NEXUSS – Workshop Spec for 4th September 2019



*‘NEXUSS – NERC / EPSRC CDT in the Smart and Autonomous Observation of the Environment’.*

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**Get the Write Attitude –**

**Thesis Writing, Efficiency and Motivation**

“Writing a thesis seems a long and difficult task…..

….That is because it is a long and difficult task.”

Joe Wolfe

Can you see the light at the end of the tunnel yet?

Is time running out and friends are asking when you’re going to be finished?

Do you just want to get it done?

The final stages of your doctorate are little to do with your intelligence. They’re more to do with your ability to produce a document that is fit for purpose, write your findings in a meaningful way, stay motivated and build and maintain productive writing habits.

So, on this interactive day of the programme we’ll:

* Examine the form, function and structure of a thesis and work out how you’re going to produce one
* Discuss academic writing style and engage with the notion of writing for a split-discipline audience
* Consider what examiners look for when they come to read your book

And

* Focus on strategies for managing your time and efficiency over the final furlongs of the doctorate

And

* Consider how to stay in touch with your motivation on days when it all seems like it will never end…

Come with questions and we’ll see if we can’t answer them.

Bottom line - There are many unfinished theses and books in this world. Together, let’s make sure that yours isn’t one of them...

PRECOURSE WORK

In advance of the workshop, to help us focus more productively, there is a little pre-work. There’s nothing difficult here and, frankly, nothing that you shouldn’t already have done…

**1)** Find at least one thesis from your discipline **of the type that you are wanting to write** (biology, engineering, or mixed discipline…) – Bring it along on the day. You may have to ask permission from a colleague, or get one out of the library. Hard or soft copy is fine.

If you can’t find one – look here at Ethos - the British Library Thesis Online Repository

https://ethos.bl.uk

2) Bring a skeletal representation (one page diagram is enough) of your thesis plan. If you don’t yet have one, ask yourself how you intend to join all of your work. And then (if possible) meet with your supervisor to discuss.