


Name:		Title of Thesis:		Date / Version:	Research Design Canvas	
Literatures What bodies of literature or areas of research will be used? What are the key papers / studies in each literature? Will each literature play an equally important role in research? Are the literatures from different disciplines / fields?	Observations & Arguments What themes / issues are evident in the literatures? What gaps / problems are evident in the literatures? What are the costs or risks of not addressing the gaps / problems for researchers in the literature?	Research Questions What are the research questions? What is the value of investigating them? Are there any tentative hypotheses?	Contributions What are the potential contributions of the research? Who are the key stakeholders and what benefits will the research provide to them?	Sample / Context What sampling methods and sample will be used? Will the context of the research play an important role? If so, what are the distinctive characteristics of the context?		
		Methodology / Design What is the overall design or methodology for the study? What are the key principles / objectives of the methodology? What are the quality criteria for evaluating the design or methodology?	Methods What methods of data collection and analysis will be utilised? What are the key features or strengths of each method? Will the methods be used in a particular sequence? How do the methods compliment each other?			
			Theory Will theory be an important part of your research? What role will theory play in your project? What theoretical ideas / concepts / model / framework do you intend to use or develop? What does theory mean or what constitutes theory in your discipline or field?			
Problem / Phenomenon Does a real-world problem(s) motivate the project? What are the main phenomenon and specific sub-phenomena being investigated?		Assumptions / Paradigm Is the research based upon particular philosophical assumptions? Does the research operate within a specific paradigm?				


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FIGURE 1.4 The research design canvas by Ben Ellway.

Sources: Retrieved from <https://michaelduignan.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/research-design-canvas.pdf>, 21 August 2023.