



Navigating the Dissertation Successfully

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*A webinar hosted by the APSA Committee on the
Status of Graduate Students in the Profession*

APSA Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession



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What is a Dissertation?

- Might seem like an abstract and distant concept for first and second year graduate students (as well as prospective students)
- Think of the dissertation as the culmination of your graduate school journey
 - Original research project based on your years of methodological and theoretical training
 - Aims to contribute to one or several bodies of literature



Types of Dissertations

“Book” dissertation

“Three paper” dissertation



Andrew's "Book" Dissertation

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Theoretical Argument

Chapter 3 – First Quantitative Chapter

Chapter 4 – Qualitative Chapter

Chapter 5 – Second Quantitative Chapter

Chapter 6 – Conclusion & Implications



3-Paper Dissertation

This asks three different, but related, questions

Thus, three separate arguments & empirical tests



Two Other Dissertation Types

Type 1: the perfect dissertation

Type 2: the finished dissertation

Stages of the Dissertation

- Your relationship with your dissertation often determines your stage in your graduate school
 - Prospectus/Proposal stage
 - ABD (All but Dissertation)
 - Defense
 - Post-Defense Deliverables



Meet our Panelists



Hassan Parker
PhD student
University of
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Dr. Christina Cottiero
Assistant Professor
University of Utah



Dr. Ñusta Carranza Ko
Associate Professor
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Upcoming Professional Development

- April 2024- Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants
- Early May 2024- Conducting Fieldwork
- Late May 2024- Navigating the Job Market



Contact Us!

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