

The knowledge contributions of Professional Doctorates



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- **Outside the academic community**
- **Professional contexts**
- **Enhances practice**
- **Economic social and political benefits**
- **Scientific and socially responsible**
- **Beyond disciplinary boundaries**

Examples of Masters and Doctorate work-based research projects

| Title of work-based project | Sector | Award |
|--|---|---|
| A communications framework for inclusivity: an action research approach to providing information | Public Graphic designer | MA in Professional Practice |
| Development of a counselling and psychotherapy supervision training programme within an Australian educational context | Private Consultant psychotherapist | Doctor of Professional Studies |
| Developing changes for Irish non-profit organisations | Private Consultant – Charities | MA Work Based Learning Studies |
| An investigation, evaluation and development of techniques to enable the spread and adoption of innovative practices, based on the Trent region older people services project | Private Consultant – Health management | Doctor of Professional Studies |

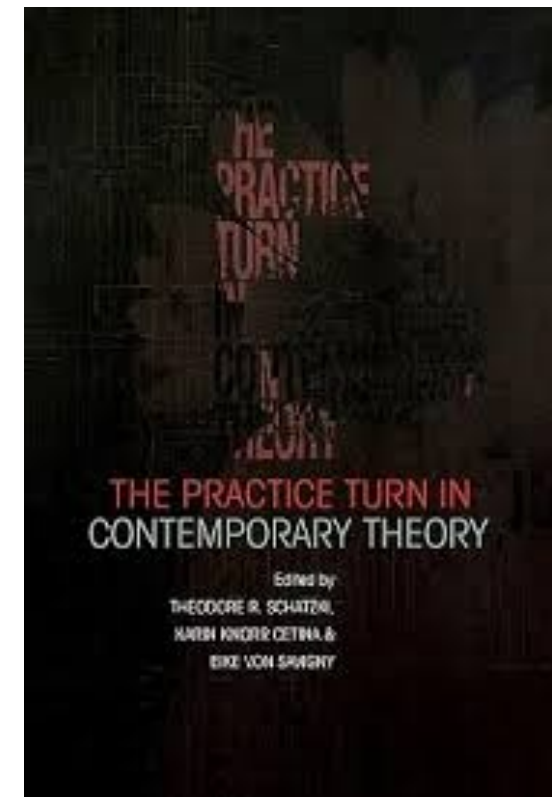
| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Adopting a holistic approach to the valuation of learning programmes deployed in corporate environments | Public Education and training | Doctor of Professional Studies |
| The development of the professional accreditation of conservator – restorers | Private Education and training | Doctor of Professional Studies |
| Digital futures: e-commerce and sustainable development | Public Thinktank | Doctor of Professional Studies |
| Improving Lloyds TSB asset finance division's capability to help people through change and transition | Financial institution Manager | MA in Leadership and Management Practice |
| Marks and Spencer food section managers – The enablers to delivery of exceptional individual work performance | Retail Manager | MA Studies WBL (Retail management) |

The way knowledge is created and used

- **Course design and candidate support**
- **Flexible patterns of research and development**
- **Critical engagement and critical reflection**
- **Employer engagement**



- Bourdieu, P., 1977, *Outline of a Theory of Practice* (Cambridge University press)
- Feminist Scholars
- Foucault, M., 1979, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (Pergrinne books)
- Giddens, A., 1984, *The Constitution of Society: Outline of the theory of structuration* (Polity press)



Relevance of PG research training to employment & work

Doctoral graduates

“will be able to conceptualise, design and implement projects for the generation of significant new knowledge and/or understanding [and] will have the qualities needed for employment that require both the ability to make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist fields and innovative approach to tackling and solving problems”

(QAA 2008)

Practitioner knowledge has relevance beyond the immediate context

Lester states that

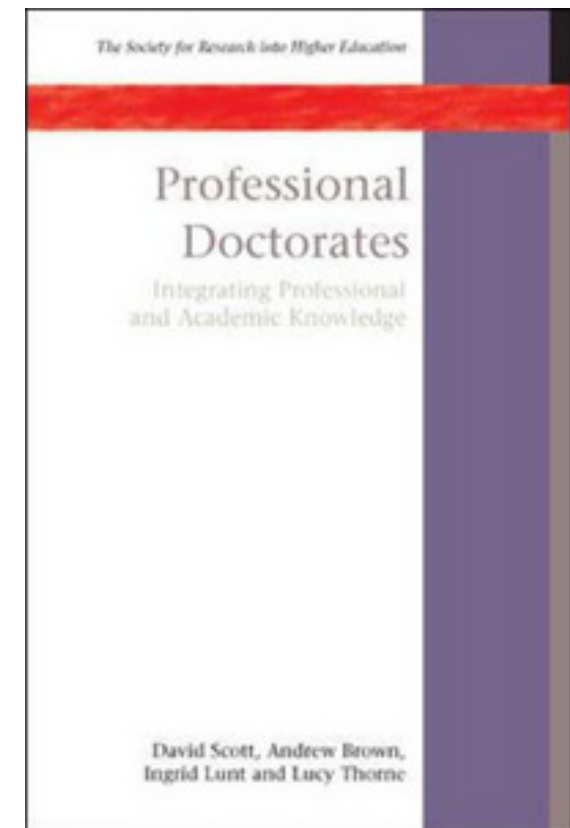
“Complex change-oriented issues...approached with a researching and critically reflective orientation can be a powerful source, not only of contextual insights but of academically and professionally-valid knowledge, giving rise to new concepts, models, theories and critiques as well as different ways of doing things....[and] is in most cases transdisciplinary”

(Lester 2011)

- **Assessment and judgment by peers who understand how the doctoral research will impact upon the community that benefit from the research**
- **Senior professionals attaining high academic endorsement**
- **Issues about the purposes and consequences of knowledge application**
- **Acknowledged as experts in their fields by their peers in a range of professional areas**

Integrating profession and academic knowledge

- **Knowledge is created and used rather than codified**
- **Driven by real-world and real-time imperatives**
- **Positionality**
- **Complexity**
- **Insider knowledge**
- **Situatedness**
- **Transdisciplinarity**
- **New epistemologies**





- **Increased range of knowledge & academic values**
- **Brings diverse knowledge interests and engagement with wider cultural intellectual traditions**
- **In turn improves respect & understanding between knowledge traditions**
- **Exchange of views**