

## The Flow of the Thesis

Assoc. Prof. Kate Rigby  
CCLCS

## What kind of 'flow'?

- Oceanic ebb and flow?
- Straight from the tap?
- Meandering like a river?
- Confined to billabongs?
- Heading into the desert?
- Dissipated by irrigation channels?
- Impeded by dams?

## Two axioms

- There is no one route suitable for all.
- It's never plain sailing!

## Wellsprings

- Grasping the nature of the PhD/Masters
- Understanding your motivations
- Conceiving your project
- Establishing a *modus Vivendi*
- Beginning to read and write
- Joining a community of scholars

## In the swim

- Reviewing the existing scholarship
- Refining your research question and working hypothesis
- Finding the right theoretical framework and methodology
- Creating a chapter plan and time-line
- Writing, writing, writing

## Approaching your destination

- Reviewing new scholarship
- Revising/refining your argument
- Drafting an abstract
- Rewriting for consistency and continuity
- Topping and tailing
- Enlisting proof-readers

## Overcoming blockages

- Don't panic!
- Identify the obstacle
- Be prepared to change direction and/or supervisor and/or lifestyle
- Seek assistance!

## Facilitating the flow

- Make the most of your time
- Make the most of your supervisors
- Enjoy the company of other students
- Share your work verbally and in writing
- Keep on writing even on dry days!