

CAREY DENHOLM AND TERRY EVANS (Eds.)
Beyond Doctorates Downunder: Maximising the Impact of your Doctorate from Australia & New Zealand.
Camberwell, Vic.: ACER Press, 2006.
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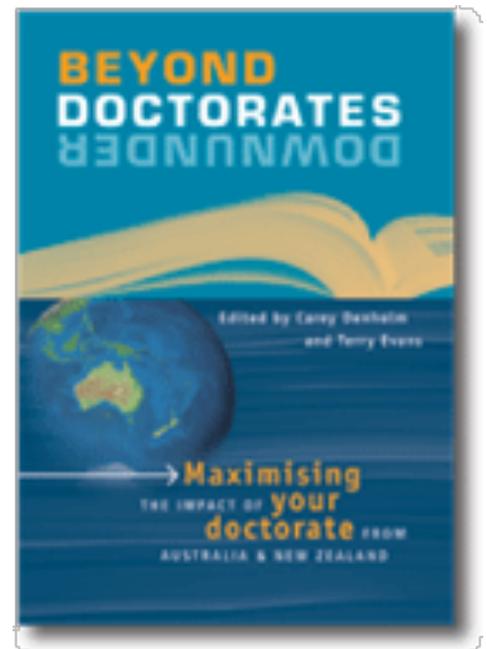
Reviewed by Darren Cronshaw

Beyond Doctorates Downunder is the third of a trilogy of resource books for optimising doctoral study. It follows *Doctorates Downunder* which helps candidates through the research to completion, and *Supervising Doctorates Downunder* which guides supervisors in supporting candidates (reviewed by Ross Langmead and me in *Pacifica* 24:2, 2011, pp.240-243). This volume picks up on issues that follow on – what to do after the doctorate is complete.

Carey Denholm and Terry Evans are experienced researchers and Deans of Research. Like the other volumes, they have invited together a range of contributors to share from their experience and offer advice to doctoral candidates graduates. Thirty-three contributors in twenty-seven chapters share practical advice on the range of issues facing newly graduated scholars.

The big themes, naturally, are publishing, further research and employment.

Different writers explain why it is important to strategically plan and aim for a few papers in high quality international journals, and to start working towards that as you complete the doctorate. The most useful chapter for me was Peter Macauley and Paul Mercieca's "Maximising the Bibliometric Impact of Doctoral Research" (pp.21-28). They explain 'Bibliometrics' which measures the evidence of research impact through publications in a certain field and the research classification of different journals. For example, Tier A* journals are the top 5 per cent of journals which include, in my field, Harvard Theological Review and Journal of Theological Studies. Tier A (the next 15 per cent) includes the *International Journal of Practical Theology*, *Theology Today* and *Pacifica*. Tier B (the next 30 per cent) includes the *Australian EJournal of Theology*, *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church*, *International Journal of Christian Spirituality* and four mission journals – *Mission Studies*, *Missiology*, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* and *International Review of Mission*. These are some journals someone in my field of Practical Theology can focus on. (Mark Harding suggests submitting initially to mid-ranking international journals in your field, p.183). Macauley



and Mercieca also suggest putting as much of your research online as possible, through online peer-reviewed journals (see the Directory of Open Access journals at www.doaj.org), university repositories of research (e.g., <http://repository.mcd.edu.au/>), and a personal website. Anne-Wil Harzing's Publish or Perish Software is worth using too (www.harzing.com).

The book explains post-doctoral fellowships and the importance of developing a persuasive proposal that shows your expertise and interest. It suggests volunteering for committee and conference responsibilities, offering contributions for seminars and workplace newsletters, and taking whatever lecturing and consulting work is offered. And it suggests it is a good idea to keep learning about how to be an excellent communicator, motivator and teacher (e.g., with a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education).

A highlight of the book is different writers explaining how they have applied their doctorates in different employment fields – not just in academia but also in industry, the public service, entrepreneurship, consultancy, agriculture, and the performing arts and in Antarctica. There are insightful chapters about the unique stories of indigenous Aboriginal and Maori researchers, and the local and community implications of their research and academic success.

The missing chapter, or what I would have liked to read more about, is the story and challenge of graduates taking their education to serve in not-for-profit organisations or in humanitarian projects overseas. A friend of mine, Professor John Spicer, was challenged as a young adult medical student to spend at least two years overseas. He served in Bangladesh, helping poor communities there but also giving him rich cross-cultural and medical experiences for his future career.

There is helpful advice on expanding your networks and electronic footprint and getting support from mentors and peers. For example, Jacqueline Rowarth in "Global Networking for Future Success" (pp.162-168) counsels identifying the top institutions and scholars in your research area and making contact with them. Her chapter encouraged me to go to their conferences and volunteer or pursue a sabbatical fellowship in their schools.

Overall there is the challenge to thoughtfully funnel research efforts and work contributions to improve society. Jennifer Sinclair reflected on her "Unlikely Lessons" (pp106-112), and asks what aspects of doctoral research did you enjoy most, and what employment could you put those towards? But also what do you enjoy about broader life and how can you maintain those things and not let them be swallowed by research

before or after completion? Ultimately, another helpful question to ask is consultant Cheryl Doig's "What is it you wish to be known for?" (p.96) and fashion a doctorate and the next five years as steps in that direction.

The best value of the volume, I suggest, is hearing so many voices of those who have passion for making the most of the research process and product. It is, as Paul Gallagher comments, a remarkable experience of gaining knowledge, authoring a significant piece of research and apprenticing into the guild of scholarship. He writes: "Apprenticeship is about students learning alongside and working together with the master, a descriptor meant in a genderless sense. The idea of apprenticeship is shared work, discovering together, but with the immense benefit of the master's experience being challenged by the apprentice's fearless questioning. It is mutual dialogue" (p.iii). Post-doctoral work involves joining the professional networks and academic halls of your chosen discipline, and the contributors welcomingly invite and helpfully offer navigational advice about what is over the horizon.

The ideal readers of this volume are doctoral candidates in the final stage of their research and doctoral graduates in the first five years after graduation, and supervisors and educational administrators who support their careers. As a researcher who completed my doctorate three years ago, this was a very welcome checkpoint. It encouraged me to be more strategic in my writing and publications, to plan a sabbatical to prepare for the next stage of my research career, and when supervising doctoral candidates to encourage them to start planning early for their publishing and post-doctoral life.

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