Why do it...?
Thesis by Publications (i.e., in most cases so called Hybrid)

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So, why do it?

- To safeguard you as a student from a quality perspective
- To safeguard your participants’/funders’ interests
- To safeguard your learning to become a versatile independent researcher as you graduate
- To safeguard your supervisors’ interests
- To make life easier for your examiners

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So, why do it?

• To safeguard you as a student from a quality perspective
  – Few (if any) come to PhD with a complete thesis concept
  – “She’s the best supervisor you can ask for…” – how do you know?
  – Reasonable chunks to maintain quality
  – Write with many and experienced researchers – international supervisors on the panel … potential post doc.
  – Peer review process

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• To safeguard your participants’/funders’ interests
  – So the results actually become accessible for the research and wider community.
  …..After all, PhD theses are maybe not the most easy read you can ask for….
  – Layman language summaries and 3MT are incredibly important
So, why do it?

- To safeguard your learning to become a versatile independent researcher as you graduate
  - …because the sole researcher discovery times are over…

- Different methods and techniques across the papers, responding to different questions all aligned with an overall research question.
So, why do it?

• To safeguard your supervisors’ interests
  – They get publications otherwise hard to squeeze out from a monography
    • Literature review outdated
    • Data set outdated
    • Publications in the area already out there
    • Student doesn’t want to revisit the data
    • …and who’s going to pay for it?

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- To make life easier for your examiners
  
  ....not much to say about already peer reviewed published/accepted papers (in acceptable journals)....Instead focus on how they individually contribute to the overall research question.
Study structure

• **Title**
  - Short and distinct

• **Abstract**
  - Usually between 150-300 words

• **Introduction**
  - Precondition
  - Definitions
  - Quite a few journals don't like this section, so it may be omitted.

• **Background**
  - Problem
    - What?
    - Why?
    - How big?
    - What do we know?
      - What is the gap?
  - Depending on the type of research design: Hypothesis/-es

• **Aim**
  - Preferably in one sentence
    - Long term aim
    - Specific research questions

• **Materials & Methods** (to understand what’s been done/make replication possible)
  - Design
  - Sample
  - Tools
  - Procedures
  - Data
  - Analyses
  - Ethical aspects

• **Results**
  - Relative to aim
    - Figures and tables should assist the reader

• **Discussion** (…not results again or even worse, new results…)
  - Methods/Limitations
  - Results

• **Conclusions**
  - Must match the aim (specific research questions if any)

• **References**

• **Appendices** (if allowed and needed)
The elevator test

• What have you done?
• Why have you done it?
• What did you find?
• What does it mean?

– I bet $100 that you cannot find the journal article that clearly states, “With these findings the problem is solved and no more research is needed on this topic.”

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Issues to be considered carefully

• Identifying the most appropriate journals to approach for publication is important and should be discussed with your supervisor.
• Publishing in journals that have a high impact factor carry more weight.
• Guidance early in candidature, especially from the supervisor, is essential as the diversity of disciplines (such as publishing timeframes) which need to be considered.
• Some journals take a long time to finalise the review process and waiting for papers to be accepted can delay thesis submission.
• Thus time management and selection of journals/publishers is critical.
MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION IN COUPLES RAISING A CHILD WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Example of a hybrid thesis

Angela Sim
PhD Candidate
Raising a child with autism can impact on the family system.

Parents experience increased stress and decreased couple satisfaction.

The couple relationship can influence parental wellbeing and child outcomes.

It may serve as a protective resource to help parents cope with challenges and provide foundations for long-term therapeutic caregiving.

**Aim** – to explore the experiences of relationship satisfaction in couples raising a child with autism and identify factors important in its maintenance.
Outline of Thesis Structure

Chapter 1
Introduction

Chapter 2
Journal Manuscript 1
Systematic review:
Relationship satisfaction in couples raising a child with ASD

Chapter 3
Journal Manuscript 2
Secondary analysis of WA population-based data:
Co-parenting and factors associated with it

Chapter 4
Journal Manuscript 3
Secondary analysis of WA population-based data:
Family stress and factors associated with it

Chapter 5
Journal Manuscript 4
Cross-sectional survey:
The Importance of dyadic coping to relationship satisfaction

Chapter 6
Journal Manuscript 5
Interviews:
Exploring the lived experience of relationship satisfaction

Chapter 7
Journal Manuscript 6
Q methodology:
Viewpoints on what is important to maintaining relationship satisfaction

Chapter 8
Discussion and Conclusion


# Benefits and Challenges

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experience writing and preparing manuscripts for submission</td>
<td>Publishing can be time consuming and stressful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feedback from reviewers strengthens thesis</td>
<td>Linking papers</td>
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<td>Publications benefit curriculum vitae</td>
<td>Repetition</td>
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<td>Publications can assist with scholarship applications</td>
<td>Once published cannot make changes which might strengthen thesis</td>
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<td>Incorporate different research methods</td>
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<td>Can submit thesis even if not all papers are published</td>
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<td>Helped plan and adhere to timeframes</td>
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