HAL open science

How to choose a good dissertation topic ? In 10 steps

Minh Ha-Duong

To cite this version:

Minh Ha-Duong. How to choose a good dissertation topic ? In 10 steps. Master. Online, Vietnam. 2024. hal-04485573

HAL Id: hal-04485573

https://hal.science/hal-04485573v1

Submitted on 1 Mar 2024

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Research & Innovation Consulting Hub, Academic Talk webinar

How to choose a good dissertation topic ?

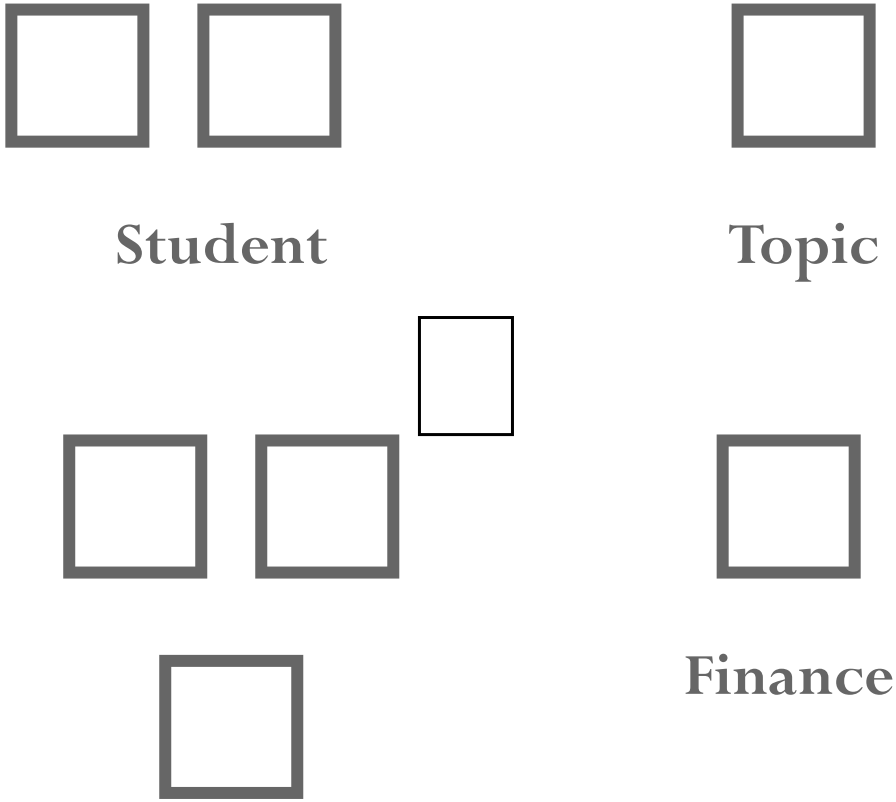
In 10 steps

Dr. Minh Ha-Duong, CIRED/CNRS

Friday 1 Mar 2024

What is a *good* topic ?

It aligns 4 stars



Viewpoint A

The student

A good thesis is a finished thesis

Feasibility #1 criteria (time/budget/quality/scope trade-off)

Master-level topics can be risky

Motivation #1bis for PhD

1. Reflect on personal interests and academic past

Viewpoint B

The science

Position your contribution at the frontier of human knowledge

2. Read a lot *to know what has been done (results) and how (methods). Look at good dissertations.*

3. Find a gap. *Replication is contribution.*

Viewpoint C

The supervisor

Publish or perish

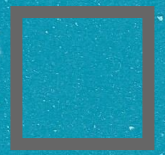
Good Master thesis → 1 article

Good PhD thesis → 3 articles

4. Quality is all about data (GIGO).

5. Get feedback. Always looking for <u>excellent</u> collaborators (grades, publications). I can always find a tailor-made motivating research topic for you (it may take a few weeks)

Viewpoint D



The funder

Ressources

Finance

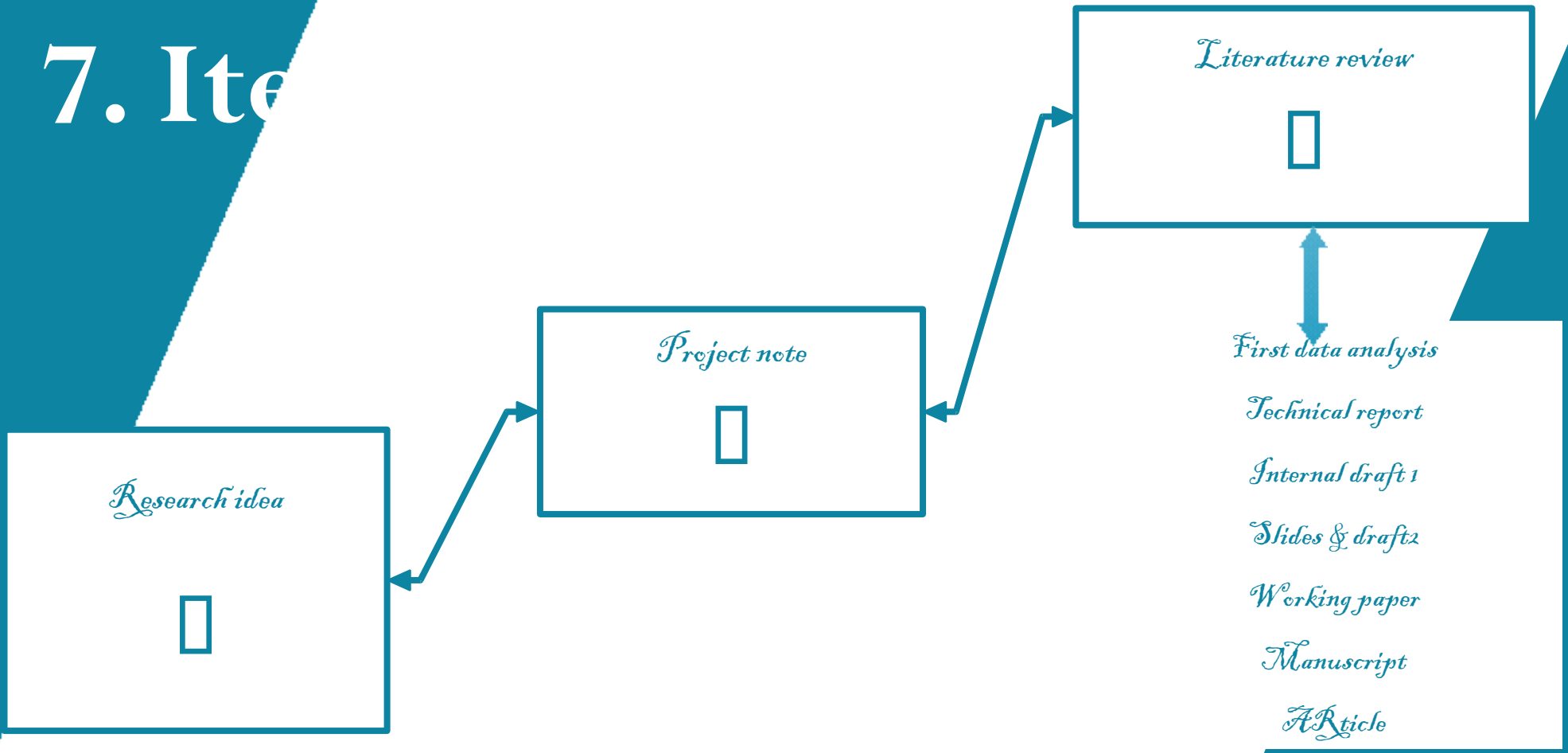
Attention: it is worth my time ?
(will the paper get >h cites)

Office space: tight but not an issue

6. Align funding with career goals. *Industry / academic funders have different programs*

How to produce it ?

7. Ite


Research idea
Project note
Literature review
First data analysis
Technical report
Internal draft 1
Slides & draft2
Working paper
Manuscript
ARticle

Write proposal

8. Re-check novelty

Grey literature

Conferences & workshops

New but connected

9. Use academic style

Research question / hypothesis

Method

Implications

10. Get formal approval

Departmental guidelines

Funders conditions

Signature

Time is in months

1 month : funded research project seeking someone

6 months : Academic PhD funding for Master students

Visual theme TC by SA, Risyad Rais