

right away that many textbooks do not identify feminism let alone as a method of study. While I was and continue to be ecstatic that these authors recognize this shortcoming within the business research literature, I really wanted to see some major updates to this chapter which unfortunately did not happen in this edition. Suggested improvements include considering introducing different types of feminism, and then suggesting matches of these types with appropriate methods. Too much focus was given to postmodernism as a feminist method, potentially confusing the audience into believing such avenues such as liberal feminism could be dealt with effectively say via a critical discourse analysis. Feminist studies span many different ontological states which necessitate a variety of potential approaches to bring forth feminist epistemologies, and thus different feminist approaches that can span an extensive continuum of possibilities. While I embrace this book as an introductory one to various qualitative methodologies, the authors have simplified the idea of feminism too much I believe.

On the whole, this is a wonderful warm blanket of a resource book for its intended audience. It provides a level of security to students in understanding the beginning of the conversation on a variety of qualitative methodologies. My first edition book is dog-eared, with many scribbles and tags throughout. I found myself doing the same thing with this second edition – writing down notes for myself, flipping corners of pages, etc. – and it is a welcome addition to my ever growing library of resource books that keep out the cold.

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Milestone Moments in Getting your PhD in Qualitative Research

Zeegers, M. and Barron, D.

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While the internet is full of blog posts and articles on how to get a PhD, the book *Milestone Moments in Getting your PhD in Qualitative Research* (Milestone Moments for short) definitely deserves to be highlighted on a list of hands on practical guidebooks for early stage PhD candidates and for persons considering applying for candidacy. The authors, Dr Margaret Zeegers and Dr Deirdre Barron from the Swinburne University of Technology, draw on their own experiences as supervisors and deliver a book that both breaks down the dissertation process into tangible milestones and covers parts of the process, which are usually overseen in other guidebooks. The book is structured around 12 concrete steps or “milestones” in the PhD process and gives practical advice on how to manage each step. The authors give emphasis to the specific nature of qualitative research and how a young researcher might have to defend one’s choice of conducting qualitative research over quantitative. Each chapter also provides a real-life example from a student paper or dissertation chapter showcasing exemplary examples of how each milestone has been tackled and written. These extracts are accompanied with detailed annotations that help an unpracticed reader to see through the tricks of the trade and learn to evaluate one’s own and others’ writing. The practical approach of the book and the examples provide a comprehensible picture of what it means to get your PhD in qualitative research.

The book is divided in two parts. The first part covers the basis for getting a PhD. First, the authors discuss reasons for doing or not doing a PhD followed by chapters on confirming your candidature in a viva voce and getting an ethics clearance. The authors recognize that they are presenting the PhD process as it is set up in Australia and that there are differences in the traditions and regulations compared to other countries. Therefore, some of the milestones might not apply for all readers as well as the order of the milestones might be different. The second part of the book is more generally applicable as it focuses on actually conducting qualitative research, writing a dissertation on it and publishing from your qualitative data.

Each chapter in the book is structured in the same way presenting a milestone, describing why this is an important step in the process and how it could be tackled with practical examples and recommendations for more detailed readings. The chapters are not overwhelmed with detailed descriptions of different methods of analysis or techniques of data collection but rather provide a brief but thorough overview of methodological approaches relevant specifically for qualitative researchers. Certain sections reoccur in each chapter like: “an annotated example,” which provides an example of how the rules of the milestone have been followed in a real-life example; and “the words used” sections and in some chapters also “words not to be used” sections, which show sample sentences from academic texts and help the reader to understand the differences in the language used in qualitative vs quantitative academic writing. Furthermore, in most chapters the authors also provide “hot tips” for the reader. These are practical advice on things usually learned through trial and error. The reoccurring sections really add an even more practical stamp on the book.

One of *Milestone Moments*’ strengths but also its weaknesses is its accessibility. The authors avoid getting into the details of theories, methods and techniques in order to provide an overview for even the less academically accustomed reader. The book does not answer all questions and cannot solely function as a go-to handbook on research methodology – nor does it attempt to do so. Toward the end of each chapter some recommendations are made for further reading with descriptions of each recommended book. *Milestone Moments* can definitely function as a quick reminder of what to consider in each step of the way of conducting qualitative research and where to look for more detailed information. The chapter that I personally found most beneficial and interesting is the chapter on Milestone 5: Methodology. This chapter focuses on the philosophical side of a dissertation emphasizing how your philosophical approach influences the choice of methods and techniques for your data collection and analysis. Furthermore, the chapter introduces several philosophical approaches that might seem daunting for new PhD students, such as post-structuralism, critical theory and feminist theory, as well as philosophers like Foucault, Derrida and Lyotard, lowering the threshold for learning more about these interesting thinkers and approaches.

The book is a pleasure to read and the authors have done an excellent job in making the book accessible for all audiences. I would recommend this book first and for most to people who are considering applying for PhD candidacy and who would like to understand what it takes to complete a PhD. Also, this book can be a good handbook for supervisors on reminding how to talk about the different steps in a PhD process in a comprehensible way to applicants and new PhD students. For a more critical reader the book might seem as university management’s work of propaganda. The milestones and the guidance are very much structured to fit the current day requirements of PhD students and academics in general. While this can be considered as a good feature, I do recognize that some readers might find it irritating and prefer a freer interpretation of the expectations put on PhD students.

For me personally the book did not provide much new information. As a second-year PhD student I have already familiarized myself with the requirements of getting a PhD at

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my university and attended classes on the different methodological approaches. However, as this book is not a detailed handbook but more of an overview, its cut-to-the-chase presentation style makes completing a PhD seem very achievable, perhaps encouraging readers who are still thinking about applying for a candidacy. In this way, the book full fills its mission.

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