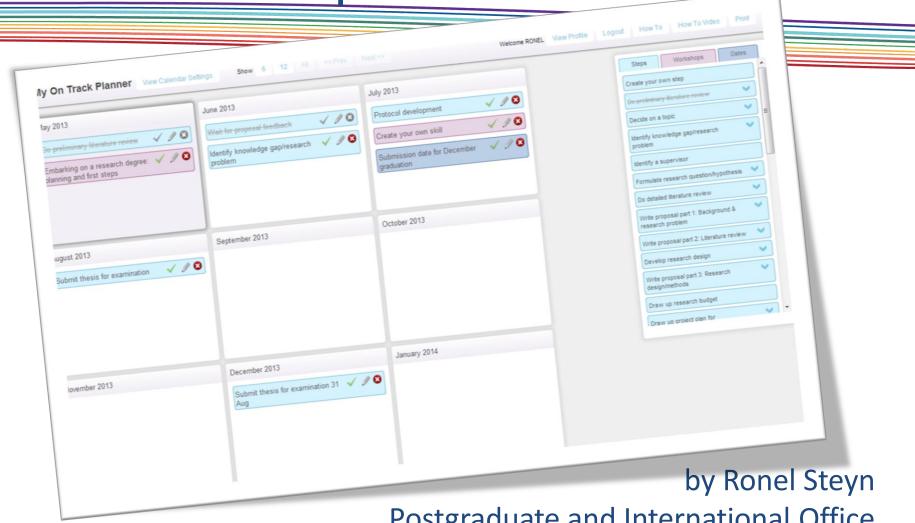
The *on.track* planner



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Drop-out /not completed

SA doctoral students (2001 – 2005 cohorts)

	2001 cohort	2002 cohort	2003 cohort	2004 cohort	2005 cohort
Not	After 8 years	After 7 years	After 6 years	After 5 years	After 4 years
complete by 2009	46%	54%	55%	60%	65%

Source: Johann Mouton (2013) African Doctoral Academy University of Stellenbosch



Why?

Barbara Lovitts' (2001)

- Students do not leave due to a lack of competence or failed admissions processes.
- no academic differences between completers and non-completers.

McAlpine (2012)

- Are students who don't progress simply lacking agency?
- Not necessarily. Students who made progress also had "enabled personal networks" so that they could "make the system work for them."
- First generation graduates?

Hofstee (2006)

Problems come in after the structured phase.

on.track features

- Practical and visual
- Structures time
- Creates manageable steps
- Skill development planning
- Positive, efficient supervisor/student interaction
- Allows supervisor to track students' progress

on.track benefits

1. The *on.track* planner as **navigational** tool:

Shows student what to expect of both the research process and the institution.

2. on.track planner creates ownership:

Project plan with student as project owner.

3. on.track planner communicates expectations:

Neutral discussion and things you want to tell the student 'up front.' It is not predesigned formula, only the starting point for this discussion. Can be completely customised.

4. on.track planner helps students to identify the **value** they would get from the PhD:

Being able to identify the knowledge and skills you are developing or planning to develop, assists motivation and learning, assists in finding employment after completion and ensures realistic expectations before embarking on the degree.

New developments

 supervisor resource – on.track phase two: can allow document uploads, comments, emails etc.

 keep.track – to identify obstacles and to assist in creating progress reports.

Further information

 Contact Ronel Steyn at <u>ronels@sun.ac.za</u> if you are interested in bringing on.track to your institution

- On a different note:
- New Voices in Science –project
- Watch the video!
- http://youtu.be/4GdncEsxYCc