

Examining Theses Discussion Group

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The production of a thesis is the major task in most Ph.D programmes in mathematics education. Very often the work is closely supervised by one individual although in some institutions a committee is provided, for this purpose. Ideally the student could be working within a research project and calling upon the support of a number of individuals. The responsibility for producing the thesis rests with the candidate but the supervisor influences the work at all levels and so also bears a responsibility. The work is eventually judged by others, probably members of the mathematics education community. On what bases are these judgements made? Does a student know how the work will be assessed?

The discussion group plans to consider criteria for judging the worth of a thesis and also to engage students in the conversation to find their preferences and experience.