IDEAPUZZLE
DESIGN AND DEFEND YOUR PHD

Research design with the Idea Puzzle software (1 ECTS)
Online course (4 contact hours)
15 participants

Aims of the course

The Idea Puzzle software is a decision-making tool that helps PhD candidates improve the coherence of a research proposal, article or thesis in the light of philosophy of science (Morais & Brailsford, 2019). It also helps review the strengths and weaknesses of a research project in any field of knowledge.

The objective of this online course is to help PhD candidates coherently align a research proposal, article, or thesis in the light of philosophy of science. The course adopts a hands-on approach to the design and diagnosis of a research project with the Idea Puzzle software. In particular, the course will cover the following topics:

- Relation between epistemology, methodology, ontology, and axiology
- Coherence between theory, method, data, rhetoric, and authorship
- Empirical research as a system of 21 dilemmatic decisions.

After the course, participants will be able to: 1) acknowledge the relation between epistemology, methodology, ontology, and axiology; 2) coherently align the theory, method, data, rhetoric, and authorship of a research proposal, article, or thesis with the Idea Puzzle software; and 3) diagnose the strengths and weaknesses of a research project in any field of knowledge.

Course syllabus

Session 1 (2 hours)	Topics - Theoretical focus of your research - Keywords - Streams of thought - Research gap - Research question or hypothesis - State of the science - Methodological focus of your research - Philosophical stance - Research strategy - Data collection - Data analysis - Quality criteria
Session 2 (2 hours)	Topics - Empirical focus of your research - Unit of analysis - Level of analysis - Nature of data - Origin of data - Sample - Rhetorical focus of your research - Pathos - Logos - Ethos - Authorial focus of your research - Wisdom - Trust - Time

Recommended readings

1. Morais, R. (2010). Scientific method. In A. Mills, G. Durepos, & E. Wiebe (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of case study research* (Vol. 2, pp. 840-842), Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
2. Morais, R. (2018). Digital research design. UNESCO International Association of Universities *Horizons*, 23(1), 31-32.
3. Morais, R., & Brailsford, I. (2019). Knowledge visualisation for research design: The case of the Idea Puzzle software at the University of Auckland. In K.N. Sim (Ed.) *Enhancing the role of ICT in doctoral research processes* (pp. 46-66). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
4. Parente, C. & Ferro, L. (2016). *Idea Puzzle* (www.ideapuzzle.com), created by Ricardo Morais. *Academy of Management Learning & Education*, 15(3), 643-645.

Assessment

Assignment 1
Five business days before the course, participants will deliver the first version of their individual research design created with the Idea Puzzle software in PDF format.

Attendance and participation
Participants are required to attend all sessions and actively engage with the lecturer and peers during teamwork and individual presentations.

Assignment 2
Five business days after the course, participants will deliver the final version of their individual research design created with the Idea Puzzle software in Word format. Ricardo Morais will provide each participant with 21 comments of personalised feedback (one per each of the 21 decisions of the Idea Puzzle software) on the same document.

Prerequisites

Registration at www.ideapuzzle.com with your university email to create research designs with the Idea Puzzle software. Internet connection with microphone and videocam to participate in the sessions.

Expert

Ricardo Morais, married and father of three daughters, is Assistant Professor of Management at Católica Porto Business School and Director of Idea Puzzle. Since 2013, he coordinates the seminar 'How to design your PhD' at the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM) in Brussels. He holds a PhD in Strategic Management from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, having graduated in Management from the Faculty of Economics of the University of Porto. He is also an alumnus of HPI School of Design Thinking in Germany. His research interests are interdisciplinary, including Philosophy of Science, Strategic Management, Design Thinking, and Spirituality in Management. Since 2002, he has published more than 30 academic articles, chapters, and papers about these topics and lectured in 96 universities from 26 countries.

Preferred contact method: ricardo.morais@ideapuzzle.com

Testimonials

Hasok Chang, Chair of the Philosophy of Science Association 'Teaching Philosophy of Science in the World' International Syllabus Repository and Prize, United States of America
Your course certainly constitutes an innovation in the teaching of Philosophy of Science.

Davide Gotti, PhD candidate, Electrical Engineering, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
Your course was very enlightening and I am using your tips to plan my actual research project, and more generally my PhD thesis with deeper consciousness.

Jhon Tobón, PhD candidate, Tourism, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
Thank you very much. Your help has been invaluable. I now see the weaknesses of my research project. I will correct them according to your suggestions. You have an extraordinary software.

Misha Hohenstein, PhD candidate, Philosophy, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
Thank you very much for the comments and for the class, it was very helpful to organize my research.