

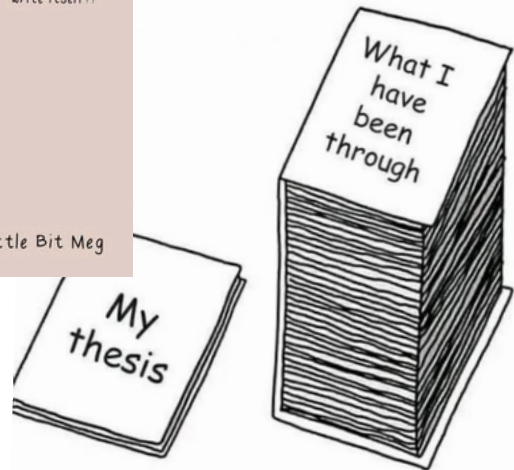
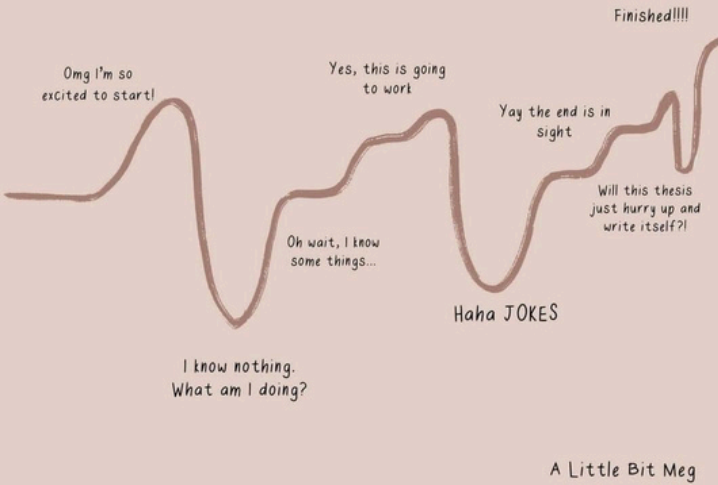
# A PhD Journey



A collection of memes and photos.  
With apologies for missing references.



# The PhD Journey



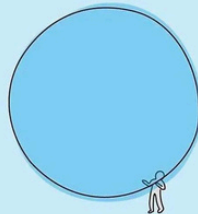
## Before PhD



## After PhD



## A REALLY HARD THING



HOW IT FEELS  
RIGHT NOW



HOW IT WILL FEEL  
IN A FEW MONTHS



HOW IT WILL FEEL  
IN A FEW YEARS













Alexander Pennington  
@Authoralex

The truth about being a writer:



A literature review feels like



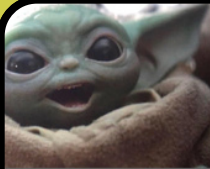
reading 1000 papers

for 500 hours



to write 2 sentences.

@PhScribb



Writing  
(REF) all  
over my work



Actually  
having to find  
the references



The Struggling Scientists Pod...  
@TheStrugglingS4

Follow

Gotta start somewhere 🤔



10:01 AM · 2024-10-23 · 14K Views



Robert Pondiscio  
@rpondiscio

Follow

The opacity of academic prose arises from the epistemological imperative to operationalize disciplinary jargon, facilitating intra-specialized discourse while obfuscating heterogenous interpretive accessibility and perpetuating a recursive dialectic of erudition and exclusion.



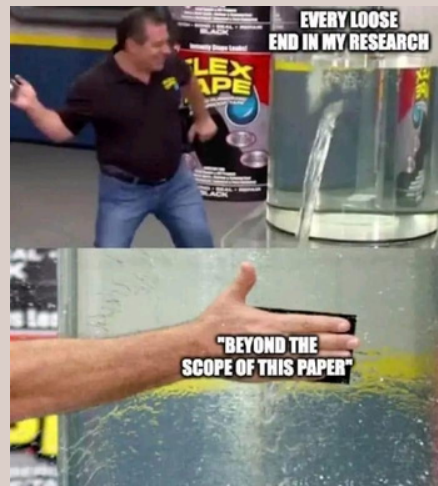
Martin Robinson @Trivium21c · 1d

Why is academic writing so awful?

11:13 AM · 2024-09-18 · 473K Views

WHEN  
YOU ARE  
CONSUMED  
BY THOUGHTS,  
WRITE. WHEN  
YOU ARE  
UNINSPIRED,  
READ

STEPHEN KING



this is  
what a PhD  
looks like!

Reading and writing  
cannot be separated.  
Reading is breathing  
in; writing is  
breathing out.



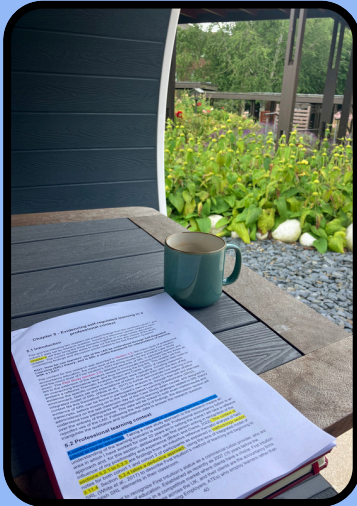
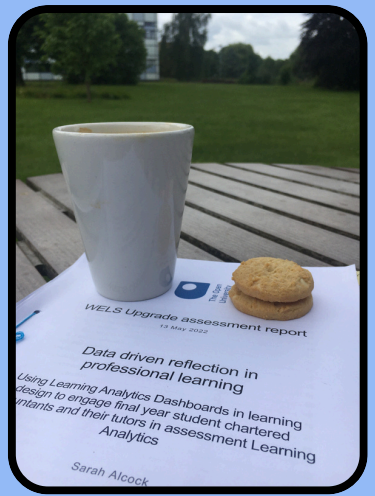
Alex and Books 📖  
@AlexAndBooks\_

If you're overthinking, write.  
If you're underthinking, read.

1:00 PM · 10/9/21 · [Twitter Web App](#)

10.4K Retweets 434 Quote Tweets 41.7K Likes













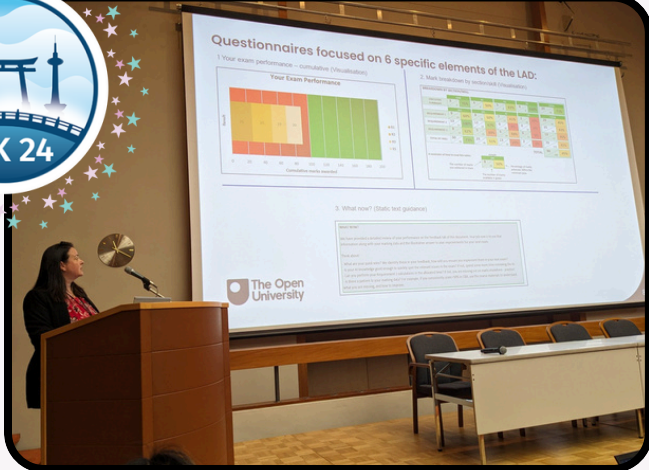
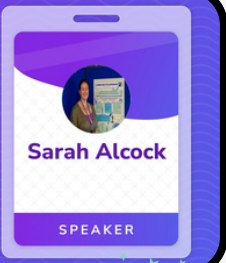


# Badge of Recognition

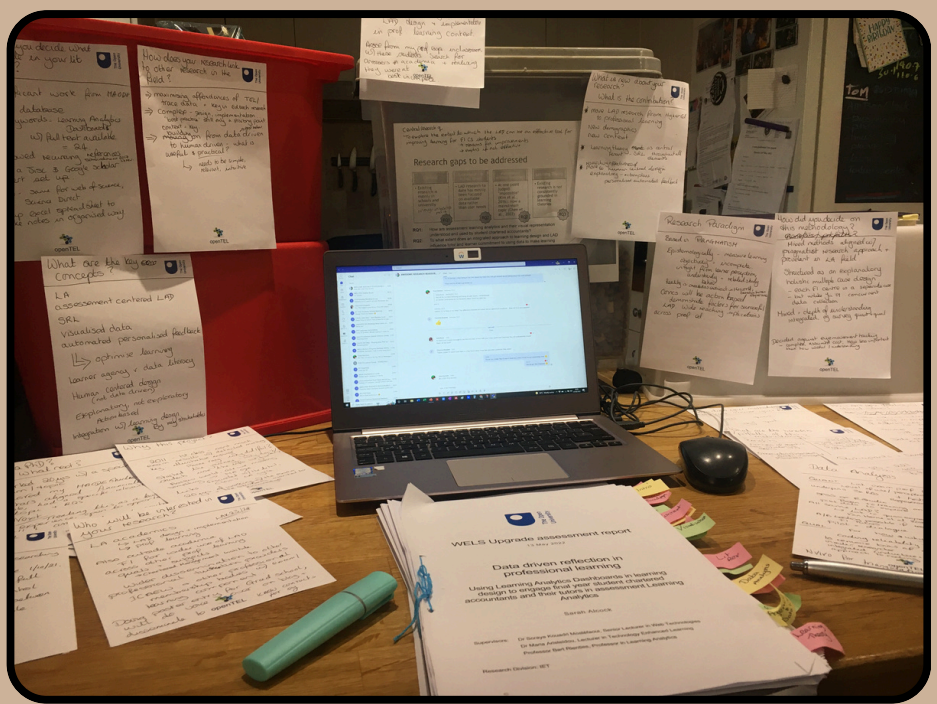
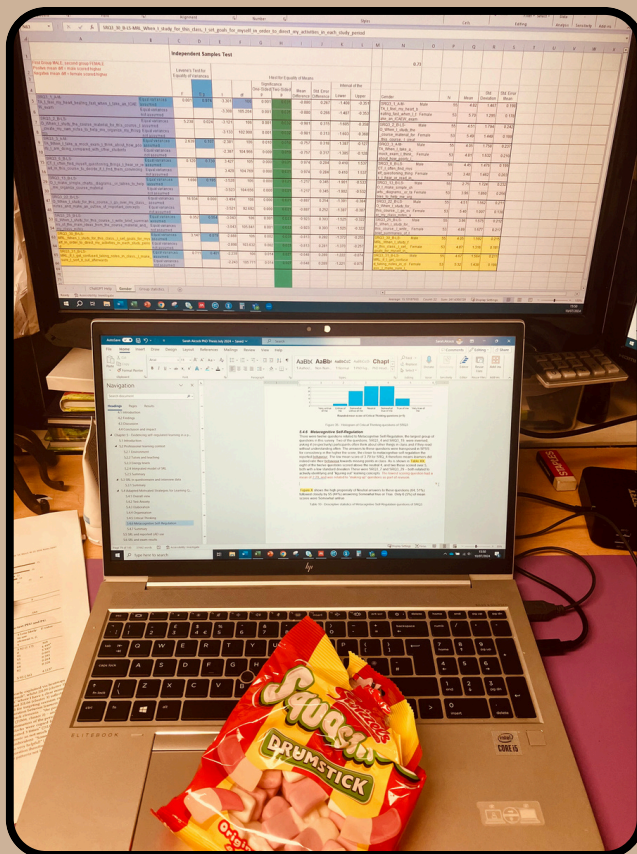
Celebrating your contribution as a speaker on March 20, 2024 to

LAK24: International Learning Analytics and Knowledge Conference

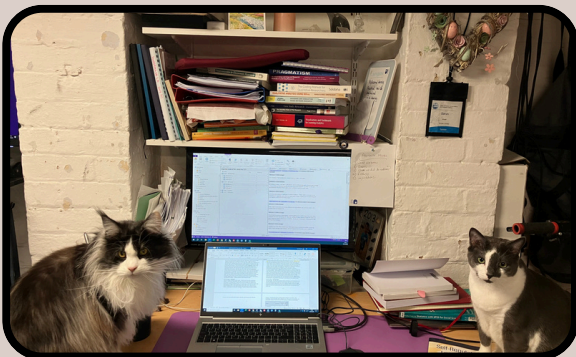
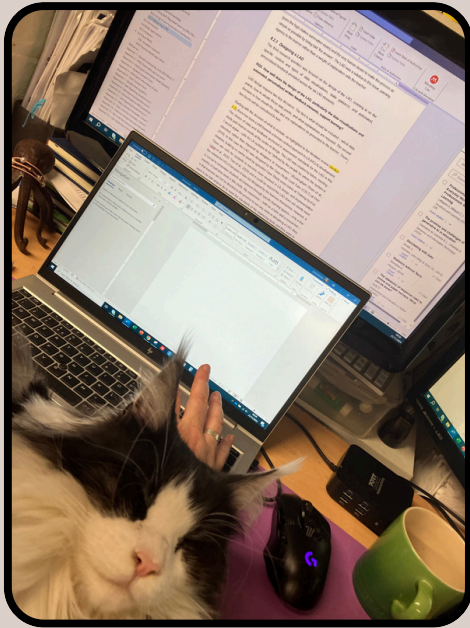
Powered by Whova



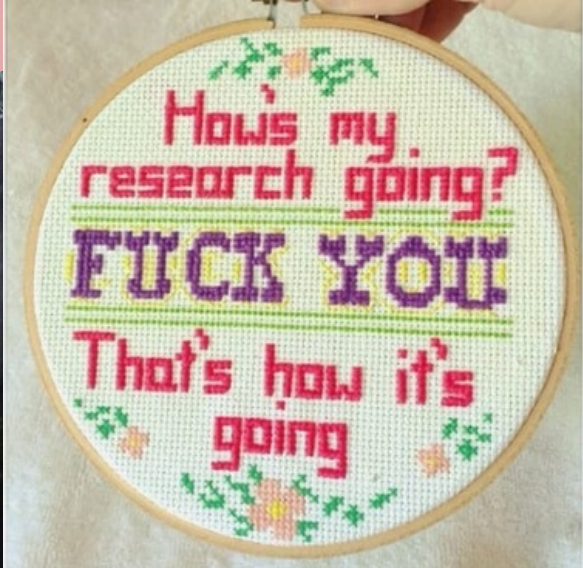
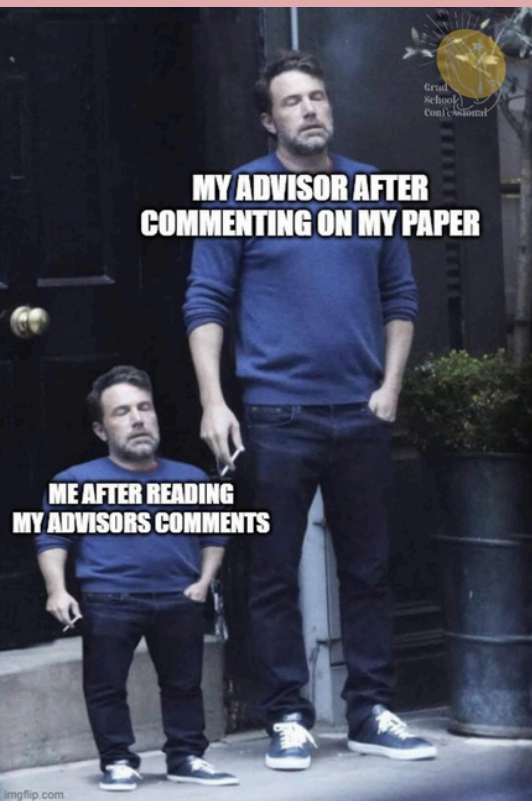








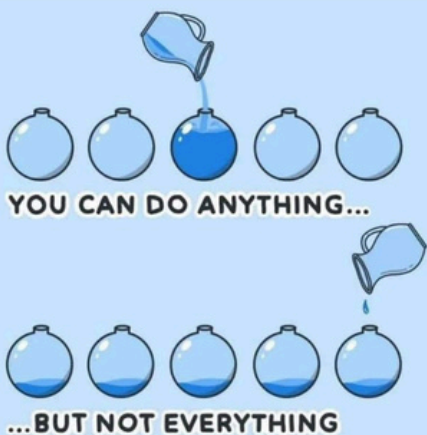


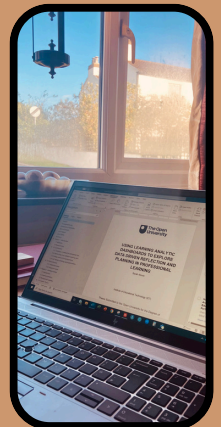
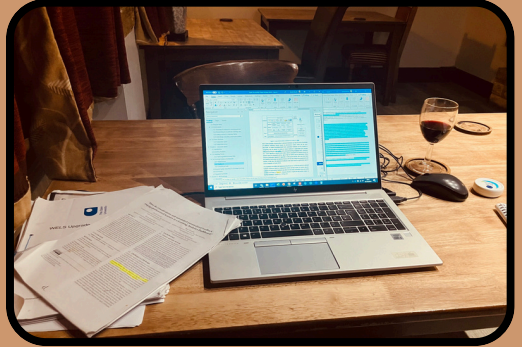


**NOT EVERYONE IS GOING  
TO THINK YOU'RE GORGEOUS  
AMAZING & MAGICAL**

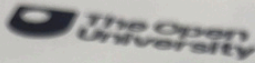
**THEY'RE WRONG THOUGH**

**DICKHEADS**









**Investigating the role of a  
Learning Analytics Dashboard in  
Professional Learning**

**Sarah Alcock**

Institute of Educational Technology (IET)

Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS)

Thesis Submitted to the Open University for the Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy

March 2025

[www.training-by-eos.com](http://www.training-by-eos.com)  
Case Study Exam Specialists











Sarah Jane Alcock  
24 June Street

24 June 2025

Dear Mrs Alcock

Thank you for submitting the final electronic version of your thesis to ORO.

I am pleased to inform you that the University has approved the award to you of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of The Open University, with effect from 13 June 2025.

The University's Ceremonies Centre will arrange for the degree and title to be conferred on you in absentia at the next meeting of

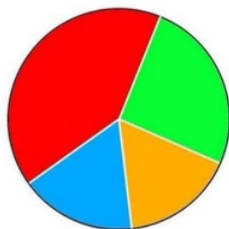
Milton Keynes  
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MK7 6AA  
Tel +44 (0)1908  
653806  
Email [Graduate-School@open.ac.uk](mailto:Graduate-School@open.ac.uk)

[www.open.ac.uk/students/research](http://www.open.ac.uk/students/research)

Personal ID:




## Benefits of staying in academia after PhD



- Salary
- Wellness
- Stable mental health
- Confidence for your future



Leslie Berntsen   
@leslie\_bern

Flight attendant: Is there a doctor on board?

Me: Yes, but I'm not that kind of...

Flight attendant: It's 11:52 PM and the passenger in 37F has a conference abstract due in seven minutes. It's currently 50 words over the limit.

Me: Okay. I'm here.





# Postgraduate Research Runner Up Prize

Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS)

*Sarah Alcock*

*in recognition of your outstanding contribution to the research environment of  
the university and to your field of research*

Dr Inma Álvarez, Director of Postgraduate Research Studies

13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Date



Association of Open University Graduates  
AOUG Office, Walton Hall,  
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

[info@aoug.org.uk](mailto:info@aoug.org.uk)



14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Dr Kouadri Mostéfaoui,

## 2025 AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards

We are delighted to inform you officially that your Research Student, Sarah Alcock, has been accepted by the AOUG Foundation for Education Directors/Trustees. However, we felt that her research was more suitable to receive the:

### 'AOUG Baroness Lee of Asheridge Award for Mathematics, Computing and Technology'

We should be really grateful if you could notify her of her success and congratulate Sarah on our behalf. Please seek Sarah's permission for both her OU email and her personal email addresses to be released to AOUG for the purpose of administering the rest of the Award process. Once you have sent AOUG her consent and the relevant email addresses via [info@aoug.org.uk](mailto:info@aoug.org.uk), we will send her all the relevant information regarding her Award.