

1319, a North American, was working part-time at a multi-national corporation in North America when he decided to begin the PhD. Before the doctoral program, he had achieved Bachelors and Master's degrees, and decided to pursue a PhD in order to increase his knowledge of the field. He was writing his thesis from home in North America while taking care of his family when he joined this study, having returned after several years in the UK. During the thesis writing phase, he quit his job to focus on finishing the PhD, and began a start-up to earn money to fund his studies and support his family. Following the PhD, which he completed at age 51, 1319 took a one-year teaching and research position at a university in North America, and was striving for a career in academia. What struck us about 1319's story was:

Commitment to family that impeded work on thesis, writing up thesis from North America (personal)

Perceived supervisors as distant and disinterested in his PhD topic, experience of revision and resubmission of thesis (work experience)

Desire to work in academia contrasted with practical concerns about finances that led to seeking work in industry (career thinking)

Year	Personal	Work experience	Career Thinking
PhD Year 5	Acted a caregiver to his family, which took away from time on his thesis. Decided to quit job based on advice from advisors, which was "huge financial risk"; feoling stressed and worried.	Focused on finishing thesis and under pressure to complete from university, after receiving two extensions. Worked part-time at corporation to fund doctoreal studies. Felt disconnected from his department and university and worked 'in isolation', which made him feel like a "real researcher" but also ied to loneliness and procrastination. Felt that because his supervisors did not specialize in his particular area, his work was not of interest. Found it difficult to maintain motivation and deal with administrative problems while being far from university. Noted that supervisors "completely uninterested in personal goals" and their effect on his thesa.	Hoped for work in academia, perhaps a research fellowship, but also planned to apply for jobs at companies.
PhD Year 6	Continued to care for family, and noted that family obligations often took precedent over thesis.	Continued to work on thesis, and felt he knew what the answer [to the research question] is, and wants to tell everyone else in the world". Contacted by a researcher at a corporation regarding a previously published paper, which made him feel like "expert". Submitted thesis. Completed viva and examiners required major revision and resubmission. Was worried about thesis rejection but remained passionate about research question. Invited to present at a different university, which made him feel like an academic.	Hoped to work in academia but in the short-term fell it would be more realistic to apply for corporate jobs due to financial reasons, possibly at company he worked at previously.
PhD Year 7	Continued to experience atress around thesis, and just wanted to finish. Felt bogged down by family commitments. Sudden death of family member. Concerned about finances—fout of	Continued to meet supervisors via Skype for feedback, and fell he had more support from supervisors than before. Resubmitted thesis. Worked on revising CV based on feedback; its focus was too academic for the industrial positions he wanted.	Hoped to find work in industrial position, and contemplated getting a professional degree at some point.
PhD Year 8	Continued to care for family, and concerned that family obligations take away from thesis progress. Out of money and needed work.	Continued to meet supervisors via Skype for feedback, and fet he had more support from supervisors than before Resubmitted thesis. Worked on revising CV based on feedback; its focus was too academic for the industrial positions he wanted. Began his own start-up after being frustrated in job due to "culture fit" (his older age). Passed thesis with minor corrections and worked on the revisions. Networked, attended seminars, co-euthored a paper. Received short-ferm contact for his consultancy and worked remotally from home.	Did short-term work in consultancy through start-up, but did not view it as long-term career. Wanted a combination of industry work and part-time academic research position. Hoped for job outside academia that fit research interests.
	Home flooded, which required time for clean-up. Continued to care for family.	Continued to interview for jobs, and found he was treated better having obtained the PhD Got one-year contract to teach and research at a nearby university. Applied for new non-academic job.	Hoped for job outside academia that fit research interests.
What struck us	Balancing family commitments and thesis work.	Distant supervisory relationships, difficult thesis revisions.	Desire to work in academia balanced with practical concerns about finances that led to seeking work in industry.





