

I'm Busy Working on My
Dissertation...
and You Want Me to
Think about Project
Management as Well!?

Dr. Kam Jugdev, PMP
Athabasca University

Workshop Agenda

Introduction

- Learn how project management concepts can be applied to your doctoral studies
- Identify and prioritize stakeholders
 - Manage stakeholder relationships
- Understand the risk management process

Discussion

Project Management



A Thesis is a Project

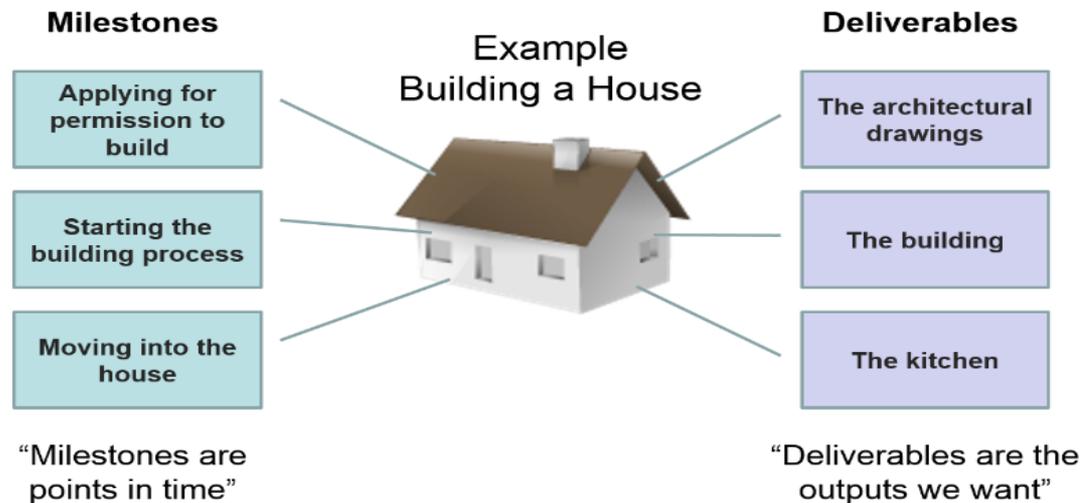
- "A project is a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product, service, or result" (Project Management Institute, 2013, p. 5).
 - Complex
 - Non routine
 - One time effort
 - Limited by time, cost and scope
 - Meets customer needs

**Lecture
Notes vs
Term Paper**

Deliverables and Milestones

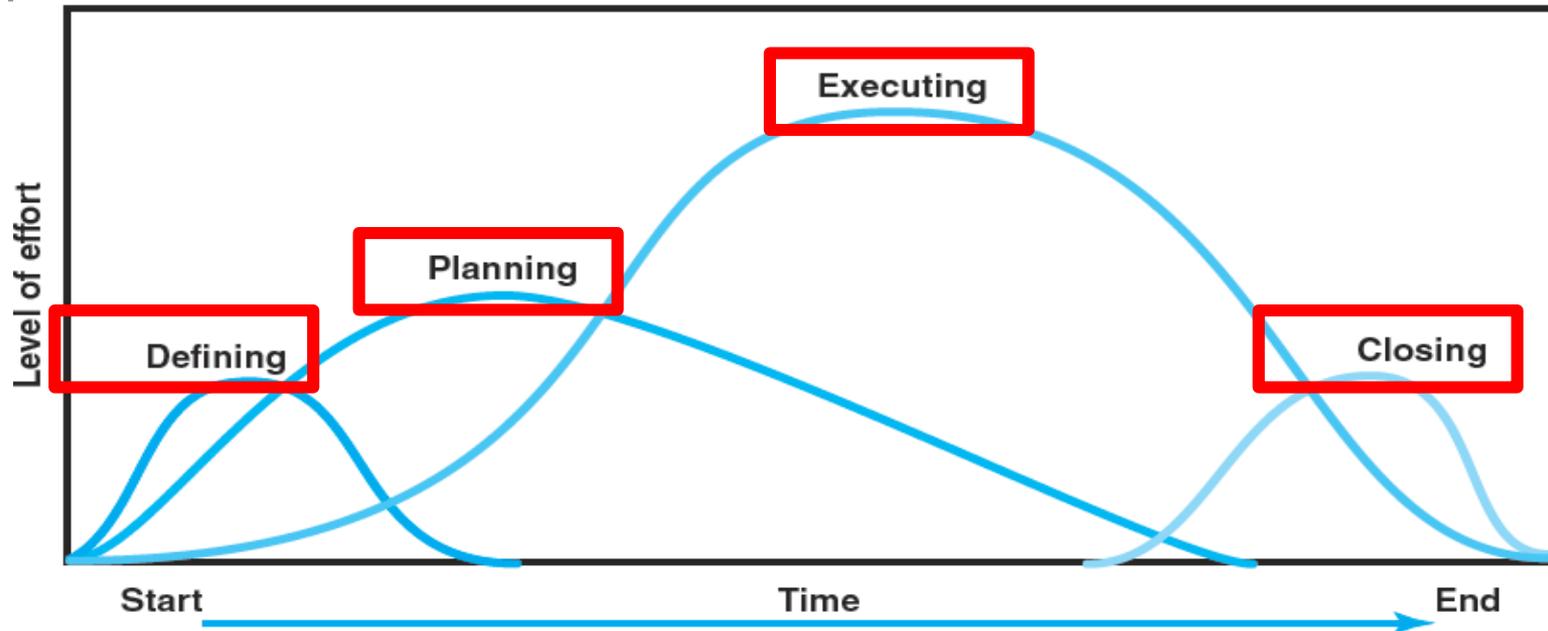
- A **deliverable** is a tangible result
 - It must be finished to complete the project
- A **milestone** is a significant date

Deliverables & Milestones



Project Lifecycle (in Theory)

(Larson & Gray, 2014)



Defining

1. Goals
2. Specifications
3. Tasks
4. Responsibilities

Planning

1. Schedules
2. Budgets
3. Resources
4. Risks
5. Staffing

Executing

1. Status reports
2. Changes
3. Quality
4. Forecasts

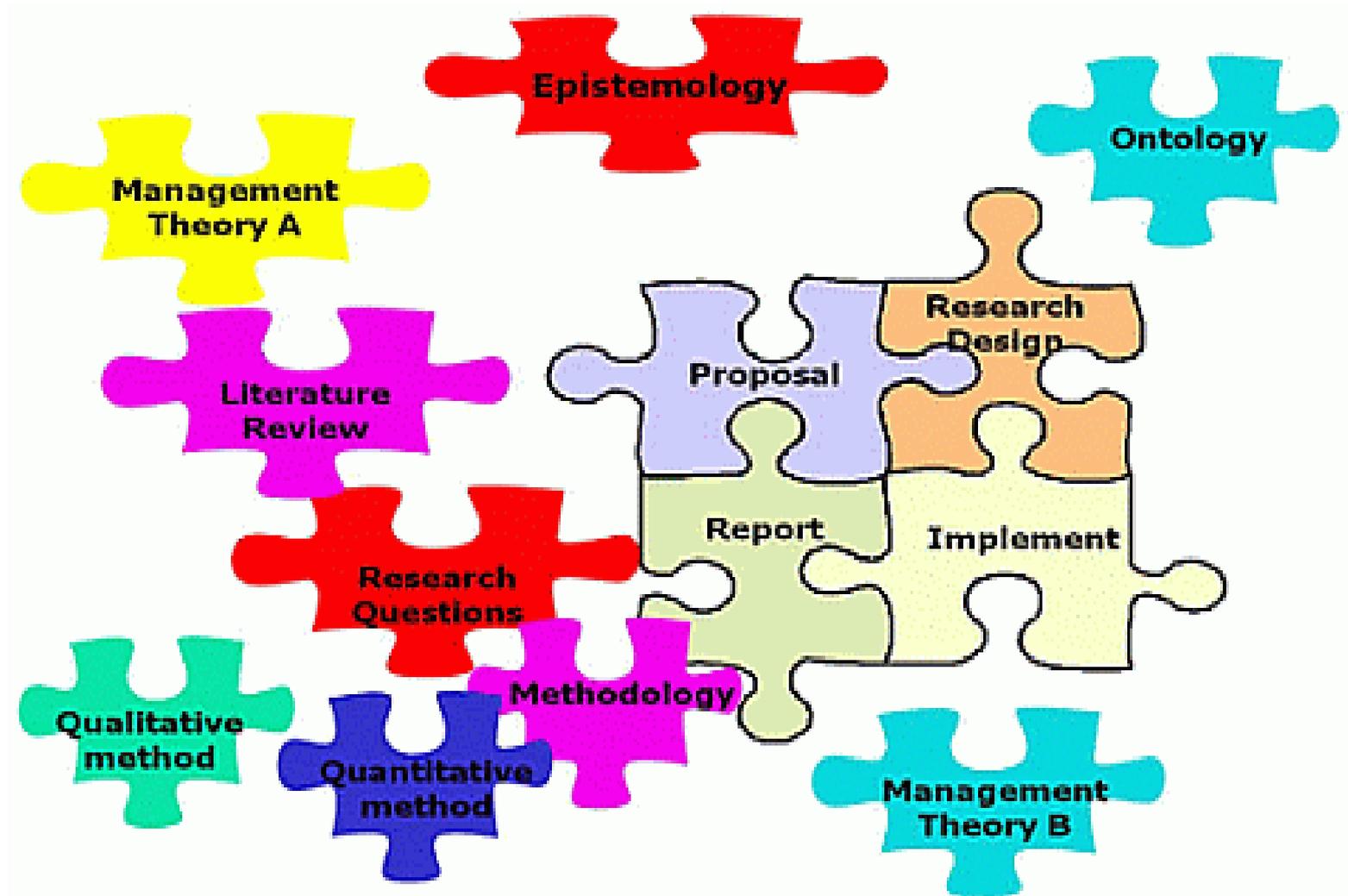
Closing

1. Train customer
2. Transfer documents
3. Release resources
4. Evaluation
5. Lessons learned

The Real Project Path (Plus Life Happens)



Dissertation Journey



As the Project Manager – YOU are in the Driver's Seat



95.PES



doc.PES



silmore.PES



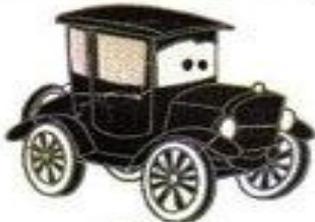
Flo.PES



guido.PES



king.PES



lizzie.PES



logo.PES



luigi.PES



mater.PES



mcqueen.PES



red.PES



sally.PES



sarge.PES

Procrastination often comes from perfectionism.

We often procrastinate because we are challenged with doing things perfectly.

“Perfection is the worst enemy of good enough.”

~ Anonymous

A good thesis is a done thesis

Projects and Organizational Missions

- Link the project to the organization's mission
- Link your thesis to your life goals
 - How is finishing the dissertation important to you?
 - What does success look like?
 - Keep the end in mind

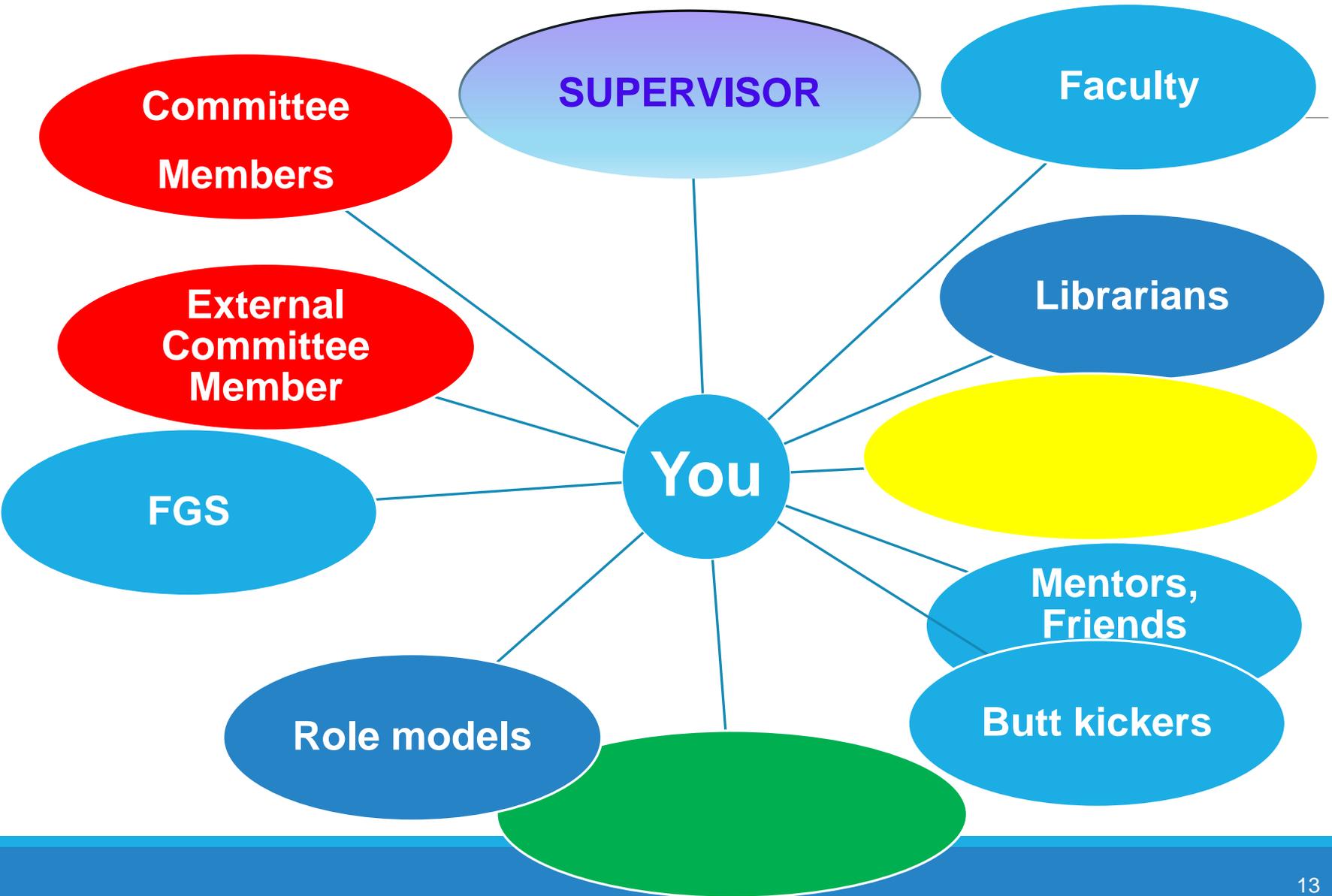


Projects and Organizational Missions



- Use your research question as your dissertation beacon
 - Remember - your dissertation fits into your life goals
- Also use your **life goals** as your beacons

Stakeholders/Customers



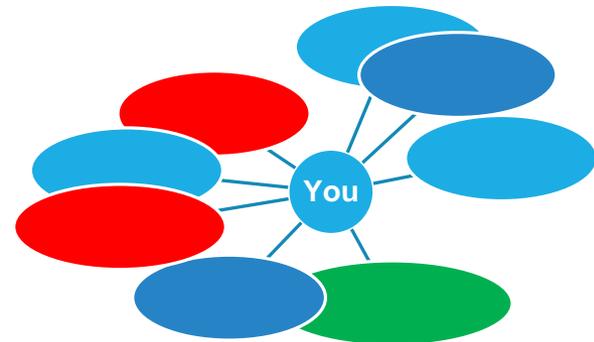
Working with your Supervisor (Key Stakeholder / Customer)

Roles, responsibilities and expectations

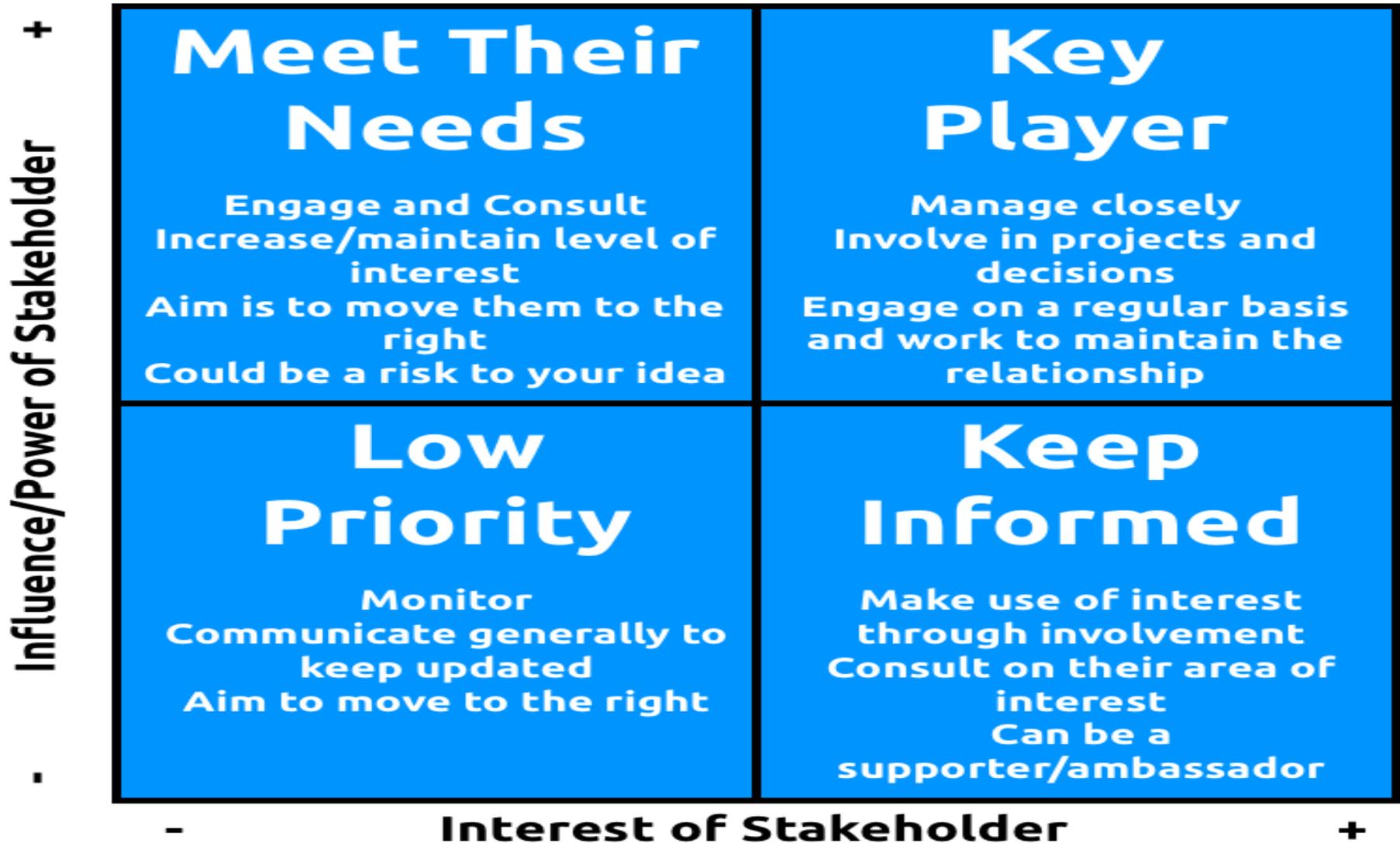
- Of yourself e.g. Successfully complete the dissertation
- Of your supervisor
 - Subject matter expert? Methodology expert? The one with all the answers?
 - Guidance, encouragement, support, gentle kick in the butt
- Meet regularly and discuss progress, milestones, issues
 - Status reports
- Escalation of commitment
 - FGS

What does a Successful Thesis Look Like to:

- You?
- Your family?
- Your partner?
- Your....?



Stakeholder Analysis



Success is Multifaceted (and Depends on the Stakeholder)

Submitted proposal

Conference paper completed

Read and annotated an article

Drafted a chapter

Candidacy exam completed

Ethics application approved

Did first interview

*A good thesis is
a done thesis*

*My mom saw me
graduate!*

As the Driver – Set Smart Goals

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**greed upon
- **R**ealistic
- **T**ime Bound

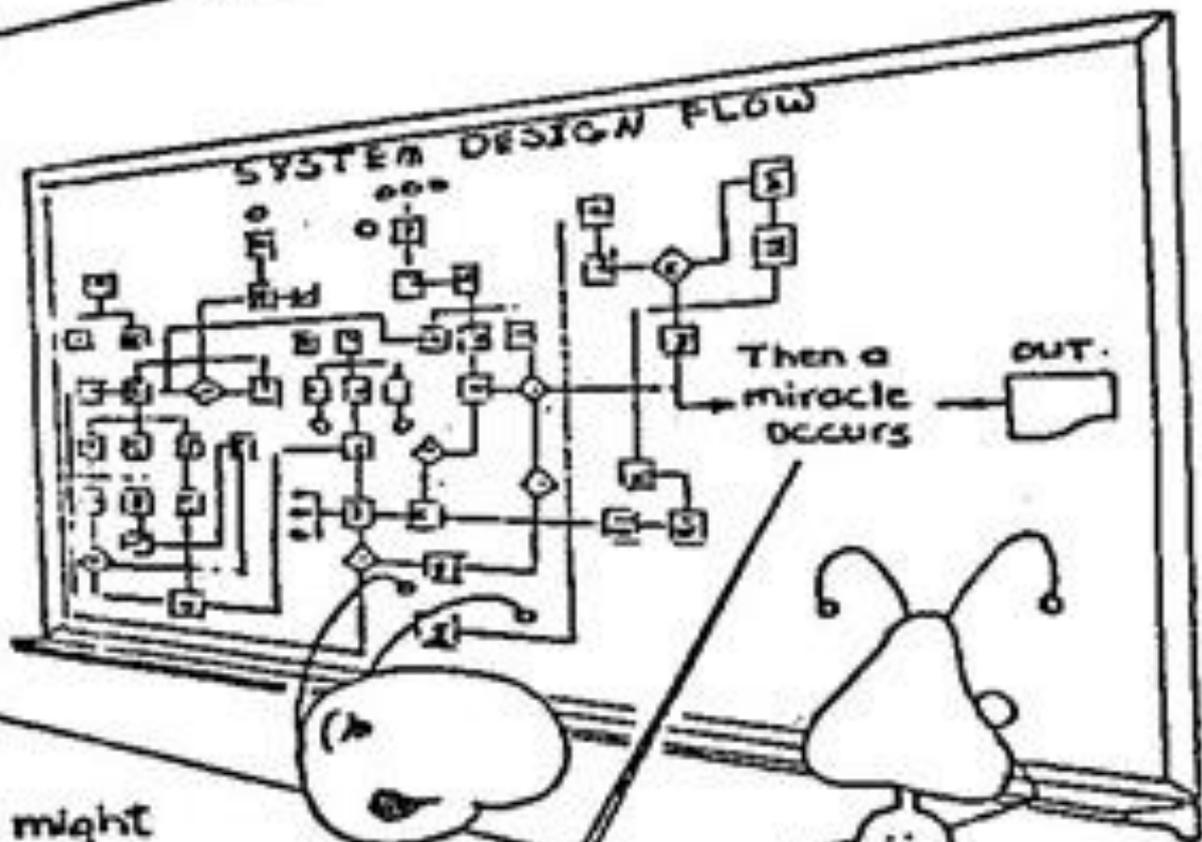
Manageable

Tic-Tac-Toe Grid

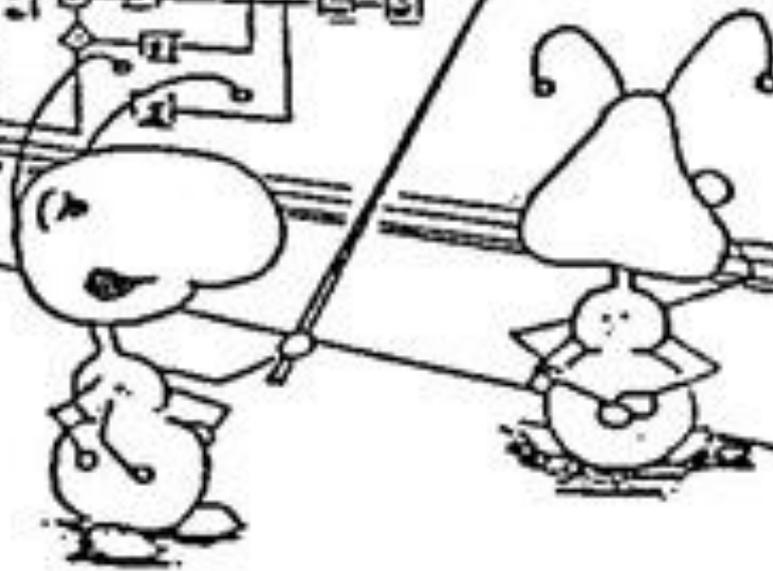
	#1 Priority	#2 Priority	#3 Priority
SCOPE			
COST			
TIME			

Tic-Tac-Toe Grid

	#1 Priority	#2 Priority	#3 Priority
SCOPE			X
COST	X		
TIME		X	

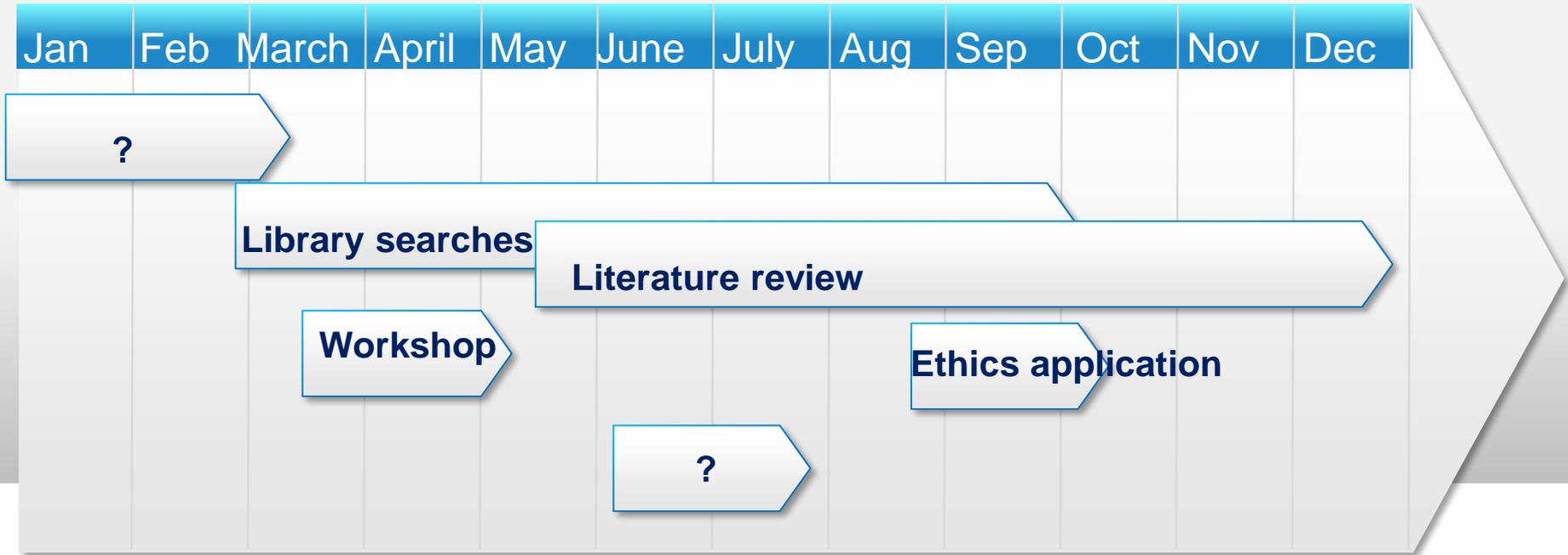


Good work,
but I think we might
need just a little more
detail right here.



Timeline (in Theory)

2016



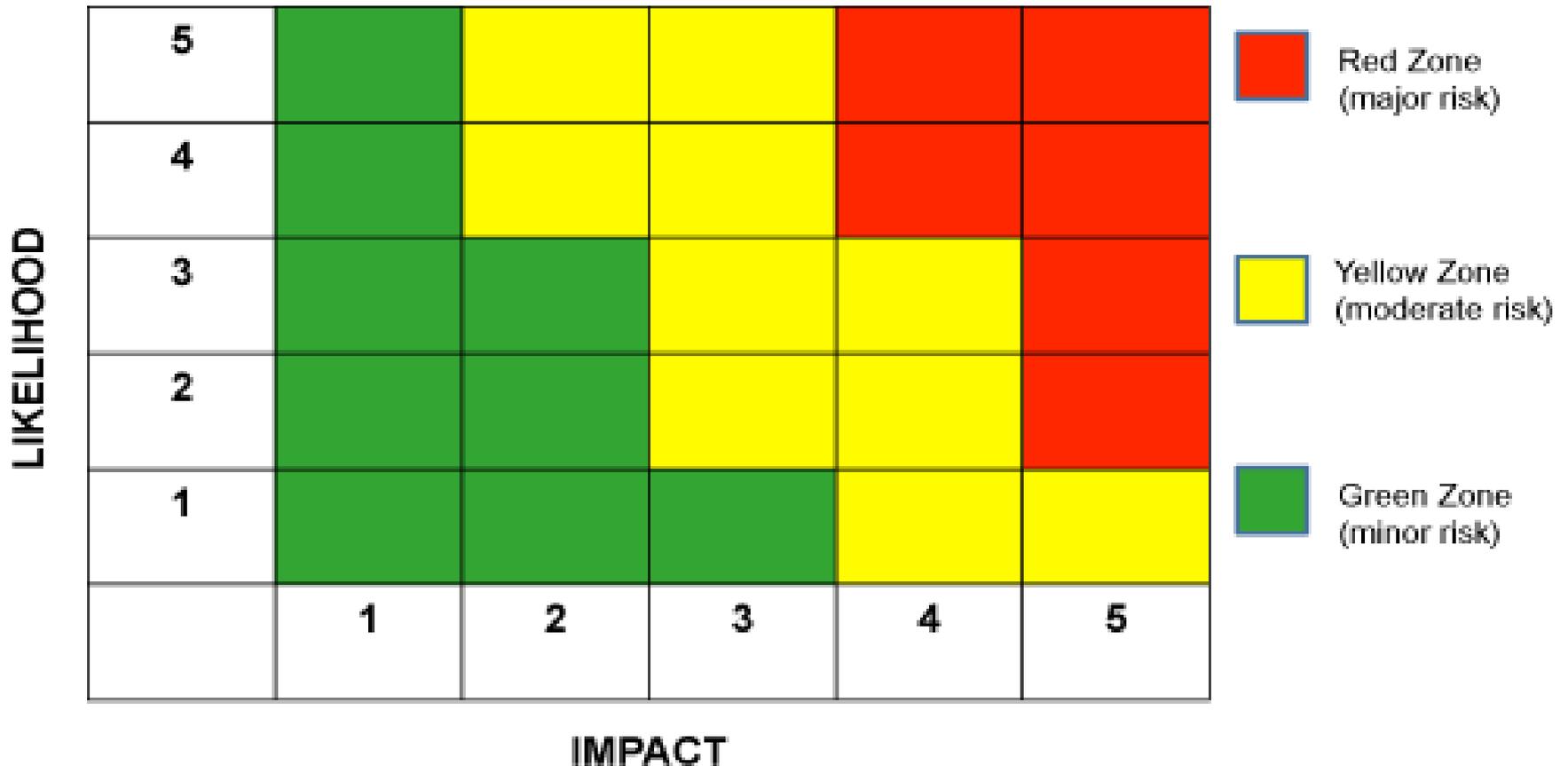
Kam's Timeline (in Reality)



Risk Management

1. Risk Identification
2. Risk Assessment
3. Risk Response Development
 - a. Mitigate, avoid, transfer, retain
4. Risk Response Control

Risk Severity Matrix



Plan Forwards and Backwards

- Plan forwards
 - Using one Post It color, identify high level deliverables from start to finish
- Plan backwards
 - Think about what is successful thesis will look like for **<INSERT STAKEHOLDER NAME HERE>**
 - Using another Post It color, add additional deliverables from the end of the project to the start
 - Repeat backwards plan as necessary
- Now review the timeline again

*To do successful research,
you don't need to know
everything,
you just need to know of one
thing that isn't known.*

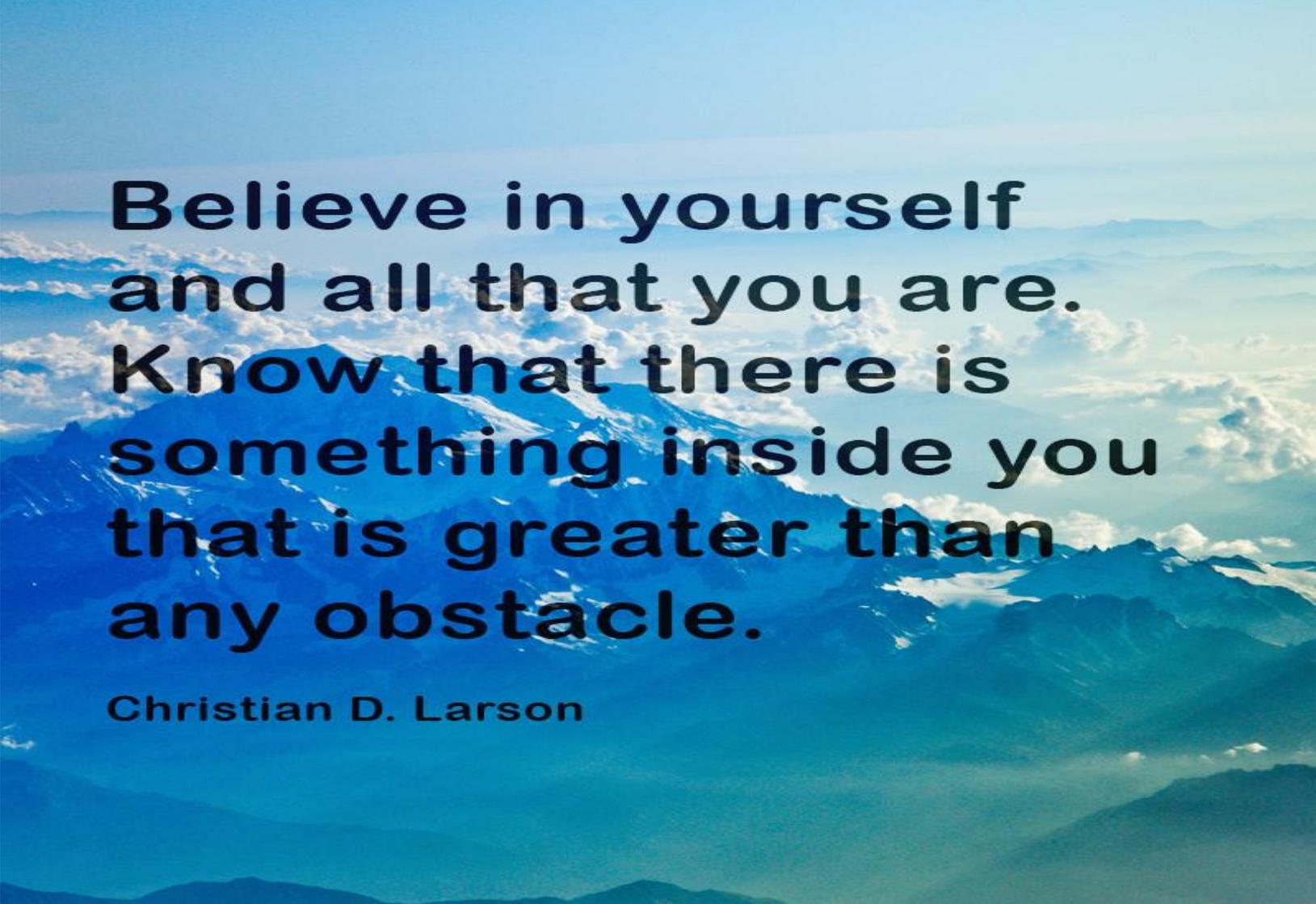
~ Arthur Schawlow

Key Takeaways

You are in the driver's seat

- It is your dissertation project
- What does a successful thesis look like to you?
 - Remember the stakeholders

Be good to yourself...



**Believe in yourself
and all that you are.
Know that there is
something inside you
that is greater than
any obstacle.**

Christian D. Larson

Discussion ...Thank you

Dr. Kam Jugdev, PMP

403-301-2956

kamj@athabascau.ca

Athabasca University

References

Larson, E. W., & Gray, C. F. (2014). *Project management: The managerial process (6th ed.)*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Project Management Institute. (2013). *A guide to the project management body of knowledge (PMBOK® Guide) (5th ed.)*. Newtown Square, PA: Project Management Institute.