

PhD Vlog Week 1: Hossam El-Zalabany Transcript

TIME	SPEAKER	AUDIO
00:00:09	Hossam El-Zalabany	Hi guys! Welcome to my work station. That's where I prefer to do my work and research. Here in my home, I have my own corner to do my research. I have a lot of places also to do my studies and research. I have an office at the University and I can do some work from the Library but here is the place which I prefer to do my work. I have my own coffee machine and I have my own place. Normally I need just an internet connection and
00:00:39		my paperwork, my books, and some papers to write it down. So what I was doing this last week? Actually it's everyday story for around three months ago, reading. I'm at the first semester of my PHD and I think that reading is the most important thing to do. I also had a problem that I was one year away from my research point because I started to make the proposal and research point and research questions
00:01:09		before I come here to give them to the Granting Authorities and get the Grant and before the Grant, I couldn't come here and this selection operation took around one year, then I was away from my research point, then I tried to cope with what up to date was a literature and everything to just come back to the track. What are the problems I'm facing in this phrase? One of them that I need to redefine my research question
00:01:39		because I think it's very broad one. I need to be more specific and cut it down in to small pieces. Also I need to read more about the methodologies because I supposed I was away from the methodology which I'm thinking to apply in my research. I'm trying to apply the ethnographic research method and that means I need to do a lot of interviews with people and I need to
00:02:09		make some kind of recording the real activities and behaviour of people. So I'm feeling that I'm facing a challenge but I'm not

		afraid to face it. But the critical thing that to put a plan for yourself. At the first two months I was totally lost, I don't know what start with but later I try to postpone myself a plan for readings even. I found
00:02:39		myself very distorted and I'm reading at every topic, my topic is also interdisciplinary. I think almost all the PHD topics nowadays are interdisciplinary. People are trying to read everything has been published related to their topic and so on. Since like one or one and a half month ago, I just took the decision to not put everything in front of me, to just write down what I have to do and I put for myself some tasks to do
00:03:09		every month and it helps me that we have a Doctoral Meeting every month with my Supervisor and my colleagues at the University and we discuss the progress we had achieved in our research progress. Then the next one is for me very important because I need to specify exactly what shall be the first research question I shall start with. I have already one but as I told you,
00:03:39		I need just to narrow it somehow. So I need to focus on this issue for these two weeks and I don't have a lot of time actually, I'm behind schedule. One big challenge was my readings at the first area that something away from the topic of the reading itself, it's the language. German Universities and Libraries have a lot of very valuable resources in German language but they have also in English and this is good for me
00:04:09		because yes, I already started learning German but I'm not that good at German until now. I'm surviving and nothing is a big deal for me but yes, I need to enhance my language skills somehow. Other challenge I may start facing from the next week that I need to start gathering the data through the interviews and that is I think something
00:04:39		very promising but very challenging also because interview is not that easy things. You have to deal with people and to gain some

		knowledge and to see what behind the words and after that all, you have to make some kind of analysis of what you've done. For that purpose, I've started also to learn some kind of programmes which helps us to
00:05:09		code the data which we get from interviews, for example, and so on. I'm going to talk to you also about that in next weeks but now I have to start my readings again. That's for this week and see you the next week maybe.

END OF TRANSCRIPT