



**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-04485573>**

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 Task webinar*

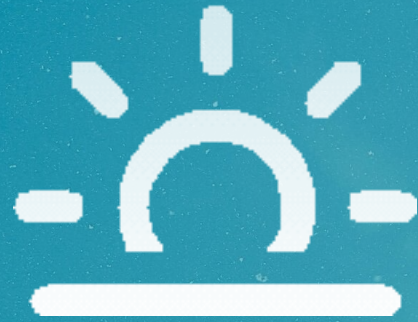
# How to choose a good dissertation topic ?

*In 10 steps*

---

*Dr. Minh Ha-Duong, CIPRED/CNRS*

*Friday 1 Mar 2024*

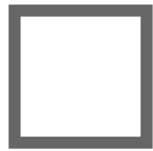


What is a *good* topic ?

# It aligns 4 stars



Student



Topic



Finance



Viewpoint A



The student

A good thesis is a finished thesis

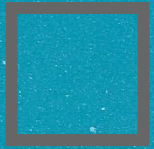
*Feasibility #1 criteria (time/budget/quality/scope trade-off)*

*Master-level topics can be risky*

*Motivation #1bis for PhD*

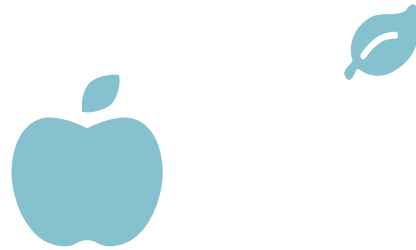
1. Reflect on personal interests and academic past

Viewpoint B

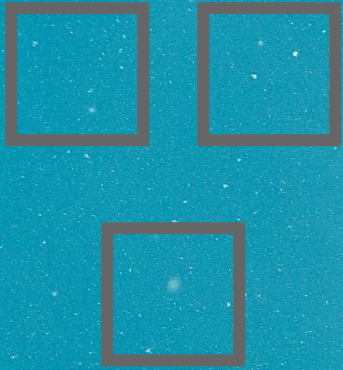


The science

# 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.*



The supervisor

# Publish or perish

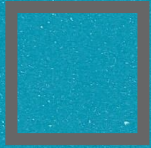
*Good Master thesis* → 1 article

*Good PhD thesis* → 3 articles

4. Quality is all about data (GIGO).

5. Get feedback. *Always looking for excellent 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

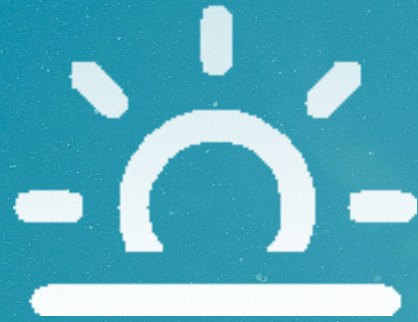
*Finance*

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

*Office space: tight but not an issue*

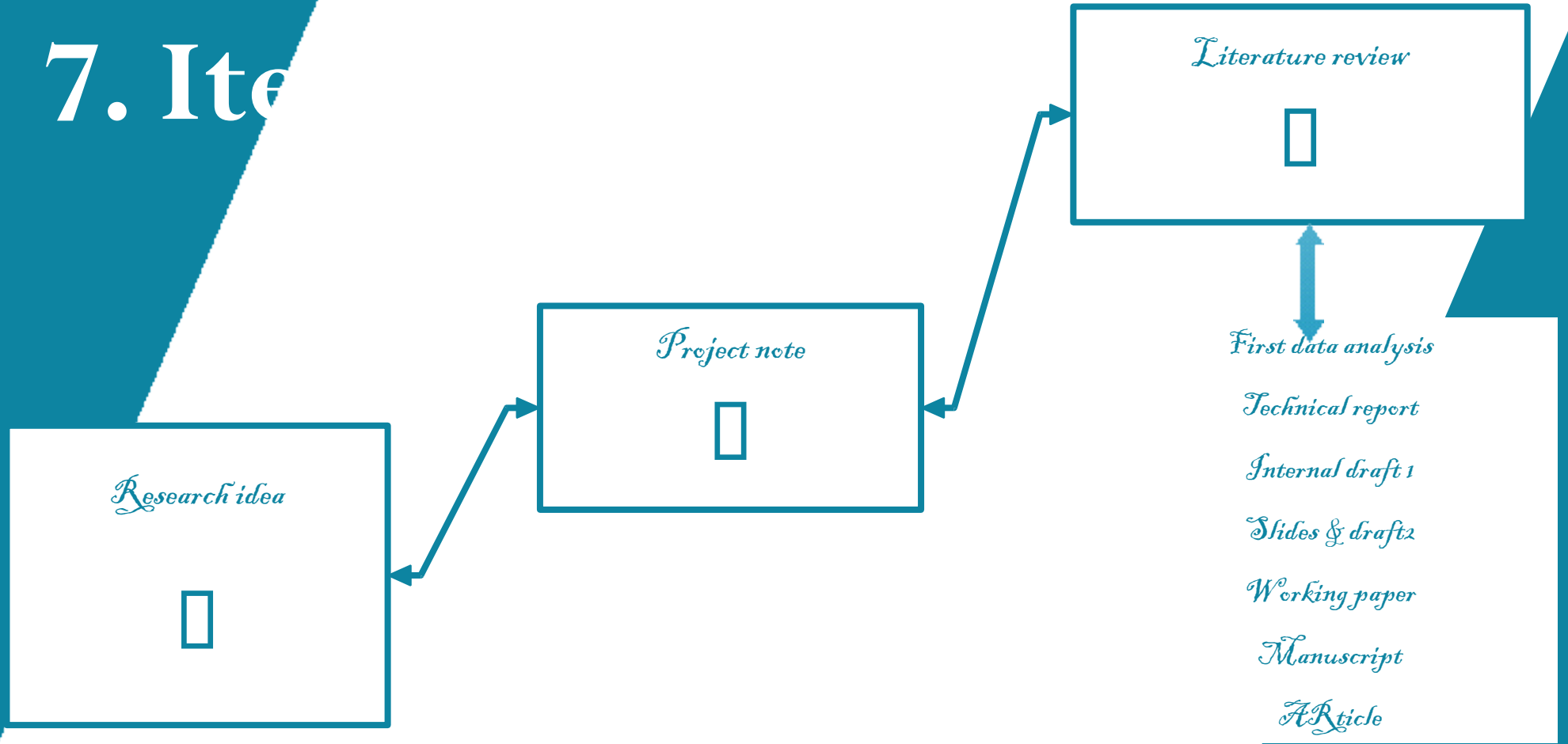
**6. Align funding with career goals. *Industry /  
academic funders have different programs***



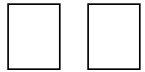


How to produce it ?

# 7. Itē

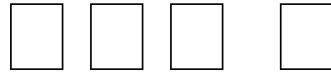


# Write proposal



## 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**

