

# Surviving an oral defense of dissertation/thesis

UUM COB Postgraduate  
Research Talk Series  
11/2022

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POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TALK SERIES 11/2022

# SURVIVING AN ORAL DEFENSE OF DISSERTATION/THESIS

 19 DECEMBER 2022 (MONDAY)  
10.00 A.M. - 12.30 P.M.  
ONLINE (WEBEX)



Event Number: 2640 188 9539  
Password: RTS2022



Postgraduate Studies Unit,  
UUM COB



MODERATOR  
ASSOC. PROF. DR. KADZRINA ABDUL KADIR

SPEAKER:

**DR. FRANCIS CHUA CHIN WEI**  
(SBM - COB)

# **Surviving an oral defense of dissertation/thesis**

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**Preparation for an oral  
defense of dissertation /  
thesis**

# Preparation for an oral defense of dissertation / thesis

- Have enough rest - do not practice last minute preparation / overwhelm with the defense.
- Do not memorize everything. Use keywords all the time.
- Do not write sentences in PowerPoint slides. Use infographic and keywords to guide your presentation.
- Do not read slides.
- Organize few sessions of mock defense session with supervisors / friends.

# Preparation for an oral defense of dissertation / thesis

- How to be mentally prepared for Q&A session and interrogation by reviewer?
  1. Anticipate questions
  2. Be familiar with your own proposal / thesis – pages & content
  3. Trapped the reviewer – the art of writing in dissertation / thesis
  4. Be humble and not defensive
  5. Stay confident, acknowledge weaknesses / mistakes / confusion

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## **Part I: Background of the study & Problem statement**



# Background of the study and problem statement

- Background of the study – Context of investigation.
- Problem statement.
  - Practical problem
  - Academic problem
  - 35,000 footview
- Research objectives and research question.
- Significance of the study versus contribution of the study
  - Why is so important versus what have been contributed.

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**Part II:  
Literature review,  
theoretical framework &  
hypothesis development**



# Literature review, theoretical framework & hypothesis development

- What do we know so far? - Purpose of literature review
- What has not been understood? – Gap to be research
- What else can be done to improve what we currently do not understand? - Significance and contribution
- What are the theories being used? How the relationship is being explained using the theories which leads to hypothesis development?
- Synthesizing? Summarizing? Reporting?

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**Part III:  
Research design and data  
analysis technique**

# Research design and data analysis technique

- What you plan to do?
- Why a particular research design is being selected?
- What is the world view of the study?
- Why is a particular data analysis technique chosen over the other? Explanatory, exploratory, confirmation?

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## **Part IV: Data analysis & findings**

# Data analysis and findings

- Has the data analysis complied to the reliability and validity assessment?
- Has the path coefficient assessment followed the directional / non-directional hypothesis? (Quantitative study)
- Has evidence of saturation point been demonstrated? (Qualitative study)

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## **Part V: Discussion & conclusion**

# Discussion and conclusion

- Reiterate the achievement of objectives
- Discuss on the practical contribution. Problematic practical contribution discussions.
- Discuss on the theoretical contribution. Contribution to theory – Testing theory, theory broadening, theory deepening? Contribution of theory – applying a theory to explain / predict a phenomenon?
- What else is left to be addressed in the future?



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**Thank You**

**Q & A**