

Name:

Title of Thesis:

Date / Version:

# Mid-Journey Research Design Canvas

## Literature

What bodies of literature / areas of research are relevant to the project?  
 What is the overriding focus of each body of literature?  
 What are the key papers / studies?  
 Are there identifiable sub-areas or constellations of studies in the body of literature?  
 What are the characteristics of each body of literature (big or small, well established or newly emerging, academic or non-academic, from the same discipline / different disciplines?)  
 How important is each body of literature?

## Observations & Arguments

What evidence exists in the literature? (findings / results, conclusions, recommendations, propositions, hypotheses, relationships, etc)  
 What issues or themes are observable in past research?  
 Is there a gap or problem?  
 What are the costs or risks of not addressing the gap / problem?  
 Are there potential connections between bodies of literature leading to new issues, themes, a gap, or problem?

## RQ / Hypotheses

What are the research questions?  
 Are there any tentative hypotheses?  
 What is the value of investigating the questions / hypotheses?

## Contributions

What are the planned contributions of the research?  
 What type of contribution? (practical, empirical, theoretical, methodological, philosophical)  
 What value will the research deliver to the stakeholders?

## Sample / Context

What sample and sampling methods will be used?  
 Will the context of the research play an important role?  
 If so, what are the distinctive characteristics of the context?

### Mid-Journey Questions

*How have you made progress towards realising your planned contribution(s)?*  
*Have you modified or clarified your planned contribution, or has a new potential or actual contribution emerged?*

### Mid-Journey Questions

*Have you changed any sampling decisions or the context of your research?*  
*What is interesting, surprising, or insightful about the data you used or the context within which your research was conducted?*

## Methodology / Design / Methods

What is the methodology or design for the study?  
 What are the key principles / objectives / quality criteria of the methodology / design?  
 Is the methodology / design well-established or relatively unique in your discipline / topic area?  
 What specific methods of data collection and analysis will be used?  
 What are the key features or strengths of each method?  
 How will the methods complement each other?

### Mid-Journey Questions

*Have you been able to answer / test your original research questions / hypotheses?*  
*Have new research questions emerged through your research and have you been able to answer them?*  
*Have you modified your original hypotheses or developed new ones?*

### Mid-Journey Questions

*How did you uphold the principles or achieve the objectives of the methodology / design?*  
*Has your research met the quality criteria of the methodology / design?*  
*Have you made any changes to your original research design?*  
*How did your research utilise the features / strengths of the methods?*  
*Did you use additional methods of collecting or analysing data?*

## Theory & Concepts

What role will theory or concepts play in the research?  
 What theoretical ideas / concepts / model / framework will be used, developed, or tested?  
 What does theory mean / what constitutes theory in your discipline or topic area?

### Mid-Journey Questions

*Has the original theoretical / conceptual focus of your research changed?*  
*Has the role of theory in your project changed or become clearer?*  
*Have you been able to test, develop, expand, apply, utilise, or criticise theory or concepts through your research?*  
*Are there any interesting or important theoretical or conceptual implications arising from your research?*

## Problem / Phenomenon

What are the main phenomenon and sub-phenomena in the research?  
 Does the research involve a real world problem and if so what is it?  
 Who are the key stakeholders of the research?

### Mid-Journey Questions

*Have the original phenomenon and / or more specific sub-phenomena changed during your research?*  
*Have important new sub-phenomena emerged?*  
*How has your research enabled a better understanding of the real world problem?*  
*Have you identified previously unknown or misunderstood aspects of the problem?*  
*Have you been able to solve or develop a potential solution(s) to the problem?*

## Assumptions / Paradigm

Is the research based upon particular philosophical assumptions?  
 Does the research operate within a specific research paradigm?

### Mid-Journey Questions

*Have you upheld the philosophical assumptions or the research paradigm you adopted?*  
*If reflexivity is important in your adopted research paradigm / philosophical assumptions, how have you demonstrated it during and through the research process?*

