



Athabasca University

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES PRESENTS:

NAILING DOWN YOUR IDEAS:

HOW TO PROPOSE A DO-ABLE RESEARCH TOPIC

PRESENTED BY: DR. DEBRA HOVEN

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

TIME: 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. (MST)

MODE OF DELIVERY: ADOBE CONNECT

ABSTRACT:

THIS PRESENTATION IS DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT THE PRESENTATION BY DR SHAUNA ZENTENO IN JANUARY AND IS AIMED MORE TOWARDS HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH SCIENCES – THOUGH IT WILL ALSO BE SUITABLE FOR SCIENCE RESEARCHERS WHO ARE CONTEMPLATING USING MIXED METHODS OR QUALITATIVE APPROACHES IN THEIR RESEARCH.

IN THIS PRESENTATION, I WILL BEGIN BY EXPLORING WHAT MAKES A RESEARCH TOPIC OR QUESTION “DO-ABLE”. THIS INVOLVES A NUMBER OF ASPECTS, INCLUDING YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST, HUMAN AND OTHER RESOURCES, ACCESS TO PARTICIPANTS, YOUR TIMELINES AND THOSE OF THE INSTITUTION, HOW MUCH TIME YOU HAVE TO DEVOTE TO YOUR PROJECT, AND WHERE YOU HOPE IT WILL TAKE YOU ON COMPLETION.

WE WILL THEN MOVE ON TO POSITIONING YOURSELF VIS A VIS THE LITERATURE AROUND THE TOPIC – THE PURPOSES THIS SERVES, HOW TO FOCUS YOUR SEARCH, AND YOUR PROBLEM STATEMENT. THIS THEN LEADS US TO EXPLORATION AROUND HOW TO ARRIVE AT RESEARCHABLE QUESTIONS. FINALLY I WILL DISCUSS THE SIGNIFICANCE OR IMPORTANCE OF YOUR TOPIC IDEAS, WHETHER AND HOW YOU MAY NEED TO EXPLORE FUNDING POSSIBILITIES, AND FINDING A SUITABLE SUPERVISOR.