



# USING AI TO FACILITATE FEEDBACK ON THE LEARNING EXPERIENCES OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

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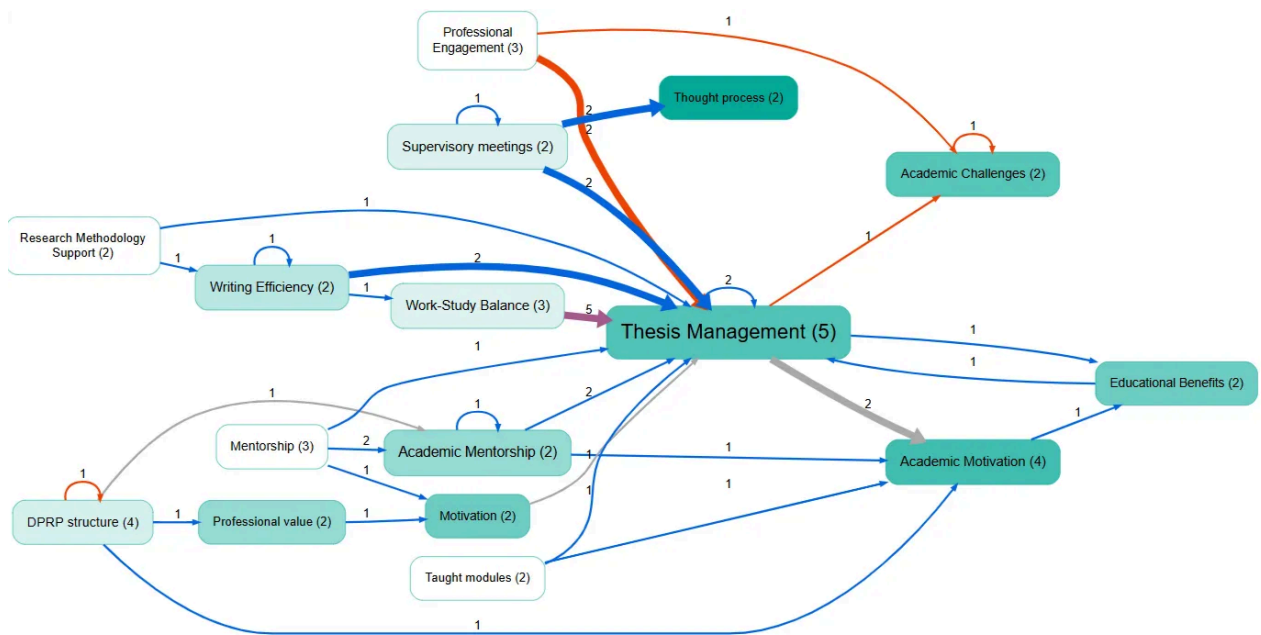
## Summary

The Causal Map team has conducted a trial of an innovative approach to securing feedback from students using online open-ended interviews conducted by the app [QualiaInterviews](#), which uses generative AI (gen-AI), followed by a second use of gen-AI within the app **Causal Map** to semi-automate causal coding of the narrative transcripts thereby generated. The trial was conducted with students registered on the doctorate in policy research and practice (DPRP) at the **University of Bath**.

## The pilot

We report on the trial of an innovative approach to securing feedback from students using online open-ended interviews conducted by the app Qualia, which uses generative AI (gen-AI), followed by a second use of gen-AI within the app Causal Map to semi-automate causal coding of the narrative transcripts thereby generated. The trial was conducted with students registered on the doctorate in policy research and practice (DPRP) at the University of Bath, a part-time programme for mid-career policy professionals. This generated credible evidence of diverse positive and negative drivers of learning from eleven students. The trial suggests that incorporation of gen-AI into causal mapping of narrative data about students' study experiences enhances the potential to use the method cost-effectively on a larger scale, whether alongside or instead of more traditional approaches to eliciting student feedback on teaching and learning.

**Keywords:** *AI; Causal mapping; Doctoral studies; Generative AI; Qualitative data analysis, Student evaluation*



Link: 685. Filename: james-dprp-research. Citation coverage 59%. 44 of 74 total citations and 6 of 6 total coded sources are shown here.  
 Numbers on factors show source count. Factor sizes show citation count. Darker factor colours show greater outcomeness.  
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 Zooming in to level 1 of the hierarchy. Auto clustering factors using label set 2. Top 20 factors by source count.

[See our findings in this paper](#)

[See a summarised report in this presentation](#)