

# Ph.D / DCA structure

## Ch.: Literature Survey / Context / Critical Background

Critical reading (not just summary but also relating to own work)

Contextualise research

Epistemology

Evidence novelty of research

Illuminate gap in literature

Identify problem in current methods (which will lead to justification of research question in Ch.2)

Survey relevant methodology, compare possibilities and how used by others

Refer to other work by other researchers/artists/designers

Influences - cultural, philosophical, technical, stylistic, etc.

## Ch.: Introduction

Identify the **research question + objectives** (commonly called 'aim + objectives' in research projects or grants) (objectives could also be presented as 'sub-questions' of main question)

Research objectives or sub-questions should be achievable-sized chunks that will form stages of the research or progressive steps in answering main question, i.e. things that need to be understood in order to understand the larger problem of the research question

Link research question to evidence in literature in ch.1, i.e. argue that research question advances some inadequately understood problem/process/issue, incomplete area of knowledge or **gap in the literature** (\*rationale for choice of research question & significance as an original contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field - commonly called 'significance + innovation' in research projects or grants)

Based on the literature, especially on understanding of methodology, **how** (overview of methodology your research will pursue the enquiry) (\*justification for choice of methodology)

Identify scope, constraints, limitations and honestly/accurately represent the intended focus of your research within the problem, e.g. which aspect of a large issue your research will target (be realistic about time and length of a Ph.D/DCA exegesis and candidature: there will always be more ... which can be mentioned in Future Work ch.)

If experimental research, explain how methodology selected achieves the advancement of knowledge and is intended to find out the kind of information needed (experimental method will be explained in detail in following ch.s)

If creative research, explain how the works (that will be described in detail in following ch.s) investigate some aspect of the research question

## Experiment/Investigation/Case 1§

Traditional experiment measuring something, ethnographic or case study observing something, e.g. could examine a theory, process, people (audience, participants), an action/phenomenon (engagement, transference, transformation), effect (e.g. of a system, technology, method)

## Experiment/Investigation/Case 2

## Experiment/Investigation/Case 3

Ph.D (within thesis)  
for Ph.D in CPCE, something creative could be vehicle for investigation, can still 'do/make' creative work leading to thesis

DCA (submitted as folio)

for DCA in CPCE, folio allows submission of non-traditional format that epitomises your expertise or area of development

## Major Creative Work 1§

Creative Work/Practice in non-traditional format that investigates/demonstrates/explores/exemplifies an aspect of the research enquiry

Needs to be exploring an old problem in a new way or new problem in order to be making a contribution to new knowledge, e.g. new way of composing/writing/making/designing or integration of a new technology or new methodology or reframing old issue/practice in new way of thinking/philosophy, interdisciplinary juxtaposition, etc.

## Explanatory Ch. for Work 1

How creative outcome investigates research question

## Major Creative Work 2

## Explanatory Ch. for Work 2

## Major Creative Work 3

## Explanatory Ch. for Work 2

## Ch.: Conclusions / Results / Outcomes

Link the results/findings/reflections + evidence to the research question

Summarise evidence of new contribution, new knowledge created by this research

Recap how your research addressed the gap identified in the literature (ch.1)

Indicate potential impact and context for the research outcomes, whom it will benefit/affect

## Ch.: Future Work

Acknowledge what is not addressed or not complete within the scope of this work

Highlight where this work can go - perhaps new questions or research areas that arose during your enquiry

Relate your work to the work and potential work of others

\* relates directly to an assessment criterion in the **Doctoral Assessment** (as at 2010-2011 FASS website)

§ type, scope, length/duration/gravity, and number of experiments/case studies/creative works is negotiated with the supervisor