



SEMINAR ON MBA-LEVEL SUPERVISION FOR SUPERVISORS AND EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

PURPOSE

The supervision of MBA candidates can be a daunting and complex process, and is also different to supervising Doctoral research and even a full Master's dissertation. Aimed mainly at newly appointed supervisors and examiners, this series of seminars has been developed to clarify the expectations of supervising and examining for SABSA affiliated Business Schools and to provide key insights into some of the fundamentals of MBA supervision.

PROGRAMME

The programme consists of three sessions per day, each of approximately an hour in length.

Day 1: Tuesday, 29 June 15h00 - 18h00 (SAST)

Day 2: Wednesday, 30 June, 15h00 - 18h00 (SAST)

Day 3: Friday, 2 July, 09h00 - 12h00 (SAST) (Doctoral & MBA Integrated Session)

DAY 1 – Tuesday, 29 June 2021 15h00 to 18h00 (SAST)

SESSION 1: Seminar introduction; by Prof Christoff Botha

- The dissertation topic: What follows, focus, dissertation layout
- SABSA
- A view after the MBA
- AMBA expectations for research at Business Schools
- Importance and credits
- Seminar topics to follow

SESSION 2: MBA versus MCom supervision; by Prof Sean Gossel

- What are the differences between a typical MBA student and a MCom student?
- What are the differences between the research training that the MComs frequently have versus the more limited training of MBA's?
- What are the differences in the scope (and credits) of an MBA research report versus a MCom dissertation?

- What level of depth and complexity can be reasonably expected of an MBA research report, and is this different to a MCom dissertation?
- Are there different practical / theoretical contributions expected of an MBA research report versus a MCom dissertation?

SESSION 3: The structure of the thesis; by Prof Noel Pearse

Looking at the traditional structure of a thesis/dissertation, this session examines the argument that is developed and sustained throughout the research report. It explores the purpose of each chapter in the context of business research and academic writing.

DAY 2 - Wednesday, 30 June 2021, 15h00-18h00 (SAST)

SESSION 1: MBA Research Report Structures; by Prof Sean Gossel

This session will discuss the different structures, progression, and logical flow ('the golden thread') in the three common forms of MBA research reports:

- Qualitative research
- Quantitative research
- Teaching case study

SESSION 2: Academic writing; by Prof Noel Pearse

This session examines how to formulate an argument in academic writing, exploring the different phases of writing – pre-writing, drafting and editing - and the support that the supervisor can provide at each phase.

SESSION 3: The supervisor – student's relationship; by Prof Christoff Botha

- The essence of the relationship
- Skills needed
- Simulation of the real work place

Q & A panel session

- Seminar topics we dealt with – suggestions for the future to follow up on
- Summary
- Conclusion



DAY 3 - Friday, 2 July 2021, 09h00 to 12h00
Doctoral & MBA Integrated Session:
Supervisor Development Programme

SESSION 1: Supervisor models, roles and styles of supervision; responsibilities of a PhD/MBA candidate; by Prof HB Klopper

- Different models and approaches of supervision
- The various tasks a supervisor must accomplish
- The ways in which a supervisor interacts with the student and their responsibilities

SESSION 2: Supervising the research design, research methodology and knowledge creation; by Prof Benjamin Anderson

- Making informed choices about research design
- Aligning research methodology and mode(s) of enquiry
- Knowledge creation: Mode 1 vs Mode 2 vs Mode 3

SESSION 3: The examination process and requirements; by Prof Ralph Hamann

A discussion on the general PhD/MBA examination process (not institute specific), to clarify two main aspects:

- the requirements for supervisors to prepare PhD/MBA candidates for dissertation/thesis submission and examination, and their responses to external examiners' comments for examination, and
- to clarify what is generally expected from PhD/MBA external examiners in commenting on the dissertation and during the examination process.



PRESENTERS



Prof Christoff Botha

Prof Botha completed his PhD in 1992 and has experience in both the academic world and in industry. He publishes and teaches on a variety of Employment Relations issues. Christoff authored and co-authored seven chapters in University textbooks, 51 accredited journal articles and presented 28 accredited conference papers. He has successfully promoted 16 PhD students, graduated 88 Master's students, and examined for numerous national and international universities as an external examiner. Christoff joined the NWU Business School from the private sector in 2008. He also acts as a Disciplinary Consultant for clients in a variety of workplaces.



Assoc. Prof Sean Gossel

Sean Gossel is an associate professor and Research Director at the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business. He has authored and co-authored 20 accredited journal articles, and successfully supervised and graduated Doctoral, Master of Commerce, and MBA candidates. He serves as a reviewer for over 30 international peer-review journals, is on the editorial board of two international journals and also acts as an external examiner for Doctoral theses and Masters dissertations for five different Universities.

Sean's profile is available here: <https://www.gsb.uct.ac.za/faculty-sean-gossel>



Prof Noel Pearse

Noel Pearse is a professor in the Rhodes Business School at Rhodes University, functioning as the Research Co-ordinator. He has authored and co-authored 27 accredited journal articles, ten Books and chapters in Books, and over 40 Conference proceedings papers. He has successfully supervised and graduated five Doctoral Candidates, four Master of Commerce candidates [full thesis], two Master of Pharmacy candidates [full thesis] and over 50 MBA candidates. He has served as a reviewer for 18 different journals and has also examined Doctoral theses for six different Universities and Master's dissertations and mini-dissertations for more than ten universities. His Google Scholar profile is available at <https://scholar.google.co.za/citations?user=JgVpXF4AAAAJ&hl=en>



Prof HB Klopper



Prof HB Klopper is the Executive Dean: Research and Institutional Partnerships at The Da Vinci Institute for Technology. Over the years he held various leadership positions at the academic institutions he worked at and functioned as Head of Department, Head of School, Executive Dean and Director at, Rand Afrikaans University, University of Johannesburg and Monash University South Africa. He has over 30 years' experience in different sectors and industries, building and helping leaders to enable their organisations to adapt and learn better. HB is a committed member of the local and international research community as journal and book editor, involved in numerous editorial boards of academic journals and scholarly/research networks, supervision and associations. He is highly committed to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research and community engagement. As a servant to The Da Vinci Institute and the broader society, he believes in the development and empowerment of people through education, embracing innovation and technology. In the past, HB held several talks throughout South Africa, addressing alumni, local communities and businesses on the purpose of education, including being a regular guest on radio and TV talk shows as well as industry forums. HB's profile is available at: <https://www.davinci.ac.za/what-we-do/executive-committee/professor-hb-klopper/>

Prof Benjamin Anderson



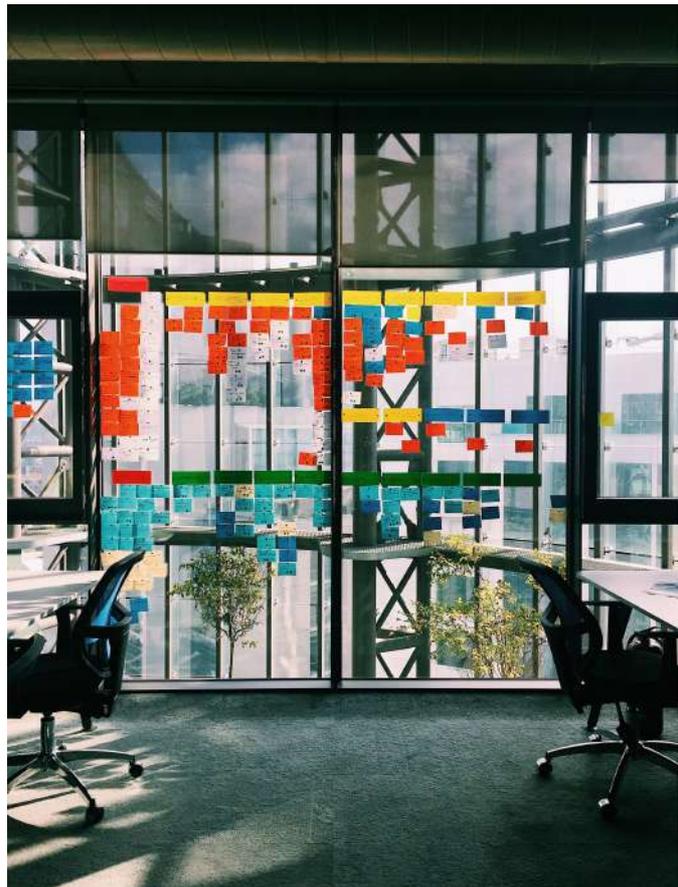
During the mid-ninety's he became involved in community related activities in the Free State region, involving the development of working adults in a post-apartheid system. These engagements with both public and private sector organisations as well as labour unions resulted in him registering for a PhD focusing on the learning development needs of working adults in South Africa. One of the outcomes of his PhD was the development of a Bachelors degree in Managerial Leadership for working adult learners. As a result of this development, the University of the Free State agreed to establish a Business School which would offer, amongst other, a Bachelors degree in Managerial Leadership (BML) and a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA). He joined the FirstRand Group during 2000 as the Chief Learning Officer for FNB, tasked to establish a for profit learning entity within the FirstRand group of companies, based on the work done at the University of the Free State. For the next 5 years he had extensive exposure to business related activities as experienced within a corporative context. Amongst other milestones, FNB Learning was registered as an accredited education and training provider. During 2005 Ben joined forces with Prof Roy Marcus to establish the Da Vinci Institute, as a registered private higher education provider. He was accountable for the design, development and registration of a Certificate in the Management of Technology and Innovation, a Diploma in the Management of Technology and Innovation, a Bachelors of Commerce in Business Management, a Master of Management in Technology and Innovation and a PhD in the Management of Technology and Innovation. Ben has delivered several conference papers on managerial leadership

development, at both international and national conferences. Ben's profile is available at <https://www.davinci.ac.za/what-we-do/executive-committee/professor-benjamin-anderson/>

Prof Ralph Hamann



Ralph is Professor at the UCT Graduate School of Business and works on business strategy and sustainability, collaborative governance, and social entrepreneurship and innovation. Rated an "internationally acclaimed" researcher by the National Research Foundation, he has numerous scholarly publications, including in highly-ranked journals such as "Journal of Business Venturing" and "Journal of Management Studies." Among his other roles, Ralph is an executive editor of "Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development." He is the co-founder of the South African leg of the Embedding Project and the Southern Africa Food Lab, two award-winning initiatives bridging research and practice. Ralph has been a visiting scholar or consultant in different parts of the world, most recently as Pearson Visiting Professor of Engineering and Entrepreneurship at Brown University (USA) and as research fellow at the "Institut für Mittelstandsforschung" in Germany. Ralph's profile is available at [Ralph Hamann \(uct.ac.za\)](https://www.uct.ac.za)



Links for SABSA Seminars

Tuesday 29 June: 15h00 - 18h00 : MBA Supervisor & Examiner Development Programme Session 1 (SABSA MBA SEDP 1)

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jun 29, 2021 03:00 PM Johannesburg

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqdo2hqj8iEtflorZwOo1pHJjGyK4bWVZT>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Wednesday 30 June 15h00 - 18h00: MBA Supervisor & Examiner Development Programme Session 2 (SABSA MBA SEDP 2)

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jun 30, 2021 03:00 PM Johannesburg

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsdOCgrz4jG9NeXDOXc79HzetxpbEjJQlj>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Thursday 1 July 15h00 - 18h00: Doctoral Supervisor Development Programme Session 1 (SABSA Doctoral SDP)

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jul 1, 2021 03:00 PM Johannesburg

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kc-mrqDwjEtZZ4FcEmjE_USESMjY6q9NV

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Friday 2 July 09h00 - 12h00: Doctoral & MBA Integrated Session: Supervisor Development Programme (SABSA Integrated Doctoral & MBA SDP)

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jul 2, 2021 09:00 AM Johannesburg

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpcOutqj0uHdNdJpYKLLH_7x_uOgpDc5i1

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

