

PRESENTING IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY

REFLECTIONS ON DEVELOPING RESEARCH
INDEPENDENCE AS A PART-TIME PHD

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REFLEXIVITY & THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE QUESTION

“generative ability for internal deliberation upon an external reality” (Archer 2007)

”interplays between structural, cultural and agential features” (Archer 2007)

“start, by telling the story of their interest in the question, and that they then begin to map out the relation of their own developing sense of the question’s interest to the history of more public kinds of attention to it” (Miller 1995)

“Sense of working both within and against accepted forms”



BUT HOW DO WE LEARN THE MORES OF PART TIME PHD STUDY?

- Is there a deficit discourse there?
- ‘Non-Traditional’ (Churchill Sanders 2007)
- Time Management
- Excluded – ‘Out on a Limb’ (Churchill Sanders 2007)
- Open University
- Professional Doctorate Focused (Fulton Sanders Smith 2013)

CREEPING INTO MY RESEARCH....

“I sorted everything out myself, I basically went on line and just saw what was available and I was looking at the funding was available, because funding was a really key part. I then got my work on board, so that they could give me time, release me,” (Student Participant)



PRACADEMIC IDENTITY



DEVELOPING RESEARCH INDEPENDENCE WHILE OPERATING WITHIN PROFESSIONAL CONTEXTS

“American Express but they only have to deal with it say once every year, so when it comes along it is like oh sorry we need to go over there”

“The university have talked about a partnership all the time, partnership between staff and students, I would hope to talk about that student’s parents policy in the same way that it is a partnership between the university and student parents and that document sets out the partnership but equally if there was a problem and we needed to draw on that, that policy and challenge that the university wasn’t keeping up their end of the partnership, then equally we would do that.”

ARTICULATING THE STRENGTH OF THE PART-TIME PHD STUDENT

Identify Talent and Harnessing It

Challenging the Zero Sum

Up to Date

Network builders

Innovation creators

Holistic thinkers who avoid hubris

KEY MESSAGES

- Guidance for Part-time PhD students should be increased, and focus on more than barriers of time, or finances.
- The complexities and socio-political aspects of developing research independence while occupying professional identities and contexts should not be under-estimated,
- Greater space should be made in both researcher development, but also communicating the value of part-time PhD study can bring to wider contexts.

QUESTIONS

