



MONASH University
Arts

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Tricks of the Trade

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Thesis by publication

Thesis by publication @ Monash

- Until recently, only staff PhD candidates were permitted to submit a PhD by publication. In essence, this allowed experienced academic staff (without a doctorate) to collate the work of their career into a doctoral thesis for examination.
- As most of the academic's work was written for publication over a period of years (decades!), the academic was advised to identify recent advances in the field in linking passages in the thesis so the earlier foundation work was placed in the appropriate context

Thesis by publication: a simple definition

Thesis by publication =

A thesis comprised of sole- or multi-authored works that have been submitted or accepted for publication.

Thesis by publication: an overview

- A thesis by publication is a different mode by which work is submitted for examination
- Candidates abide by the same conditions of candidature and graduate with the same degree

Thesis by publication: an overview

- The work presented in a thesis by publication must be equal in depth and breadth of research to that of a standard narrative thesis
- A thesis by publication must still present a sustained and cohesive theme – the research questions/direction should be clear to the reader

Thesis by publication: advantages

- The advantage of this mode of submission is that you acquire skills in preparing and submitting your work for publication as you pursue your research degree. You can graduate with a degree and a publication record. This is a wonderful kick-start to an academic career.

Thesis by publication: advantages

- Your work will normally also have been peer-reviewed and/or professionally edited before inclusion in your thesis. The examiners' work is half done!

Thesis by publication: specifics

- The works included in the thesis must be based upon research undertaken during candidature and should be produced during the period of candidature
- You must have made a major contribution to the work for it to be included in your thesis. Generally the initiation, key ideas, development and writing up of the work should have been your primary responsibility (otherwise an examiner is reviewing someone else's work to credit your degree!)

Thesis by Publication: PhD

PhD thesis by publication: specifications

Thesis by publication: PhD

- A PhD thesis by publication in the Faculty of Arts must only contain works that have been accepted for publication
- Works that have been prepared or submitted for publication (but not yet accepted) cannot be included in that format in the body of the thesis

Thesis by publication: PhD

The Faculty of Arts has identified a number of different combinations of publications that can comprise a thesis by publication. This has been done to help ensure the work submitted:

- equates with a standard (narrative) thesis,
- clearly demonstrates the candidate's contribution to the field of research,
- meets the benchmark for a PhD thesis, and
- can be readily passed by an examiner

Thesis by publication: PhD

An Arts PhD thesis by publication must contain:

- At least 3 single-authored published papers in leading journals **OR**
- At least 2 published single-authored papers **PLUS** published co-authored papers, all in leading journals, where the candidate's contribution amounts to 100% (in each case must be min. 25%) **OR**

Thesis by publication: PhD

...continued

- A substantial published monograph **OR**
- A substantial co-authored, published, scholarly monograph where the candidate's contribution is at least **25% PLUS 2** published single-authored papers in leading journals

Thesis by publication: PhD

...continued

In disciplines where there is little tradition of single-authoring:

- the **equivalence** of 3 single-authored published papers in leading journals is required. In at least 4 of the co-authored papers the candidate's contribution must be at least 50%. In each case the candidate's contribution must be a minimum of 25%

Thesis by publication: PhD

If you wish to submit a thesis by publication in a form different from those stipulated by the Faculty of Arts, please first seek permission from your supervisor, Graduate Coordinator and the ARGS or MRGS.

Thesis by publication: PhD framing texts

It's more than the publications!

A PhD thesis by publication must also contain framing texts to put the works into the context of your overall research project and to help maintain the cohesive nature/theme of the thesis

Thesis by publication: PhD framing papers

Introductory paper:

- Should be a minimum of 15,000 words
- Should give an account of how the work fits into the scholarly literature
- Should demonstrate how the research fits into the discipline through discussion of key methodological and epistemological questions (where appropriate)

Thesis by publication: PhD framing papers

Concluding paper:

- Should be a minimum of 10,000 words

Linking papers:

- Should be included where the thesis comprises more than one work
- Should suture the works together and guide the reader through the research

Thesis by publication: MA

MA thesis by publication: specifications

Thesis by publication: MA

- An MA thesis by publication must contain works that have at least been **submitted** for publication though not necessarily accepted or published

Thesis by publication: MA

- The Faculty of Arts has not prescribed a minimum number of works to constitute a thesis by publication
- The material presented in the thesis must equate to that which would otherwise be presented in the traditional thesis format
- This remains a matter for professional judgment for the supervisor and candidate

Thesis by publication: MA framing papers

As per PhD, an MA thesis by publication must contain:

- Introductory paper
- Concluding paper
- Linking paper/s

to ensure it presents a cohesive and sustained theme

Thesis by publication: format

- Apart from any necessary variations (word length etc), the thesis should be presented according to the standard guidelines:

- PhD

www.mrgs.monash.edu.au/research/doctoral/index.html

- MA

www.arts.monash.edu.au/research/survival/index.php

Thesis by publication: format

- Publications should normally be presented in the thesis in the format in which they have been submitted or published
- Inclusive pagination should be used throughout
- A complete, consolidated bibliography is preferred where appropriate or possible
- The appendix should contain the same material as a std thesis (incl. papers that were not presented in the main body of the thesis)

Thesis by publication: declarations

- All theses by publication must contain declarations which specify the extent and nature of your contribution to the works included. If you are the sole author – this still has to be specified.
- There are 2 types of declarations:
 - General declaration
 - Specific declaration

Thesis by publication: declarations

- **General declaration**
 - Placed at the front of the thesis
 - Lists the works included in the thesis, their publication status and the nature of the candidate's contribution to each
- **Specific declaration**
 - Required for each co-authored work and placed in front of the respective work
 - Specifies the nature of each authors' contribution and is signed by all
 - Specifies a % of contribution for the candidate and any other Monash student author

Thesis by publication: declarations

- There are templates for both types of declaration at:

www.mrgs.monash.edu.au/research/examination/thesis-by-publication/index.html

- You are encouraged to complete the specific declaration at the time a work is submitted for publication. It is the best chance to collect all the necessary signatures. This is also the best time to ascribe % of authorship to any Monash student authors.

Thesis by publication: finally...

- Consider your examiners when preparing your thesis. A cohesive and well-constructed thesis will be more readable and enjoyable for the examiner. Join the dots for the examiner so that s/he can enjoy the journey of your research and not be left to wander in the wilderness.

Thesis by publication: help!

- Seek academic assistance from your supervisor, Graduate Coordinator or Head of School
- Seek administrative guidance from:
 - Vanessa Cavagnaro, MRGS
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