

Managing Your Confirmation Seminar and Viva

(Subclass A)

Dr. David Gardner

Date: February 29, 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.

Venue: Main Campus, HKU

Overview

This workshop aims to help students prepare for their confirmation seminar and viva by introducing the procedures, examiners' roles and expectations, and offering tips on handling questions with a view to maximizing the effectiveness of their communication in the confirmation seminar and viva.

This workshop will draw on the experience and observation of the instructor and that of PhD/MPhil graduates, as well as the perspectives of supervisors from a range of disciplines at HKU. It will offer language tips for students on how to present their research briefly and demonstrate that they have sufficient understanding of the topic through discussion of related literature, define the objectives/hypothesis of their research, describe and justify the research design and methodology, defend the thesis, understand the significance of their work in the broad context of their subject and clarify any matters raised by their advisory panel and the examiners.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the workshop, students will be able to approach their confirmation seminar or viva with more systematic knowledge and better confidence. More specifically, they will be able to:

- demonstrate awareness of the purpose and features of a confirmation seminar and viva and the expectations of the advisory panel and the examiners; and
- develop skills required for making an effective confirmation seminar and viva.

Learning Activities

This is a 3-hour workshop involving case analysis, experience sharing and discussion of good practices for a confirmation seminar and viva in the HKU context. Students will have the chance to ask questions, present their research and receive peer and instructor feedback on their performance. Each student will identify a set of good practices for his/her own viva. There is no formal assessment.

Remarks

Students are recommended to attend this workshop before or soon after submission of the probationary report or dissertation for examination.

