

Writing your Master Thesis

Management of People, Management of Innovation
Processes, and Strategy and Organization

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The official version

Course requirements

You are expected to independently be able to

- Choose a problem – theoretical or practical
- Account for the relevance of the problem, the theory, and/or empirical evidence and methods
- Structure your research process
 - Search for relevant literature and empirical evidence in the library's databases
 - Select, describe, and critically reflect on the literature retrieved
 - Use methods and techniques within the scope of the program
 - Reflect on theory, methods, and empirical evidence
 - Reflect on the results of your analyses
- Communicate clearly and argue independently on an academic level.

Solving a problem in cooperation with a company

- Identify and delimit the problem.
- Identify and select relevant theory for problem solving.
- Apply theory and methods for structuring the chosen problem to guide collection of the empirical data, and as a basis for the selection of alternatives.
- Design and complete a study on a high scientific level.
- Analyse a problem, select and recommend alternative courses of action.
- Critical reflection on own analyses and recommendations, including considerations of theoretical and empirical limitations as well a possible dilemmas related to ethical and/or sustainability issues.
- Write an abstract in English or another language by agreement with the supervisor.

Analysing a theoretical problem

- Identify and delimit the problem and research questions.
- Identify and select relevant theories and methods for solving the problem.
- If relevant conduct empirical analyses of the theoretical problem
- In-depth analysis of the theoretical problem.
- Answer the theoretical question and point out theoretical and practical implications.
- Critical reflection on own analyses and recommendations, including reflection on theoretical and empirical limitations as well a possible dilemmas related to ethical and/or sustainability issues.
- Write an abstract in English or another language by agreement with the supervisor.

Towards a template

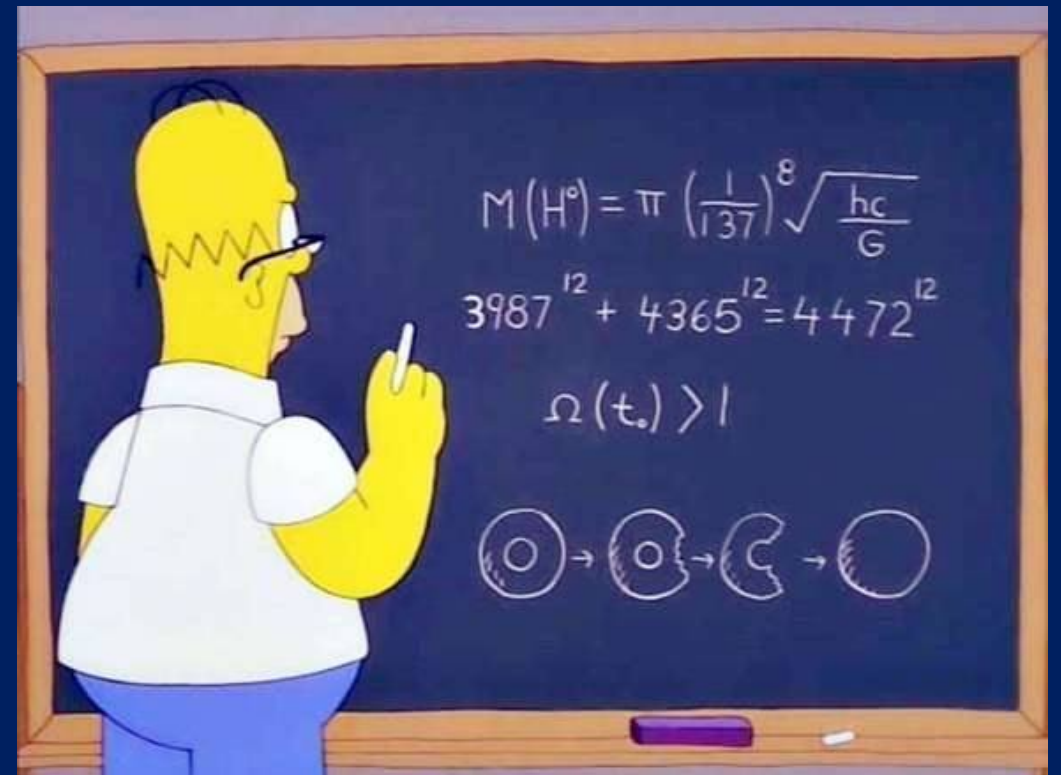
Structuring the thesis

A template for the structure of a thesis

1. TITLE PAGE - The opening page including all the relevant information about the thesis.
2. ABSTRACT - A brief project summary including background, methodology and findings.
3. CONTENTS - A list of the chapters and figures contained in your thesis.
4. CHAPTER 1 - BACKGROUND - A description of the rationale behind your project.
5. CHAPTER 2 - LITERATURE REVIEW - A summary of the literature supporting your project.
6. CHAPTER 3 - METHODOLOGY - A description of methodology used in your research.
7. CHAPTER 4-6 - DATA ANALYSIS - A description of technique used in analysing your research data.
8. CHAPTER 7 - DISCUSSION - Main conclusions based on the data analysis.
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY - A list of the references cited in your thesis.
10. APPENDICES - Additional materials used in your research.

Structuring your research

Chapter guide



CHAPTER 1 – BACKGROUND

The most important chapter!

- Identify the topic – and key problem that needs to be solved
- Explain/discuss your theoretical angle on the problem
- Reflect on the likely outcomes of your project:
 - What will we know that we did not know before when we read the final report?
 - How will it help the stakeholders (your audience)?
 - What are the limitations of your project?
- Explain how you will research the problem
 - Why have you chosen the particular method(s)?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of these?

CHAPTER 2 - LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Summarize what is known about the problem
2. Discuss how this relates to the problem you look at
3. Discuss how you will use the theory
4. Relate the discussion to the following methods/analyses chapters

CHAPTER 3 - METHODOLOGY

1. Describe the methodology you use in your research
2. Why did you chose this/these?
3. What are the advantages/disadvantages/limitations of the method(s)?

CHAPTER 4-6 - DATA ANALYSIS

1. Describe your data
2. Report your analyses
3. Explain the outcomes of the analyses
4. Focus on bringing the key findings across to your audience

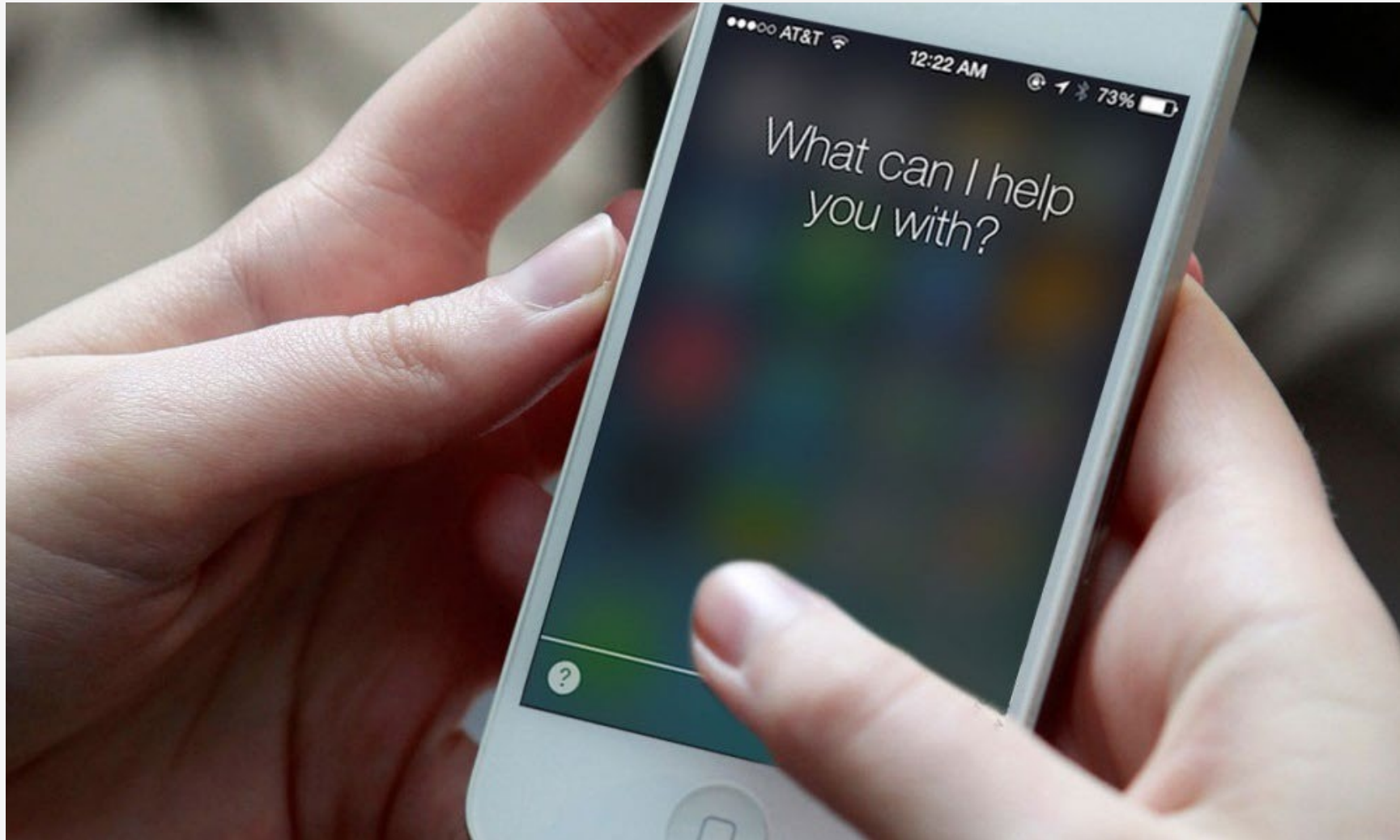
CHAPTER 7 - DISCUSSION

- Summarize the findings from your data analysis
- Interpret your findings: What do they mean?
- Reflect on your findings: Why are they important?
- Reflect on recommendations: What should be the consequence(s) of your findings?
- Discuss limitations and opportunities, e.g.:
 - How sensitive are your results to methodological choices?
 - How sensitive are your recommendations to situational contingencies?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- A list of the references cited in your thesis
- Keep track of your references with software
 - Endnote
 - Reference manager
 - Zotero (free w. paid options)
 - Mendeley (free w. paid options)

Questions



Now, go to work...

