



Central University of
Technology, Free State

The Ethics of Scholarship: Reflections on postgraduate supervision and research

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Thinking Beyond



Council on Higher Education's Doctoral Standards review (2022).

Role of supervisor and student on trustworthiness of research. Research ethics is an attribute.

1. Orientation:

We know what to do, but can we do it?



Two-fold role of supervisor: academic guidance and support development as independent researcher.



Professional Councils and National Qualification Framework

PC – should be able to apply the standards of the profession.

NQF – capacity to understand, identify and deal with ethical challenges.

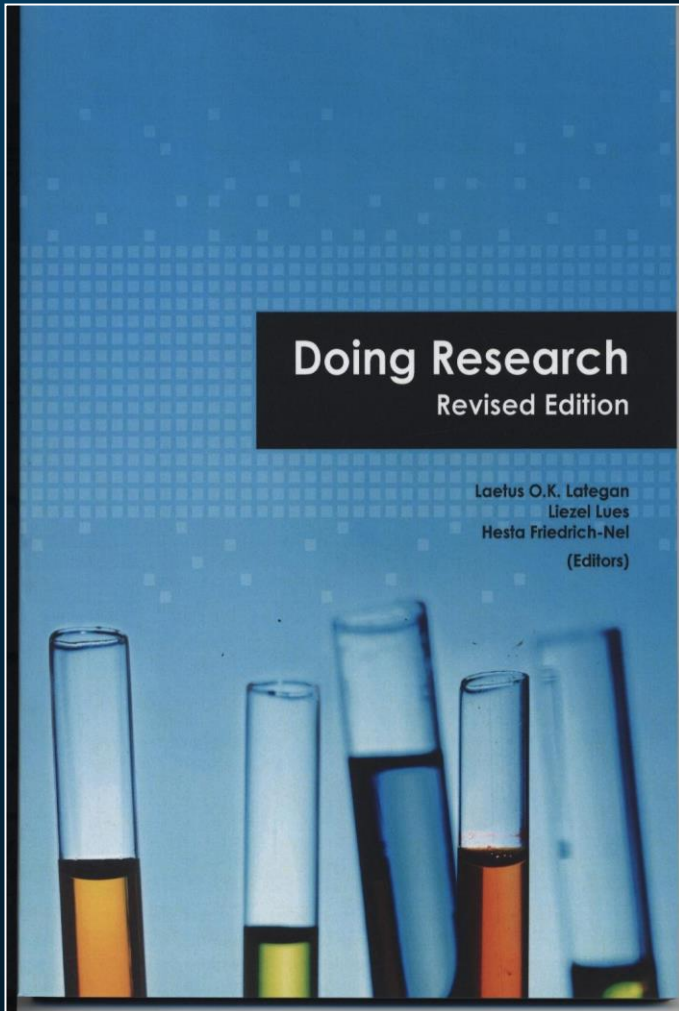


What should be the basis of the relationship?

(a) Professional – “no supervision over coffee.”

(b) Having a distance – family, friends, personal.

(c) Scholarship, not numbers.



2. The Ethics of Scholarship:

Norms, Values, Quality and Application

- Scholarship is generally understood as the quality of knowledge, also referred to as “doctorateness” in doctoral studies. Trafford and Leshem (2008): “doctorateness” different to anything else you did before.
- Scholarship = in-depth understanding of a discipline / field of study and its meaning for science and society.
- Ethics = norms/values.
- Ethics of scholarship = norms / values associated with knowledge creation and transfer.

Note: ethics and integrity matters neglected in postgraduate supervision.



Ethics of Scholarship: what should be on the agenda?

University qualification, institutional aspirations, & relevant public policies [standards and relevance].

The respective roles, duties, and responsibilities of supervisors and students in generating new knowledge [responsibilities].

The boundaries of knowledge creation viewed against Artificial Intelligence [how is knowledge created?].

The inclusion of social justice and human rights in knowledge creation [public good].

Cross-institutional, out-of-country, and post-COVID-19 supervision [“global’ doctorate].

The effective management of resources [waste].

The value of the research to the scientific community, government, business and industry, and end-users of the research [quality of health and living].

The preparation of next-generation researchers [skills transfer and development].



References

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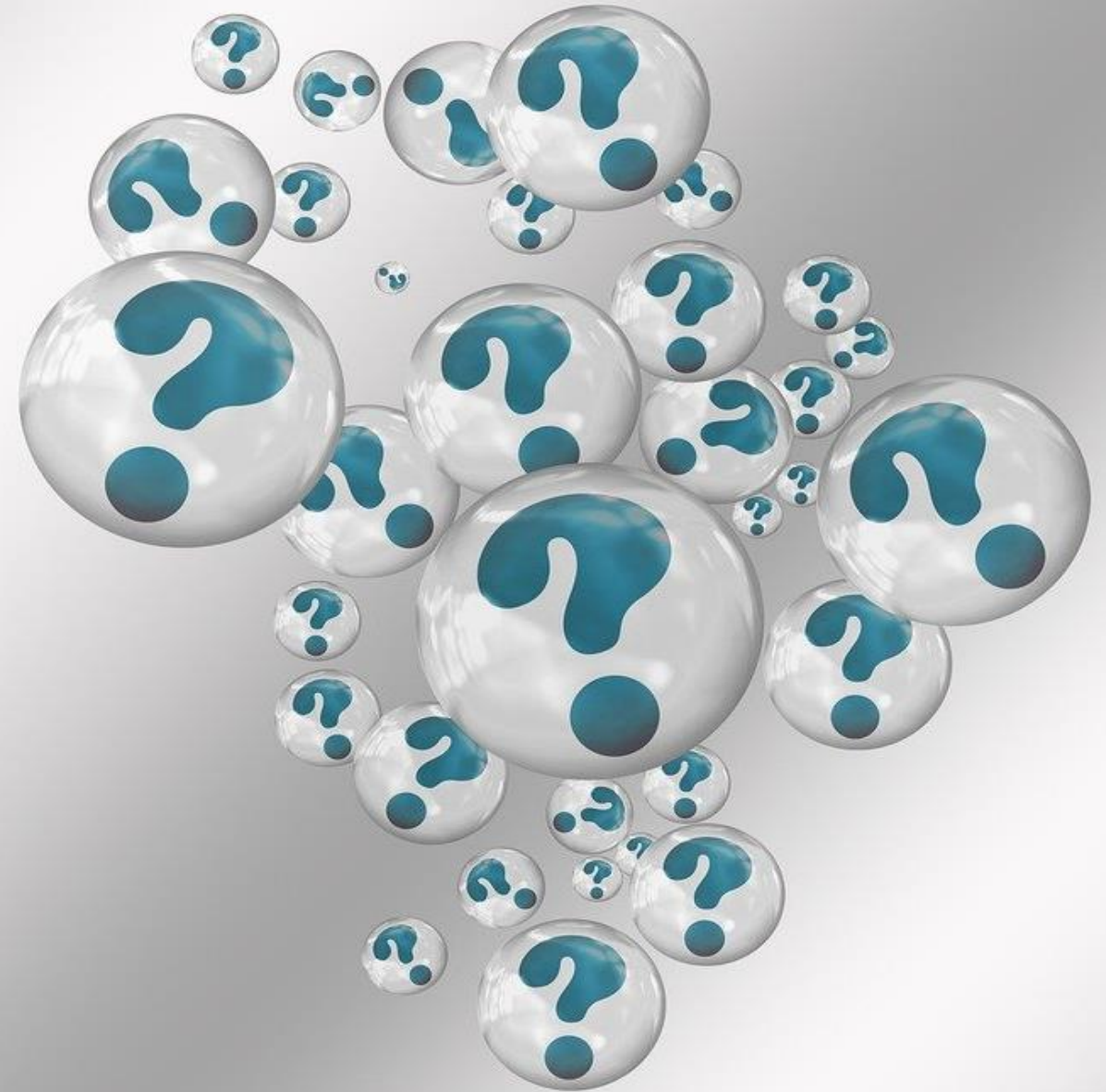
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Q&A

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THANK YOU

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