

# *Insights on Dissertation + Doctoral Studies*

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Getting Started / October 2022

# Introduction

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## Tua Björklund (2015)

"The Dynamics of Proactive Striving - Initiating and sustaining development efforts in product design and entrepreneurship"

- Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Aalto University (SCI)
- *Supervisor: Matti Vartiainen*

## Personal Motivation:

- Design thinking, prototyping, ideation and design driven processes within organizations
- "Explore how the process of proactive striving in product design and entrepreneurship is initiated and sustained."
- Entrepreneurial focus, mental representations, innovation and ideation

**Dissertation is like a “driving license  
for academic life”**

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## *Dissertation is like a “driving license for academic life”*

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- Doctoral journey will be difficult, but it should not be impossible
- It is simply one of the many journeys one must make
- The doctoral studies should test and prepare you for what may lie ahead, provide an environment in which you can experiment and learn new skills, be supported, and trained by those more experienced within those fields
- Be prepared to fail (more than once), and be prepared to be tested
- It's not the only thing in life

# Identifying the "red thread" for the dissertation

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## *Identifying the "red thread" for the dissertation*

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- As you are after all the author (in some capacity) of each one of those papers, you will have some thoughts about how they can connect, and so simply just writing down any initial ideas can be a good first step towards tackling this issue
- Something where the supervisor can be of assistance
- Instead, focusing upon research areas that actually interest me would be a more important aspect
- Keeping in mind the research objectives, project objectives, etc.

**Being proactive is the key**

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## *Being proactive is the key*

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- Reaching out to possible co-authors, networking while at conferences and events, working with your colleagues
- Taking doctoral courses early on, especially the ones on methods, ethics.
- Keeping a timeline handy - knowing things can change but still having a frame of reference
- Similarities to the design processes
- Seek out journals, keep reading, funding applications, deadlines!

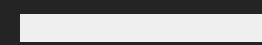


*Connecting back to the metaphor of a license, a license does **not signify full mastery** of one's craft or the completion of one's journey with that craft. Rather the license is just the **permission to continue with that craft** with a greater sense of **understanding and appreciation** for that craft. And that's how I will look upon my doctoral studies too.*



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# Thank You



Apurva Ganoo

Doctoral Candidate

Aalto University School of Business

[apurva.ganoo@aalto.fi](mailto:apurva.ganoo@aalto.fi) / +358 406842343

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