

Transcript: Michelle Bolduc on the value of the viva

Michelle Bolduc

The process of submitting your thesis, of going through the viva, is admittedly inherently stressful, but it really is designed to make sure that your work is the best that it can be, and that's what we're aiming for.

Edward Mills

I certainly found in my experience with you as my internal that that was what I got out of the viva. It was very stressful beforehand. I was incredibly nervous going into it: I may have may have walked the entire circumference of the small room I was in about 50 times beforehand. But coming out of it, I definitely felt like the comments that I got had the potential to make the thesis better. And the list of comments that I got, which I then went away and put into an Excel spreadsheet, really were a crucial tool when it came to revising the thesis and making it better; I think, to come back to a term that you've used the you know,

Michelle Bolduc

You know, the other thing about the viva that's really, really lovely and amazing is that you're having a discussion about your work with two experts, and you might have a four-hour conversation about your work.

Edward Mills

You very well might, yes!

Michelle Bolduc

And how rare is that? I mean, how it's so unusual that you're able to get so much feedback and have to be engaged in this really intellectually stimulating conversation, not just for half an hour, but for four hours on a subject that means so much to you. So I think I think there is something really special about the viva, because it really is all about you and all about your work. And that kind of attention isn't always so common.