

Name:

Title of Thesis:

Date / Version:

# Research Design Canvas

## Literature

What bodies of literature / areas of research are relevant to the project?  
 What is the overriding focus of each body of literature?  
 What are the key papers / studies / sources / academics?  
 Are there identifiable sub-areas or smaller constellations of studies in the body of literature?  
 What are the characteristics of each body of literature (big or small, well established or newly emerging, academic or non-academic, from the same discipline / different disciplines?)  
 How important is each body of literature?



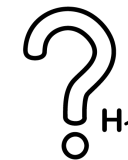
## Observations & Arguments

What evidence exists in each body of literature? (findings / results, conclusions, recommendations, propositions, hypotheses, relationships, etc)  
 What issue(s) or theme(s) are observable in past research?  
 Is there a gap and / or problem?  
 What are the costs or risks of not addressing the gap / problem?  
 Are there potential connections between bodies of literature leading to new issues, themes, a gap, or problem?



## RQ / Hypotheses

What are the research questions?  
 Are there any tentative hypotheses?  
 What is the value of investigating the questions / hypotheses?



## Contributions

What is the planned or intended contribution of the research?  
 What type of contribution? (practical, empirical, theoretical, methodological, philosophical)  
 What value will the research deliver to the stakeholders?



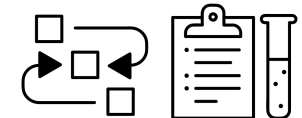
## Sample / Context

What sampling method will be used?  
 What are the characteristics of the sample?  
 Will the context of the research play an important role and if so, what are the distinctive characteristics of the context?



## Methodology / Design / Methods

What is the methodology or design for the study?  
 What are the key principles / objectives / quality criteria of the methodology / research design?  
 Is the methodology / design well-established or relatively unique in my discipline / topic area?  
 What specific methods of data collection and analysis will be used?  
 What are the key features or strengths of each method?  
 Are the methods well-established or relatively unique in my discipline / topic area?  
 How will the methods complement each other?



## Theory & Concepts

What role will theory or concepts play in the research?  
 What theoretical ideas / concepts / model / framework will be used, developed, or tested?  
 What does theory mean / what constitutes theory in my discipline or topic area?



## Problem / Phenomenon

What are the main phenomenon and sub-phenomena in the research?  
 Does the research involve a real world problem and if so, what is it?  
 Who are the key stakeholders of the research?



## Philosophical Assumptions / Research Paradigm

Is the research based upon particular philosophical assumptions?  
 Does the research operate within a specific research paradigm?

