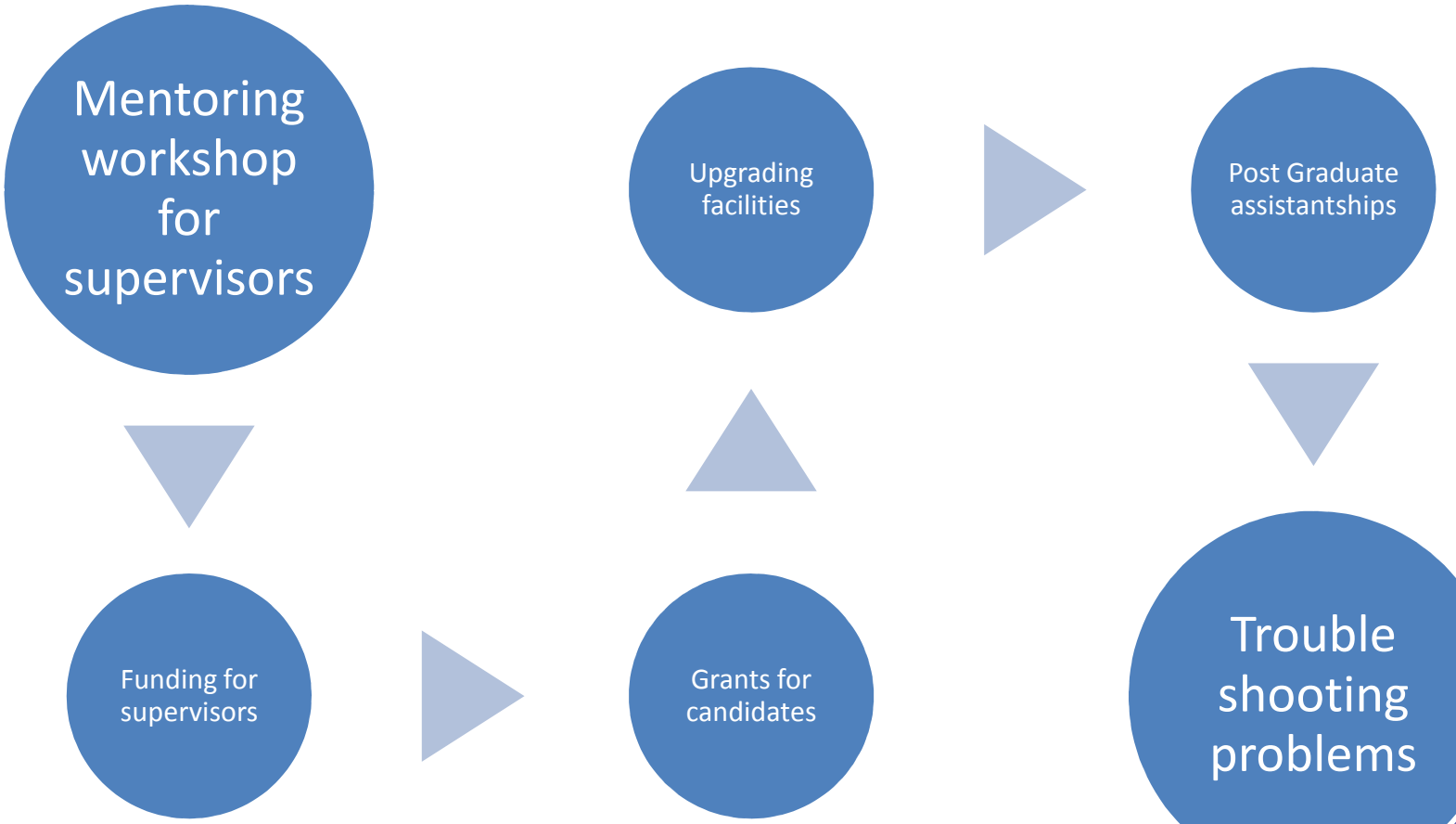

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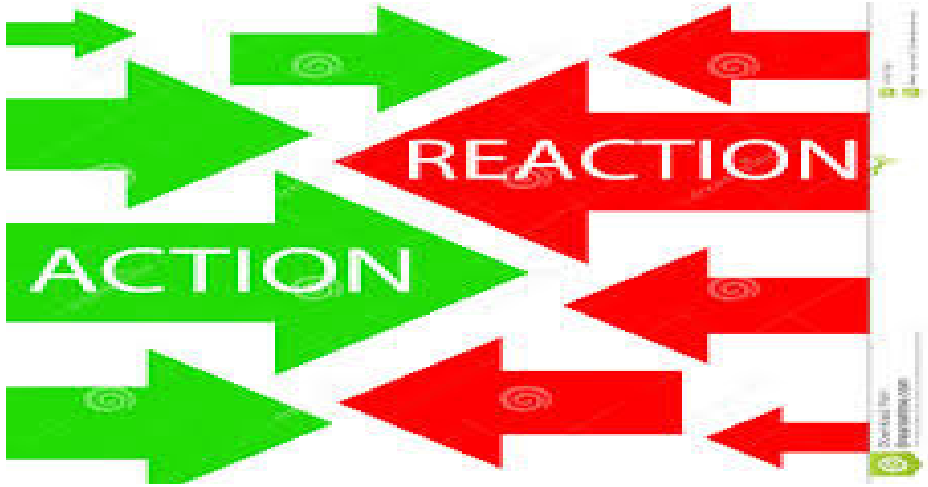
Conclusion

THE ECOSYSTEM NEEDS TO BE IN PLACE BECAUSE FOR EVERY ACTION THERE IS A REACTION



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