

# Your thesis proposition justified

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**HALF-DAY WORKSHOP AT THE WOODHILL PARK RESEARCH RETREAT:  
Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.**

**Formulate an achievable thesis topic by learning how to:**

- **create a strong thesis statement;**
- **pose relevant answerable questions;**
- **understand what your likely data framework will comprise, and;**
- **generate a sound ethical justification for your topic.**

*Facilitated by Dr Jens J. Hansen, Director Woodhill Park Research Retreat*

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## **Who is this workshop for and what will it cost?**

- It's for anyone who is preparing to embark upon an honours, masters or doctoral level dissertation thesis or exegesis.
- It could also be for beginning supervisors who have not yet supervised postgraduate candidates to successful completion.
- We'll restrict this workshop to ten people so please enrol now, not later.
- The workshop will cost \$90.00 plus GST. You will receive a set of notes and Woodhill Park style morning tea (includes vegetarian food). Coffee or tea will be provided upon arrival and parking is free.

## **Six good reasons for taking part.**

1. Candidates who quickly develop an understanding of the concept of a 'working thesis' start out way ahead of the game.
2. Because a thesis statement proposes, regulates, and formulates dimensions of your argument for your examiner, it's essential that you begin with a strong thesis in mind.
3. Understanding how and when a thesis statement is likely to eventuate can be important when a 'prescriptively empirical' thesis is unlikely to enter your research orbit. Thinking this through and understanding what that implies for you is a very sound reason indeed for attending this workshop.
4. A working thesis proposition presents your current thinking but your thinking will almost certainly shift as ideas evolve. Learning about the impact of this important reality will be a matter considered during this workshop.
5. Because your thesis statement determines the thrust and shape of your thesis, having a sound 'working thesis statement', plus a set of valid questions, enables you to develop an achievable research design and data management strategies from the outset. This enables you to be more frugal with time-management, thereby saving you money.

6. Finding out how to use selected software programmes which can help you to develop and revise your thinking is yet another good reason for registering. Register now!

### **An outline of what we'll do.**

**8.30 a.m.** Coffee and tea will be available upon arrival.

**9.00 a.m.** *The cock-tail party approach to speed-telling in fifty words or less.* AKA how to use key words, key statements and a simple sentence to tell others about your contemplated thesis.

**9.30 a.m.** *Formulation 101.* Creating a mind-map of your ideas, and using Hansen's Heuristic Hexagon to begin clarifying your thinking about your contemplated thesis.

**10.00 a.m.** *Justifying what you are thinking at the outset.* This will be a hands-on practical session that seeks to help you formulate your thesis proposition and/or, attendant questions. We'll also consider how these matters can impact upon your possible research design, your data management and data analysis strategies, and your likely writing genre/s.

**10.45 a.m.** Morning tea.

**11.15 a.m.** *All about technology.* A short session exploring ways of morphing your thinking into a either a useful matrix, and/or a simple mind-map, and/or a very short PowerPoint presentation.

**12.15 noon.** *Justifying what you are thinking now.* Understanding from the very outset what examiners are sure to require of a thesis makes a lot of sense, even for beginning candidates. This will be a hands-on session where you'll look at theses completed by members of the Woodhill Park community of scholars. That way you'll be better able to discern quality so you can emulate it.

**12.45 p.m.** *Poroporoaki.* A brief evaluation and final questions.

**1.00 p.m.** Finish.

Please note that the time-table above will, in large measure, be governed by participants. We intend to cover as much as possible in a practical hands-on manner, but we'll try to do this at your pace and according to your head-space. That means we're flexible.

### **Register now.**

**Email [jens@woodhillpark.com](mailto:jens@woodhillpark.com) or phone 09 411 7703. Only ten spaces are available and cancellations will not be possible unless there is a waiting list and we're told well beforehand.**