In this newsletter, I will talk about the dissertation process, and how this process can be made more humane. The barriers to completing the dissertation are institutional, preparedness issues, and personal. To overcome these stumbling blocks I’ll discuss academic tools and resources to move you forward.

**Institutional barriers.** Not many graduate students go through the dissertation process unscathed. I’ve met a few of them over the years and looked at them with wonder, and a bit of envy. For the rest of us, there are tons of rocks on the road and trials by fire. So let me state the obvious: dissertation is not only about conducting research (as we believed it should be), but rather about our persistence to jump through hoops, response to seemingly endless revisions or to IRB committees we’ve never met (maybe even committee members we’ve never met), navigating conflicting committee feedback, or worse, working with incompetent or uncommitted committee members.

**Preparedness issues.** A primary dissertation or thesis issue is the conducting of quantitative analyses. I’ve spoken to hundreds of students who’ve taken statistics courses 3 or more years ago. Exposure to a multivariate class or two will most likely not prepare you to assess homoscedacity in a regression, or inform you that samples of 50 or more one could assume normality. Passing a class is not going to prepare you for the statistical scrutiny of a committee or IRB.

**Personal issues.** Dissertations, while a solitary process, is not done in a vacuum. Husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, children and parents go through the process too. The process can have an all too often a negative impact on all of them. Most of you reading this newsletter are not 22 years old; you have adult issues to deal with and there are unfortunately divorces, deaths, illnesses, work-related issues, and other personal barriers that slowdown the process.

I’m going to change all of this, and it starts with a free webinar on July 24th, at 8pm EST. During the webinar we will cover:

- Why it is important to start with the methods chapter (despite that its numbered chapter 3)
- Dealing with frustrated committee and family members
- Making sure your study is doable
- Dealing with pressures and motivation surrounding the dissertation process
- Q & A

Second, as a bonus, all attendees will be given a standard membership (an $89 value) for free that will greatly assist you with your methodology chapter.

To assist you with the results chapter, I’m going to preview for you Statistics Solutions Pro™—an online application that lets you conduct your Results Chapter statistics in minutes rather than weeks. The application will change the landscape on quantitative results chapters across the Country.
I’m excited to present this webinar and know it will positively change the trajectory of your research. You also get to tell your partner that you are taking steps to reduce the amount of time and money you are spending on your academic process.

I want this to be a very successful event and I’m asking for your help: please forward this newsletter on to all of your colleagues and post in your social media outlets.

I’m looking forward to seeing you all there. Let’s move on to our best lives!

Warm regards,

James Lani, Ph.D.