STORIES
and
REFLECTIONS
on STUDENT SUPERVISION

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SUPERVISION IS A TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BUT LISTENING IS MORE IMPORTANT

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Having graduated from the University of Manchester with a PhD degree in Accounting in 2010, I do not consider myself as a freshly PhD-graduated academic, nor do I view myself as a senior academic staff who has vast experiences in postgraduate supervision. Nevertheless, despite the restrictive years of supervision, I think I am entitled to share some of my personal observations of what postgraduate supervision at both the Masters and PhD levels involves.

To date, I have supervised six Masters students to completion; (in addition to one student who is still undergoing supervision) and I have three PhD students, one of whom has recently passed his PhD viva with minor corrections. Although my supervision experience is less than five years, my ability to supervise nine postgraduate students and enabled some to complete, makes me realize that supervision is a relatively unique experience which varies from individuals to individuals in accordance to the personality and individual characteristics of the supervisor as well as of each student.

This is clear when we observe how we as individuals speak differently to different people whom we meet and interact with every day of our lives. Moreover, we each have moods and these can waver from moment to moment or day to day. Therefore, as human being, we are not consistent because our moods are affected by our thoughts and the things that happen around us. This implies that depending on our moods and the moods of our respective participants, what we say and how we say certain things vary and they can affect our participants. This means that we could