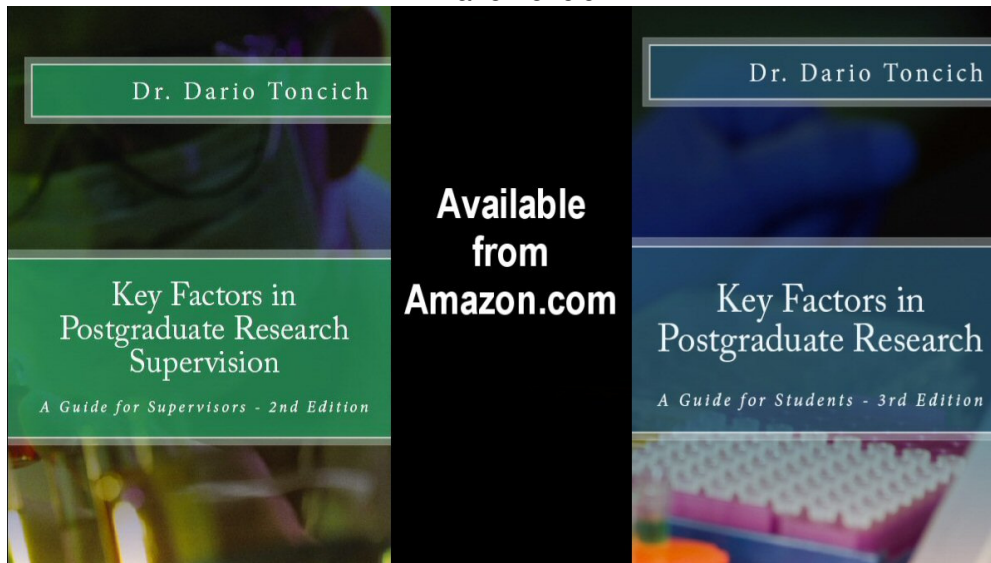


10 Fundamental Thesis Preparation Tips

Dr. Dario Toncich



Tip Number 10 – Be Honest

Most research students are honest about the information/data that is presented in their theses. Some are less than honest about the way in which it is presented – and this is generally apparent to a skilled examiner.

The critical point here is that a research student has conducted several-person-years of research in a particular field. Generally this field has thousands or tens of thousands of person-years of pre-existing research already conducted. So, a research student always needs to place his/her research into this context – a small contribution to a large field.

Overstatement of the significance of research is little better than falsification of results. Both are dishonest.

Always present the worst possible interpretation of one's own findings against the best possible interpretation of the findings of others in order to eliminate the obvious bias that one has to one's own work.

Always be aware of, and formally identify, the flaws and shortcomings in the research. Some research students are afraid of doing this but a good research examiner should appreciate candor. It is a sign that the research student has learned the importance of honesty in research.