

# UA Repository

## Supervising at the UA

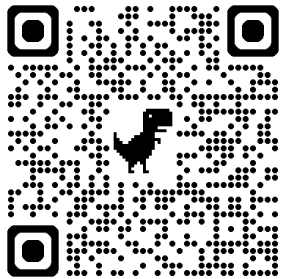
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# Supervising at the UA

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15 January 2026

<https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14473/1834>



## UARC Workshop: Supervising



Thursday  
15 January 2026



1-2:30 PM



MC Room 7



*improve your supervision skills and increase the quality of theses!*



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# Agenda

- Getting to know your challenges (Esther) 15 min
- Plan van aanpak FEF/OGM and some examples (Adamiris/Luc) 20 min
- Research Questions (Esther) 10 min
- Role of the supervisor (Eric) 10 min
- Discussion 30 min

# Getting to know your Challenges:

<https://www.menti.com/alr4nwbvxp6f>



# Plan van Aanpak



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# FEEF – Plan van Aanpak

- Titelpagina
- Aanleiding van het onderzoek/probleem definitie
- Doelstelling
- Hoofd - en deelvragen
- Theoretisch kader
- Onderzoeksmethoden/opzet
- Voorlopige literatuurlijst (minimaal 3 bronnen)
- Tijdsplanning



# FEF - Toetsing

De begeleider toetst de afstudeeropdracht aan de volgende voorwaarden:

- De opdracht valt binnen één of meer kernvakgebieden van de betreffende opleiding
- De mate van complexiteit is voldoende
- De afstudeeropdracht betreft een werkelijk probleem in een concrete organisatie/ is maatschappelijk relevant
- Realistische planning (21 weken en 30 erts)
- Geldige analyse en bruikbare aanbevelingen leiden.



# OGM Final research process

## Research proposal and literature review (5 ect)

- Similar to FEF plan van aanpak
- Plus: literature review (pass/fail)

## Research lab (20 ect)

- Weekly plenary sessions in tutor groups
- Thesis guide: contract per research phase and chapter

## Graduation procedure

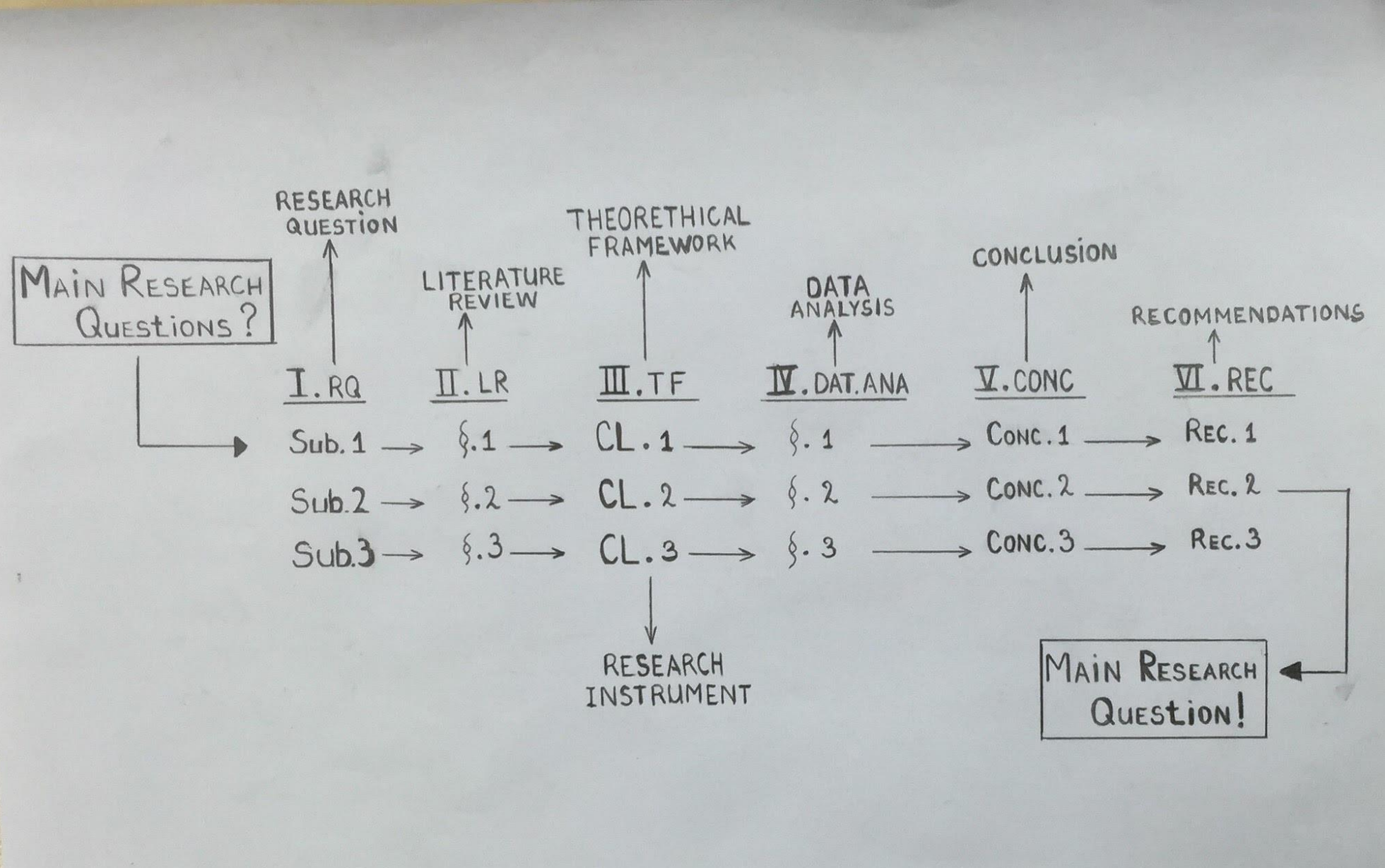
- Screening Instrument
- Thesis supervisor: plagiarism / AI
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reader: thesis grade: 90%
- External member: Defense: 10% of final grade





# The Pancake Model

(original homemade version)



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# Research Questions



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# Research Question

- The core question that the study will answer
- Clearly articulates what you want to find out
- Is specific and has a clear scope
- Should be original, relevant and interesting (address a research gap)
- Can realistically be answered (feasibility of the study in terms of time/methodology)

# Research Question Example 1

- **Too broad:** How does climate change affect humans?
- **More specific:** How has climate change affected agricultural potential in Aruba since 2010?



# Research Question Example 2

- **Too specific/yes-no question:** Is Aruba a capitalistic country?
- **Better:** To what extent does Aruba's economic system influence the government's ideology?



# How to guide students in formulating Research Question (RQ)

- Start with their topic of interest/choice (probably too broad/ambitious)
- Don't be prescriptive, guide them (share the tips!)
- RQ should be feasible
- Provide specific feedback on iterations of the RQ
- For a BA thesis, one main research question is sufficient. Sub-questions should be minimal and directly related to the main RQ
  - Remember: a good RQ is feasible!



# Research Question should be feasible

- Methodology should fit the research question
  - Scientific literature review, surveys, interviews, news reports, data, personal reflections, archival research
- Secondary data reuse



# Having a good RQ from the start..

- Saves time
- Helps to make decisions during the research process
- Should result in agreement on what the thesis should focus on – the supervisor team should not reject a thesis that is following the Plan van Aanpak
- Equips the student to carry out the research with confidence



# Role of the supervisor



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# Roles of the Supervisor

- Supervisor of the research process = safeguarding methodological soundness and integrity, safeguarding time investment, monitoring timelines
- Assessor: continuous assessment of progress and integrity
- Educator: teaching the student how to execute and complete a research project



# Stages of the supervision process

- Start up: support RQ, methods & plan, provide templates.
- Refer to training/courses that prepared the student for this phase.
- Process: 15' check ins with focus on method, data, timeline and reporting.
- Refer to training modules that can help the student refresh skills needed to complete the task.
- Discuss lack of progress.
- Finalisation: check-in before in depth reading.
- Plan a 30-minute discussion meeting to verify if all goals were met. Discuss and agree upon completeness of the research project.



# Aspects of the supervision

- Clarity on supervisor-student relationship
- Support of self regulation and ownership
- Diagnose student needs - and delegate
- Set boundaries: protect students from ambition, do not let the student exceed the PLOs of the thesis
- Coaching and mentoring, not correcting



# Time investments of supervision

- Clarity on time budget towards student
- Make a supervision plan and agree on the supervision plan with the student
- Lecturer time is for high level guidance, not for day to day management of the student
- Time administration



# Discussion



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# Guiding instead of steering

- How to guide the student without taking over?
- *(Studenten tempo erin laten houden, zonder zelf te sturend te zijn.)*
- *(How to give commentary without doing the work for the student.)*
- *(how to strike the delicate balance between guiding and independent research)*



# AI

- *How to be a supervisor in this AI era?*



# Tips and/or tools for supervision?

**Next  
workshop?**

**Addithons**

**Writing Sprints**

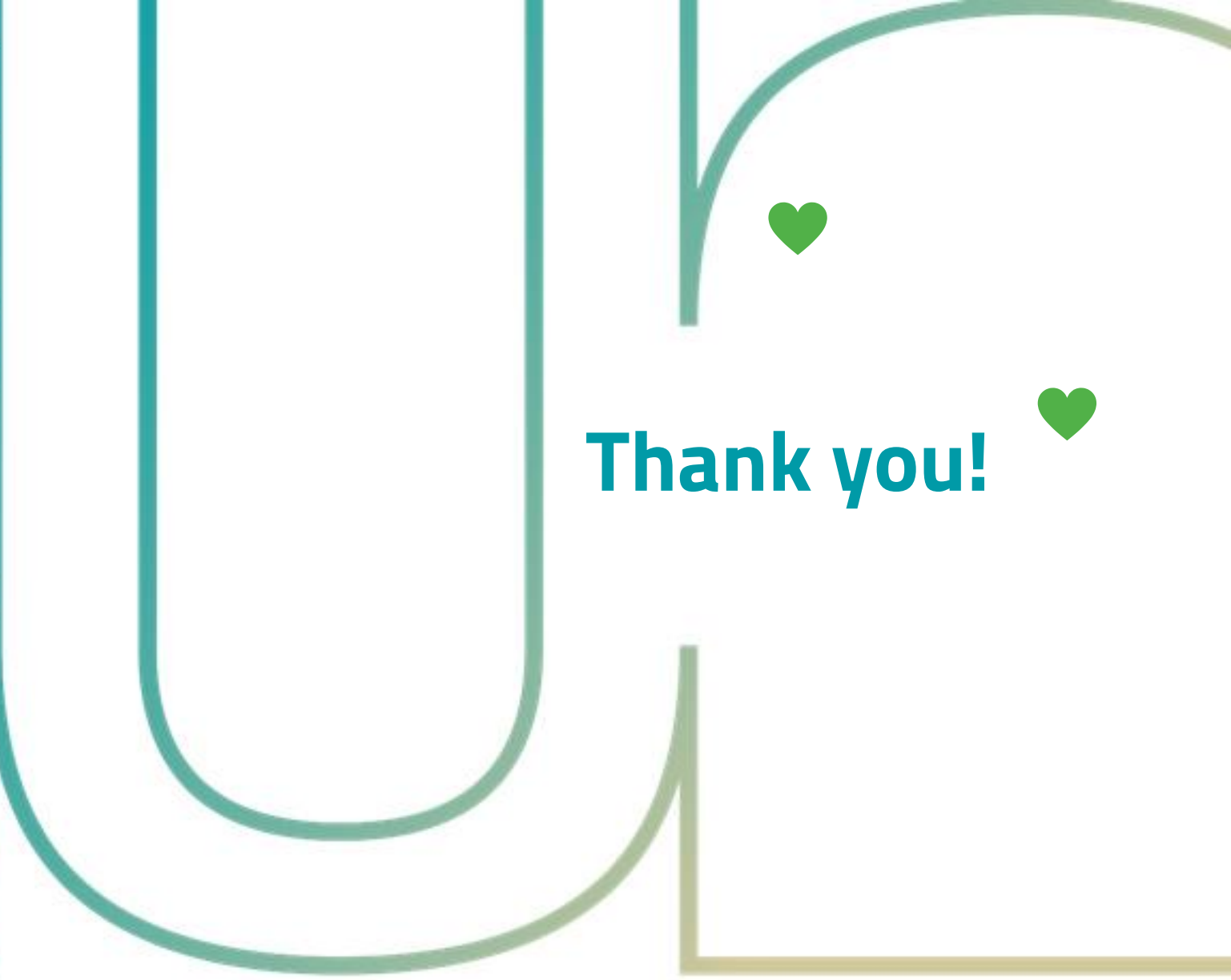
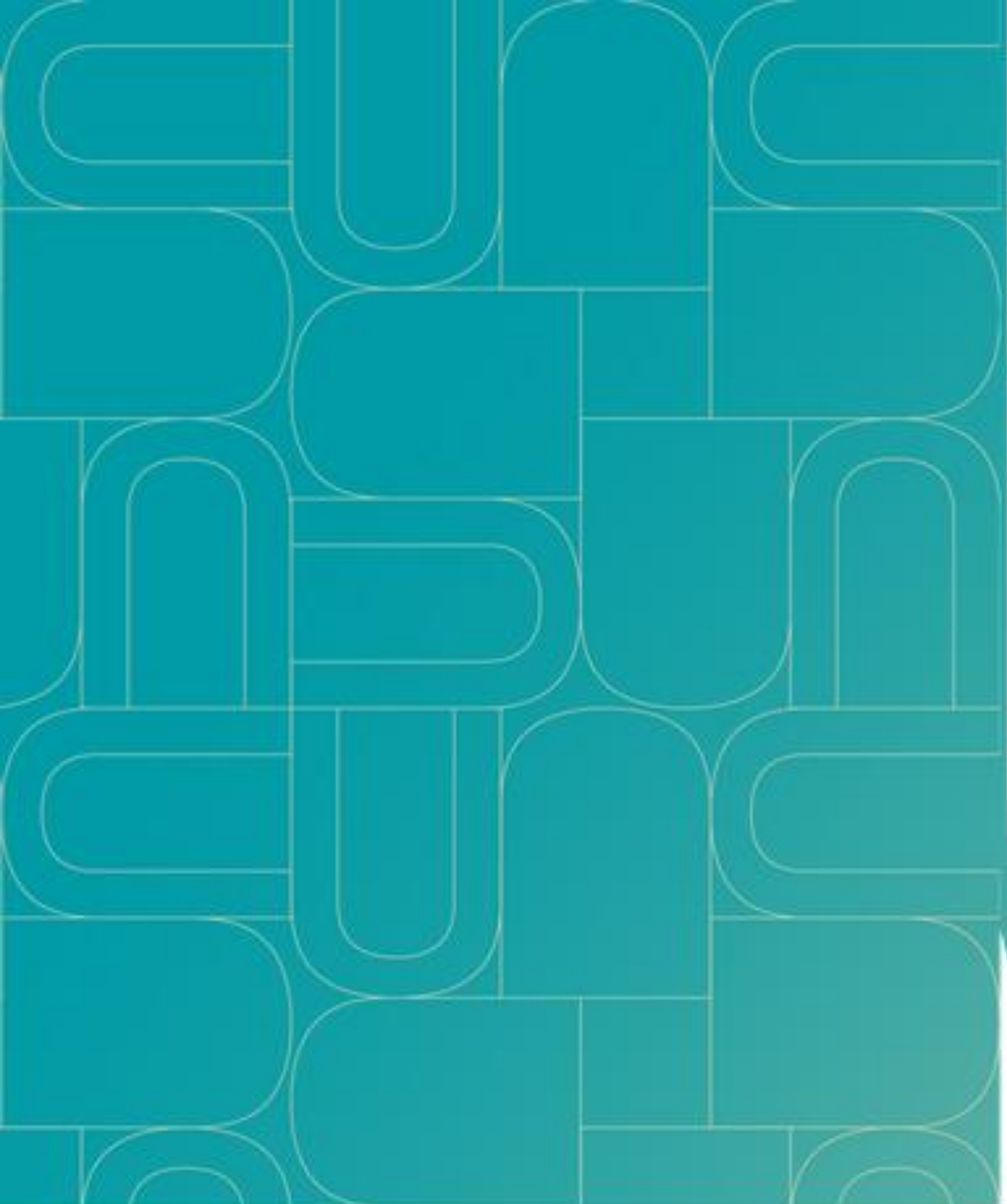
**Proposal writing – Feb**

**Beginner R workshops –  
March/April**

# Writing Sprints

- **Friday 30 January 1-3 PM**
- **Tuesday 10 February 10 AM - 12 PM**
- **Monday 23 February 10 AM - 12 PM**
- **Wednesday 11 March 9 - 11 AM**
- **Monday 23 March 12 - 2 PM**





**Thank you!**

