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SASUF - YEBO WORKHOP SERIES

Supervision of PhD students in the Global digital age & COVID-19 What's changed?

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Higher Education Landscape



NDP 2030

- HE sector identified as requiring reform
- Increased targets for PhD production
- PhDs are targeted as a vehicle to bring about social transformation

Academy of Science of SA

- ASSAf commissioned survey identified Supervision and Governance as major threats to PG throughput
- The Doctoral standards were promulgated as a guideline to the management of doctorate degrees



Higher Education landscape

Contextual challenges

- Supervision capacity
- Massification
- Quality assurance
- Retention
- Time-to-degree
- Student expectations



Doctoral standards

- Doctoral provision
- Institutional conditions
- Graduate attributes

National PhD Audit

- Quality Assurance
- Compliance with standards



- **Educative responsibilities**
- Administrative responsibilities
- Quality assurance
- Relational aspects

Supervision



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- Clarify the learning outcomes
 - Unique contribution
 - Fund of knowledge
 - Ethics awareness
 - Communication
- Facilitate progression from guided work to independent work





- **Educative responsibilities**
- Administrative responsibilities
- Quality assurance
- Relational aspects

Supervision



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- Reflect on your model of supervision
 - Apprentice model
 - Cohort model
 - Joint supervision
- Identify student needs and learning styles
- Implement learning and teaching principles





- Educative responsibilities
- **Administrative responsibilities**
- Quality assurance
- Relational aspects

Supervision

- Ensure that the student is registered
- Know administrative systems
- Establish a feasible workplan and timeline
- Revise and maintain flexibility
- **Project management**
- **Perception of job creep and bureaucracy**



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- Educative responsibilities
- Administrative responsibilities
- **Quality assurance**
- Relational aspects

Supervision

- Internal and external pressure on auditing and reporting
- Accountability
- Matching degree requirements with funding requirements
- Plagiarism – use of software
- Clarify the role of editors



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- Educative responsibilities
- Administrative responsibilities
- Quality assurance
- **Relational aspects**

Supervision

- Supervision = a working relationship
- Subject to psychological constructs
- Cultivating the relationship
- Attachment style as a proxy for working alliance
- Network orientation
- Gendered & Racial patterns
- First generation status



- Educative responsibilities
- Administrative responsibilities
- Quality assurance
- **Relational aspects**

Supervision



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- Developing a Researcher identity
- Internalisation of research supervisor
- Identify the research competencies that must be mastered
- Evaluation of the relationship



Impact of COVID & Digitization

Digitization

- Expectation of availability
- Unequal access to devices & ICT
- Hiding behind the bandwidth
- Enhanced business continuity
- Stabilized Ethics and Higher Degrees committee meetings



COVID

- exposed fault lines
- ICT vulnerabilities
- Does home environment support work?
- Leave of absence
- Fieldwork challenges
- Ethics amendments
- Reconfigure processes