

## *Reflexivity: a missing piece in the postgraduate supervision puzzle*

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Keywords: reflexivity, critical reflection, postgraduate supervision; decoloniality

### **Abstract**

Fifty eight years ago Frantz Fanon wrote about decolonization of the mind in his book titled: 'The Wretched of the Earth'. One of the arguments Fanon advanced is encapsulated in this statement: "*The unpreparedness of the educated classes, the lack of practical links between them and the mass of the people...let it be said, their cowardice at the decisive moment of the struggle will give rise to tragic mishaps.*" (1963: 211). In concurring with Fanon I argue that in the supervision of postgraduate students, as well as in research methodology syllabi to guide postgraduate students' research processes, critical reflexivity is not nuanced enough to enable intellectual transformation of postgraduate students. In this paper critical reflexivity is defined as the capacity to draw from self-reflection in a way that allows collaboration of all sensory and intuitive modalities, to consider the bases of theoretical and methodological assumptions, while conscious of the disciplinary lenses that inform current thinking. The outcome of reflexivity is the ability to transform self and society. I argue that reflexivity offers new routes for theorisation that would emancipate the mind from the colonial discourse that educators unconsciously inherited from the Western ways of knowledge production. The data I used for the study incorporated the masters level research methodology syllabus as well as the concluding remarks of literature review chapters of 42 masters dissertations who completed their masters programme at the School of Business Leadership between 2015-2021. I found that there is room to transform the research methodology syllabus to build critical reflexivity capabilities of postgraduate students.

## Course Curriculum

- Module 1: Key Concepts in Research Methodology
- Module 2: The Research Problem
- Module 3: Research Approach and Design
- Module 4: Data Sources and Data Collection
- Module 5: Data Analysis
- Module 6: The Research Report
- Module 7: The Habits of a Good Researcher