



## **Sichuan University-Pittsburgh Institute Writing Center Graduate Dissertation and Dissertation Proposal Workshops**

The IMBA Graduate Dissertation and Dissertation Proposal writing workshop will take a hands-on approach to develop your research project. Through collaborative and individual activities we will devote the workshop to building skills that will enhance your skills in researching, incorporating research, writing, and revising. The workshop aims to be practical, and the activities performed during the session

Each session will be facilitated by Dr. James McDougall and Dr. John Rhym who teach in the Humanities and Social Sciences program of the Sichuan University Pittsburgh Institute.

### **Workshop 1: Research Question, Research Plan, and Research Resources**

During this session, we will discuss preliminary research, and share ways to create a successful research plan. We will:

- Review requirements for the dissertation and proposal
- Setting goals for your research
- Review research questions and set up your research projects
- Working with limits
  - Primary research
  - Secondary research

### **Workshop 2 Successful Digital Research**

During this session, we will workshop optimizing digital tools for your research.

We will:

- Brainstorm lists of electronic resources, by category
- Understanding the limits of different kinds of resources
- Workshop finding sources, comparing sources, evaluating sources
- Keeping track of sources
- Creating Annotated Bibliographies



### Workshop 3: Challenges for Incorporating Research into Your Proposal or Dissertation

During this session, we will work on crafting your paper with a focus on properly incorporating your research. This session will include:

- Discussing kinds of literature reviews
- Strategies for Summarizing, Paraphrasing, Quoting
- Incorporating sources
- Establishing criteria for literature review
- Citing practices

### Workshop 4 Paper Organization, Style-Guide Details, Drafting and Revision

This last session will focus on drafting and organizing your writing, as well as following style-guides and revising your writing.

- Consulting style guides
- Editing and proofreading: peer review; peer consulting guidelines
- Word processor and online tools for manuscript review
- Completing proposal and developing the thesis/dissertation
- Overcoming pitfalls in drafting and revision your manuscript