Problems/Phenomenon

Does a real-world problem(s) motivate the project? What are the main phenomenon and specific sub-phenomena being investigated?

Assumptions/Paradigm

Is the research based upon particular (philosophical) assumptions? Does the research operate within a specific paradigm?

Literatures

What literatures will be used and what are the key papers / research studies? Will each literature play a supporting or motivating role? Are the literatures from different fields / disciplines?

Observations and Arguments

What themes/issues are evident in the literatures? What gaps and/or problems are evident in the literatures? Are these pre-existing or identified by you?

Research Questions

What are the research questions? Are there any tentative hypotheses?

Theory

What theoretical ideas / concepts / model / framework will inform the research? What role will theory play in the project?

Contributions

What are the potential contributions (empirical, theoretical, practical, methodological) of the research? Who are the key stakeholders and what benefits will the research provide to them?

Methodology/Design

What is the overall design or methodology for the study? What are the key principles and objectives of the design / methodology?

Methods

What methods of data collection and analysis will be utilized? What are the key features and strengths of each method?

Sample/Context

What sampling method(s) will be used? What are the characteristics of the proposed sample? What features of the context are likely to be important?







