

# Thesis presentation

# The plan – a very rough schedule

1. Getting the student out, and a new one in (1 min)
2. Fidgeting... with the computer, hand-outs, water, etc. Calm down... (1 min)
3. The student presents (10 mins)
4. Discussion (20 mins)
5. Getting the student out (1 min)
6. Assessment (4 mins)
7. Getting the student in (1 min)
8. Feedback and grade (1 min)
9. Congratulations (1 min)
10. Back to 1

# Before the plan

- Get in touch with the external(s)
  - So, the theses are ready... let me know if... hope we get some fine days...
- If nothing pops up, we compare notes on the day – top bracket, upper mid, mid-range, etc.
- If something pops up in my reading, I get in touch – well, we might have a problem here...and then we have a choice:
  - The humane thing is to let the student know
  - Tough luck, buddy!

# A rite of passage

5-8 mins student presentation (10 mins)

- No projector (it is ALWAYS a hassle!)
- Use slides on screen (first one with name, title and one-line conclusion)
- Give us a hand-out

Focus on e.g.

- A topic that is (tangentially) related to your thesis
- Something that did not quite work out the way you thought it would
- New knowledge / developments since you handed it in

A learned discussion between you and two academic veterans:

- your work
- the challenges you faced
- your solutions
- the limitations
- The transfer of your results to an employer, to a business?

# Discussion points. Examples 1

- Theory (choice of..., why?)
  - “blue theory” vs “red theory” vs “green theory” – any (dis)advantages?
- Methodology (choice of..., why?)
  - Quantitative vs. Qualitative
- You write about “philosophy of science” – where can I see you applying this knowledge?
- Social constructivism versus social constructionism?
- Hermeneutics – how do you know when you’re done?
- Observer’s paradox, bias
- Phenomenology – other people’s subjective ideas about their own perceived experiences...  
How do we work with this?

# Discussion points Examples 2

- Results – did you get the ones you expected? If not, why not?
- Your material – 254 respondents and 12 interviews and 3 expert interviews. Enough?
- Participants / respondents sampling and recruitment
- Interview guides – how did you know what to ask your respondents?
- Coding – themes, etc. How did you figure out your themes?
- Software – Nvivo, Goodtape, whisper, uCloud, Surveyxact, SPSS, Turboscribe, Teams, Excel, GitHub, Python, etc.
- Recommendations?
- How would you transfer your knowledge to your employer / the organisation?
- If this was the first meeting in my office, what would you change?

# Extra points

- Theses with presentations are a different read than theses w/o presentations:
  - Phone discussion with an external vs. 40 mins in a room
- SDU Branding (do NOT underestimate!)
  - Many people, incl. native-born Odense residents, have NEVER been on campus here. If any campus at all
  - Be prepared to “meet and greet”
    - Do you remember me?
    - Do you know my sister – she was in your class in 1998?
    - Granddad was the first academic in the family
    - “Proud dads”
  - We have some extra cake, sweets, wine, bubbles, etc.?