Studying Doctoral Supervision Quality An approach to methodological design

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Is the doctorate really about the product (thesis) or the process (developing Is Your Research IMPOSSIBLE? the researcher)? Take the Quiz! Does it violate the Laws of Physics? What are the implications for research funders of the changing context of doctoral My research is to figure out the Laws of Physics education? No Ye:s How effective are current systems for assuring the quality and standard of doctorates? Why hasn't anyone done it before? a) They were not as smart as me (I am the chosen one!) How can the employability of doctoral students be enhanced? b) No one's bothered to do it (Meh, it's not that useful) c) Someone has done it, I just In what ways are the current and emerging drivers of change having an don't know about it. (Do I really want to know??) impact on the nature and quality of the student experience? CUAM @ 2009 Results: Realistically, it can't be done How might the demands and expectations of the new knowledge economy impact Academically, it can still be published! ORIGE upon doctoral education? (adapted from Park, 2007, p.37-39) WWW. PHDCOMICS. COM

IN PORTUGAL - Lack of theoretical and empirical research regarding this subject

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

Main objective: To design a reference framework about doctoral supervision quality

Type of study: Case study – with an exploratory and explanatory character (Yin, 1994)

Sample: Doctoral students and supervisors from several academic domains - University of Aveiro (UA)

METHODOLOGICAL DESIGN

INTERVIEWS	Focus Groups		QUESTIONNAIRES
 Portuguese senior researchers, experts on pedagogical supervision internationally validated To collect first Portuguese conceptions and opinions about this issue, and to reflect and dialogue them with international concerns 	 Doctoral students & supervisors from different academic domains and with different experiences To "feel the pulse": to gather conceptions and experiences on research supervision 	 Doctoral students & supervisors (to be chosen) To deepen semantic lines that emerge on the focus group 	 3rd cycle community at the UA - Doctoral students & supervisors To statistically understand the vision of doctoral community regarding the factors that influence doctoral supervision quality

Design of a reference framework about doctoral supervision quality

(holistic reference framework that will always dialogue the findings with international literature and previous results)

"Doctoral education across Europe is evolving quickly and, even as universities shift their focus from traditional training based largely on individual relationships to structured programs, in-depth research must remain at the core of Ph.D. work (...)" (A. Labi, in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 6 June 2010)

The need of continuously reflecting and rethinking this issue within HE institutions & national centres, and also with international community "Doctoral studies are facing epistemological changes, as consequence of political and economic circumstances, not always following scientific or social interests." (From one interview)

"Doctorates require a high level research, where creativity and innovation ask for a profound commitment, a transformative and dialogical relationship." (From one Focus Group)





