
What is the Impact of a Doctorate in Business Administration?

Michel Kalika, Business Science Institute

Lapo Mola, SKEMA Business School

Jean Moscarola, Business Science Institute

Stephen Platt, Business Science Institute



Motivation for the study

- Business Science Institute - a distributed network running a single DBA programme is currently involved in an international accreditation process.
- At the beginning of this process, a reviewer asked us
“ What is the impact of the DBA for those students who succeed?”
- A very good question, so we decided to carry out a study to help us find the answer(s)!

Literature review on executive, post-graduate education

- So far few contributions on the impact of DBAs:
 - Focus on the impact of DBA managerial practices (Bulger, Lytinen & Salipante, 2018) or on research methodologies (Davies, 2016).
- Most of the literature on post-graduate education discusses the impact of MBAs: Focus
 - on managerial skills (Mihail & Kloutsiniotis, 2014),
 - on graduate careers (Baruch & Peiperl, 2000) or
 - on improving critical thinking (Alfaro-Gramajo, Pérez-Pineda, Quintanilla & Sanz, 2013).

Research Context:

- Business Science Institute is a networked organisation created in 2013
 - We run just a single DBA programme (3 years).
 - Partnership with iaelyon School of Management, University of Lyon; SKEMA Business School; University of Technology Sydney Business School.
 - A network of more than 100 professors worldwide.
 - 143 DBA students, 35 nationalities.
 - Face to face & distance learning.
 - 3 working languages (French, English, German).
 - 35 *viva voce* oral examinations (last week of September, in Wiltz Castle, Luxemburg).
 - 17 books published in both paper & electronic versions.

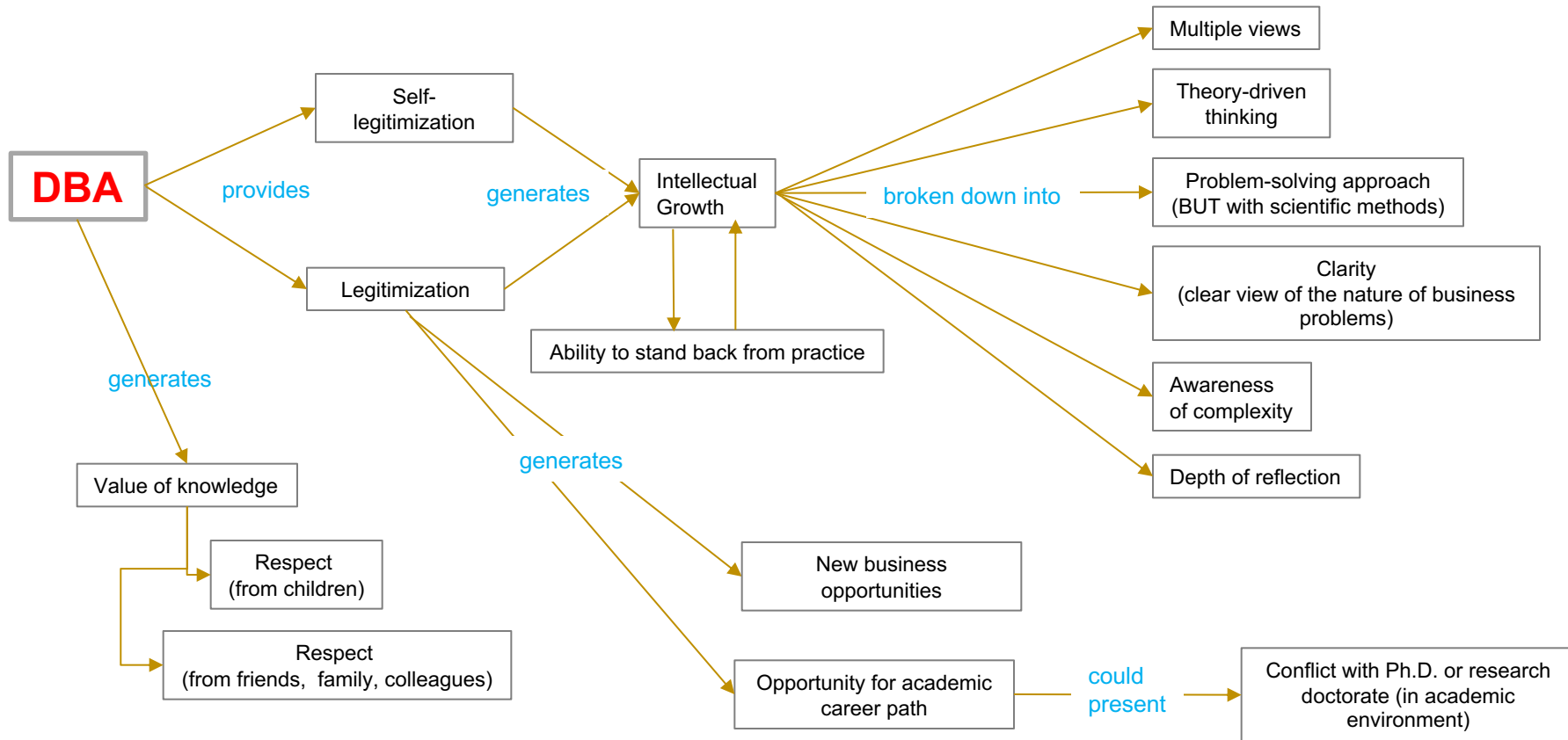
Methodology

- Qualitative explorative study on our DBA graduates
 - Data Source
 - 6 different focus group interviews with our Doctors in Business Administration (19 participants out of the 35 graduates = 54%).
 - Each focus group lasted 60-90 minutes .
 - Due to the GEOGRAPHICAL dispersion of the participants (Europe and Africa) use of IT based support (skype multi-call).
 - All focus group interviews were recorded.
 - Analysis:
 - Content analysis
 - Typology, correspondence analysis
- Data collection
 - Semi-structured questionnaire
 - Three blocks
 - Impact of the DBA on the professional sphere at individual level
 - Impact of the DBA on the professional sphere at team/organizational level
 - Impact of the DBA on the personal sphere

Analysis of the data (content analysis)

- Emerging concepts
 - Legitimization
 - Self-legitimization
 - Intellectual growth
 - Theory-driven thinking
 - Depth of reflection
 - Problem-solving approach (BUT with scientific methods)
 - Ability to stand back from practice
 - Awareness of complexity
 - Multiple views
 - Respect (from children)
 - Respect (from friends, family, colleagues)
 - Value of knowledge
 - Clarity (clear view of the nature of business problems)
 - Opportunity for academic career path
 - Conflict with Ph.D. or research doctorate (in academic environment)

Attempting a model for describing impact



Typology & Mapping

Etre docteur, en quoi cela a-t-il changé votre vie personnelle et professionnelle?



Votre façon de travailler a-t-elle changée ?




Votre carrière a-t-elle changée



Quels ont été les impact de cette formation ?



Typologie 

Acquisition de Compétences (7)	Expérience de la recherche (4)	
	Regard (4)	Promotions (4)

Cliquer sur les catégories de profil pour voir les mots clés correspondant

Mapping

- *In what way has becoming a qualified Doctor of Business changed your private or professional life?*
 - Recognition
- *Has your career changed?*
 - Research
 - Thesis
 - Change
- *Has your way of working changed?*
 - Rigour
 - Position
 - Different
- *What has been the impact of studying for a DBA?*
 - Thesis
 - Opinion
 - Impact
 - Work

Results : DBA generates changes in....

- The perception of others
 - Family
 - Colleagues
 - Partners
- Careers
 - Promotion
 - Changes
 - New clients
- On the way of thinking

Limits

- Short term vision of the impact: recent graduates
- Limited number of participants (19)
- Coming from only one DBA programme



What is the Impact of a Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA)?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Michel Kalika, Business Science Institute
Lapo Mola, SKEMA Business School
Jean Moscarola, Business Science Institute
Stephen Platt, Business Science Institute

