

Friday PhD Talks 2023-2024

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Out of the frying pan into the fire? Navigating the transition from being a part-time to a full-time PhD student

Abstract:

When I embarked on my PhD journey, I was working full-time as a translation project manager earning the minimum wage and juggling my professional and academic life as best as I could. Initially navigating the dual demands of the worlds of academia and employment, I devoted time and energy to advance my research while meeting professional obligations. Surprisingly, I managed to obtain a research fellowship, which prompted me to quit my job and leave the translation world behind. And thus, my research became my job. In my presentation, I will be discussing the challenges I found in that transition, the advantages and disadvantages of both modalities, always tainted by the looming presence of the spectre of impostor syndrome, and the differences in my everyday life since. Moreover, I would also like to share strategies that worked for me in navigating these challenges and boosting creativity when my brain cells seemed to be non-existent, hoping to create an open dialogue between the full-time and the part-time PhD candidates fostering an exchange of ideas to support each other and find growth in our differences. At the end of the day, whether part-time or full-time, our goal is the same: to finish our PhD thesis (before it finishes us).

Bionote:

Marta Bagüés Bautista is a PhD candidate at the Department of English and German Philology of the University of Zaragoza, a position she obtained in December 2022, after being granted a competitive research fellowship financed by the Diputación General de Aragón (DGA). Marta graduated in English Studies in 2019 and she also obtained an MA in Translation and Technologies, which allowed her to work as a translator and a project manager for several private companies. Marta is currently writing her PhD thesis on the representation of time, vulnerability and borders in Ali Smith's Seasonal Quartet, under the supervision of Dr. Maite Escudero Alías. Her main research interests focus on feminist criticism, vulnerability studies and contemporary British fiction.