

Name:

Title of Thesis:

Date / Version:

# Research Design Canvas

## Literatures

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 issue(s) or theme(s) are observable in past research?  
 Is there a gap(s) and / or problem(s)?  
 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?

## 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?

## 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?

## 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?

## Assumptions / Paradigm

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

