

Message to final year phd student from her supervisor, received two months before submission deadline

24th October

I have been preparing to travel to Hong Kong and Australia for a few days from early tomorrow, and got quite tired, since I had to write four papers very quickly. So I have been going through your work, but though there are minor errors, I find it hard to comment overall, since I am too tired to concentrate much. I will be out of touch while travelling, but will be back briefly in the second week of November, before going to America. After I get back again I will go and visit my family. Perhaps I will have a chance to read your work around 15-16 November. I will try to come up to Barchester to return it to you.

Dr Carrington of Edinburgh did say he would act as an examiner. He works on Japanese religion, but can read Classical Chinese. If you keep the Chinese text he may suggest improved translations; I think it is helpful to have it there. I had hoped to ask Dr. ab of University College, London, but I have not met her lately, so did not get the chance.

Good luck with the final chapters,

What lessons are there here for

1. Candidates
2. Supervisors, and
3. Institutions?