“The thesis endgame: How to finish speedily”

The aim of this course is to assist you in developing a roadmap to take your PhD dissertation from a first complete draft to an integrated final draft. The course is designed for doctoral students who have completed their core research and are now at the final writing-up stage. The workshop involves a mix of presentations to frame each topic and group work exercises to apply the material to your PhD.

The course is divided into three parts:

1. The first part focuses on the overall (or ‘macro’) structure of the PhD. The presentation offers practical advice on structuring your dissertation to achieve high core content and logical sequencing of ideas. Group work exercises will help you to ascertain how well your PhD title, abstract and chapters signal and develop your overall argument.

2. The second part concerns the micro-structure of your PhD – that is, the way you build your argument and express your ideas within chapters of your dissertation. The presentation provides suggestions for communicating your message more effectively to readers and developing a clear, confident voice. Group work exercises will provide insight into how your work is viewed by others.

3. The final part focuses on time management. After all, success in your academic career requires careful planning, not only of your research and writing tasks but also your other life commitments. This part of the workshop introduces life coaching tools and time management techniques that you can use to meet the important milestones in your doctorate and in your life.

About the lecturer

Dr. Gita Subrahmanyam is a Research Associate at the London School of Economics (LSE) and a Senior Consultant to various international development agencies, including UNESCO, African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. Her academic research concerns the impact of colonialism on democratisation and development patterns in African and Asian countries, while her policy research focuses on the causes and consequences of the Arab Spring, and how technical and vocational education and training (or TVET) can be used to promote youth employability and sustainable development. Gita’s PhD was awarded the Walter Bagehot Prize for best dissertation in public administration and government in the United Kingdom.