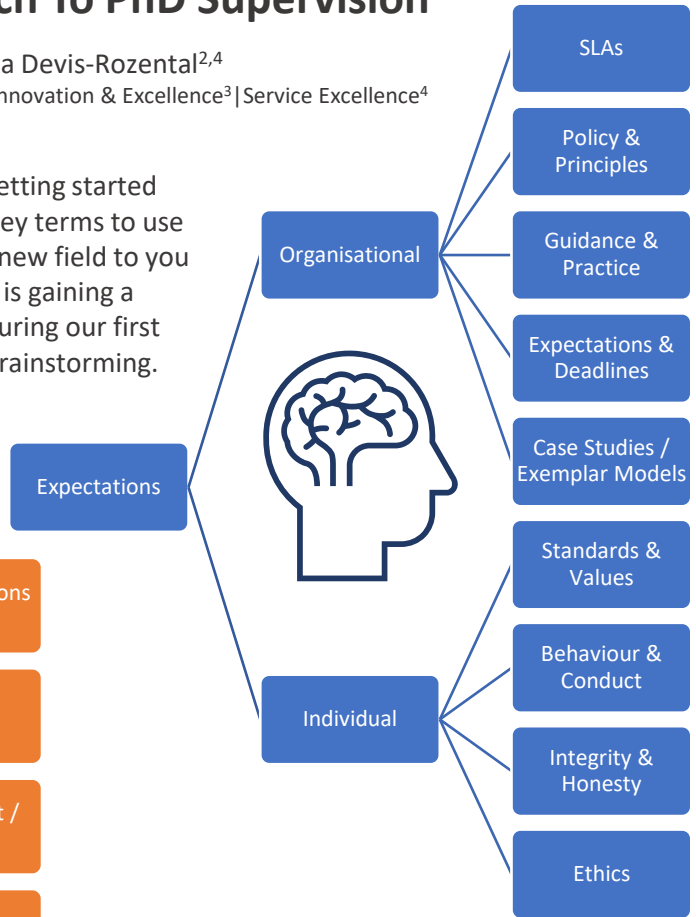


# Identifying Factors Influencing Research Culture: An Embodied Relational Understanding Approach To PhD Supervision

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As a new PhD student it can be a daunting experience getting started with reviewing the literature, and not being sure what key terms to use in your search strategy. This is especially true if this is a new field to you as the researcher. One approach to taking this first step is gaining a broader understanding on the field being researched. During our first supervisory meeting, we took a quick fire approach to brainstorming.

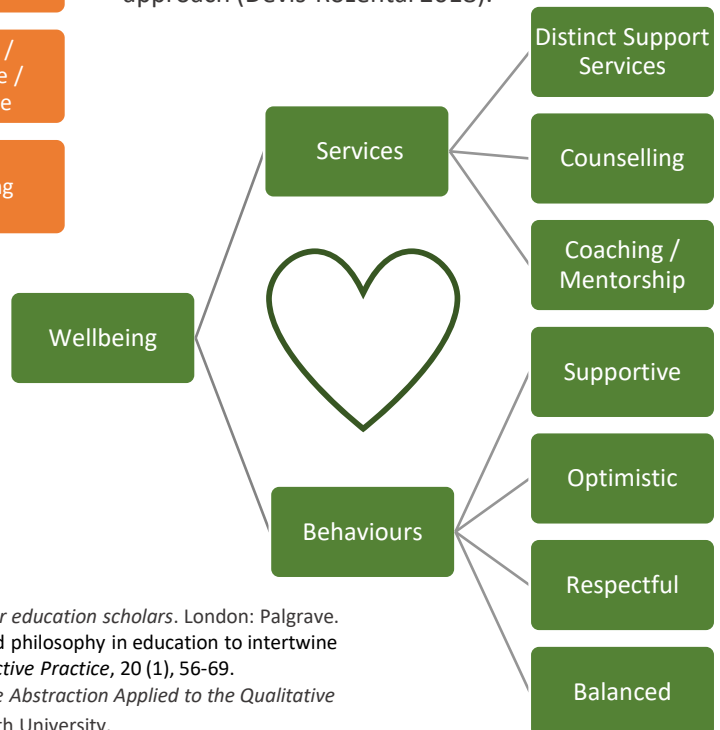
Each member of the team entered words and phrases representing what a 'positive research culture' meant to them, with the data being collected in Mentimeter from which a comprehensive word cloud was generated.



Undertaking a Recursive Abstraction (Polkinghorne and Arnold 2014) of the word cloud, three diagrams were produced illustrating the primary themes derived from the activity. Analysing these themes further revealed that when exploring 'positive research culture' we were actually taking a 'head, hand and heart' approach (Devis-Rozental 2018).

We were practicing with an "embodied relational understanding [which] refers to a way of knowing that is contextual, holistic, and attentive" (Hörberg et al. 2019, p. 64).

During this activity, we drew on our own experiences, understanding and feelings of what it is like to exist as a PGR, and how these experiences past and present have influenced our way of knowing and being. This result was a good starting point for reviewing the literature.



## References

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