

The Four Great Gates of Supervisor Challenges in Postgraduate Supervision

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Abstract

Relationship between:

- Australian doctoral student supervision
- Bourdieu's forms of capital
- James Flecker's poem "The Gates of Damascus"

Introduction

- Doctoral supervision is increasingly being recognised as a field of scholarship
- What is clear from this literature is both the complexity and the significance of this type of andragogy

Supervision challenges

Derived from

- students, policies and practices at university and faculty levels, accountability to government, expectations by business and industry, and community aspirations and needs.

It is vital that supervisors are:

- consistent with their own beliefs and values about the intentions, quality and outcomes of doctoral study.

One possible way of articulating the challenges of doctoral student supervision lies in:

- Focusing on English poet James Elroy Flecker's (1913) poem "The Gates of Damascus"
- To theorise selected elements of the supervision journey
- Link this to Bourdieu's four forms of capital

Bourdieu's forms of capital

- Social
- Cultural
- Economic and
- Symbolic

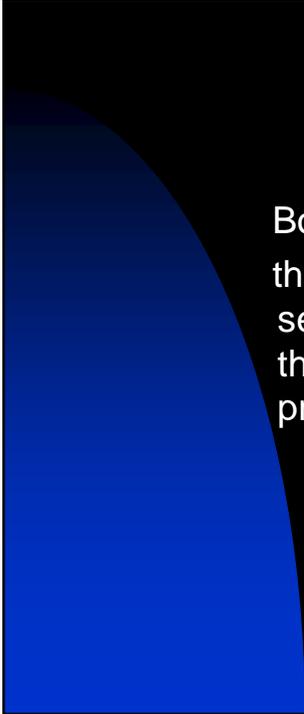


James Elroy Flecker

1884-1919

The Gates of Damascus

written in 1900 when he was only 16. Died of tuberculosis at the age of 30.



Bourdieu's four forms of capital and the four gates of Damascus can be seen as underpinning every stage in the doctoral student supervision processes.



**The Interrelationship
among Forms of Capital,
Gates of Damascus and
Doctoral Student
Supervision**

Forms of Capital	Gates of Damascus	Doctoral Student Supervision Processes
Social Social and support networks Relationships	Baghdad Danger and Death Motivations, temptations, aspirations and pitfalls <i>'Postern of Fate, the Desert Gate, Disaster's Cavern, Fort of Fear. and he shall sing as best he can. Go dark and blind; and one shall say – "How lonely is the Caravan!"'</i>	Application for enrolment Matching students and supervisors

Forms of Capital	Gates of Damascus	Doctoral Student Supervision Processes
Cultural Deeply held values and understandings of the purposes and processes of doctoral study	Lebanon Exploration and Enlightenment Demonstrations of: Knowledge Experience Competence <i>'The dragon-green, the dark, the serpent-haunted sea. And not a soul in all those lonely streets to while away the hours.'</i>	Developing productive working relationships between students and supervisors Designing the study Confirmation of candidature

Forms of Capital	Gates of Damascus	Doctoral Student Supervision Processes
<p>Economic</p> <p>Positioning in academic field and marketplace</p>	<p>Aleppo Trade and Commerce</p> <p>Value Risks</p> <p><i>'And thou shalt sell thy wares for thrice the Damascene retailers' price, And buy a fat Armenian slave ...</i></p> <p><i>Some men of noble stock were made...</i></p> <p><i>Some praise a science or an Art, but I like honourable Trade!</i></p>	<p>Data collection and analysis</p> <p>Writing successive draft chapters of dissertation</p> <p>Submission for examination</p>

Forms of Capital	Gates of Damascus	Doctoral Student Supervision Processes
<p>Symbolic</p> <p>Honour Prestige Recognition</p>	<p>Mecca Faith and Pilgrimage</p> <p>Fulfilment and meaning-making</p> <p><i>'The voices of the souls unborn are half dream with Paradise. And God shall make thy body pure, and give thee knowledge to endure This ghost-life's piercing phantom-pain'</i></p>	<p>Engaging with examiners' feedback on the submitted dissertation</p> <p>Post-doctorate life and work and student-supervisor relationship</p>

Conclusion

We brought together four forms of capital and different phases of the doctoral student journey, with what we argue are important implications for doctoral student supervision. This has been facilitated by the application of the four gates of Damascus

- 'The Lebanon Gate is the high risk and high reward alternative. Many educational researchers never choose the Lebanon Gate because it exposes us to risk.
- We trust that we have grown in our understanding of ideas about forms of capital and doctoral student supervision.

And finally

We have moved from:

- 'Four great gates has the city of Damascus
And four Great Wardens, on their spears reclining.
All day long stand like tall stone men
And sleep on the towers when the moon is shining.'

to:

- 'And sons of Islam, it may be that thou shalt learn at
journey's end
Who walks thy garden eve on eve, and bows his head,
and calls thee Friend.'