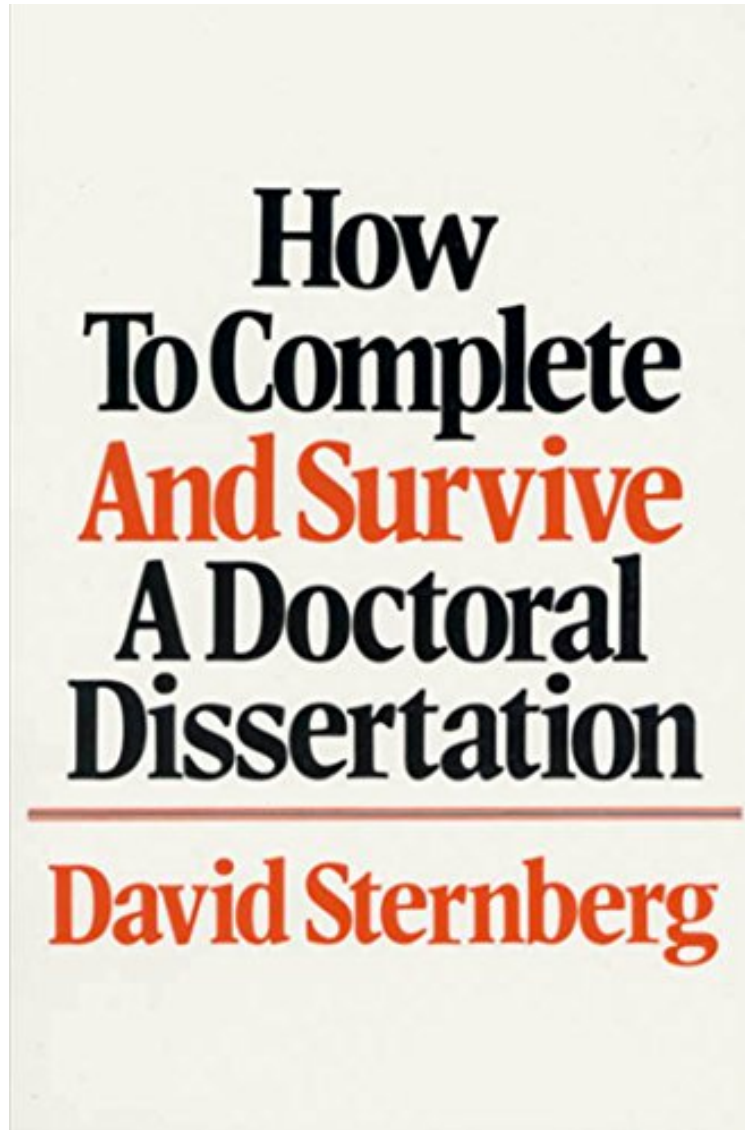


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# How to Complete and Survive a Doctoral Dissertation

*Von David Sternberg*

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**Von David Sternberg : How to Complete and Survive a Doctoral Dissertation** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Complete and Survive a Doctoral Dissertation:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. If you're approaching your diss READ THIS BOOK! Von Ein Kunde After finishing my comps I wanted a book that would address the last hurdle toward my PhD. I spent a couple of hours in the library thumbing through "how-to-write-a-dissertation" books and finding nothing more than uninteresting collisions of the MLA Manual of Style and Williams'

Style (an excellent book BTW). Then I found *How to Complete and Survive a Dissertation* -- the only reason I pulled it off the shelf was the word "survive" in the title. I believe this book will help me not only survive the diss but also complete it in a timely fashion - Thus far, after a mere week in my possession, it has explained the reason I have become invisible in my department! I knew I needed my own copy. Yes, it is depressing -- but it is better to know what you are up against than to stick your head in the sand and ignore the problems. Yes, it is dated in parts -- you don't need to read the sections on using a computer -- still, even though the statistics are from the late 1970s, they are no less telling about the plight of many an ABD over the last 30 years. Lastly, I would also recommend this book to the significant other of the ABD. It clarifies the process and the pitfalls. It is, as promised, a survival guide surpassing all the deadly "how-to" books.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A structured approach which gives one a feeling of control. Von Ein Kunde Sternberg's book performs two important functions for the ABD: providing basic (but sensible) advice on rearranging one's personal life to accommodate the dissertation writing activity, and soothing the panic of the dissertation myths which he insightfully identifies and disarms. I had been trying to write my dissertation at my office (I'm a college lecturer); naturally I met with the difficulties of a remote and distracted work environment. Sternberg's suggestion of creating a separate dissertation office at home (and keeping a log to monitor how much work one is really doing there) turned out to be a boon. Secondly is his suggestion of an on-going, revised, expansive "prospectus", as a mini-dissertation. This gives the candidate a concrete picture of the end product. Lastly, his suggestion of the "dissertation file" was a life saver. I had been drowning in inspirational scraps of paper, and was easily distracted by "new and cool" things that I hit upon (my dissertation is in "cultural studies," a field full of inspirational cul-de-sacs); his suggestion of having a file even for these things did much to both defuse the power of these sparks of enthusiasm, as well as allow me to focus and expand in the areas which are clearly important. The demythologizing of the dissertation myths is fairly reassuring, and shows that Sternberg (who apparently runs a dissertation completion consultation service) has a lot of experience with these anxieties. There is, however, little here for the www generation, and almost no mention of use of personal computers, but that is not the focus of the book. It doesn't tell you how to research and compose your proposals and the like; it's about adjusting your life to complete the task. Also, most of the advice on the "politics" of the the committee is wasted on many European ABDs as the committee is often not assembled until the work is already submitted and accepted by the university. Sternberg's book gave me ! a feeling that I was "riding my dissertation" instead of it riding me, which, as any ABD can tell you, is an especially intense nightmare.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A must read if you are an ABD. Von Attilio Rizzo Jr Kev and Laurel, you must read this book. It has helped me to feel human in the midst of such anxiety. I thought I was the only one who had the feelings I was experiencing. I love the part when the author states that the proposal approval is a victory for the ABD, and that the proverbial "second wind" can accompany this part of the process. How to pick an advisor was especially right on target also: I laughed out loud. Though the date is 1981, for the most part, the general themes in this book are dead on to what we are going through as ABD's. I love this book. Gotta get back to the proposal. Ciao.

Kurzbeschreibung *How to Complete and Survive a Doctoral Dissertation* by David Sternberg Mastering these skills spells the difference between "A.B.D." and "Ph.D."-refuting the magnum opus myth-coping with the dissertation as obsession (magnificent or otherwise)-the fine art of selecting a topic-writing the dissertation with publication in mind-when to stand your ground and when to prudently retreat if the committee's conception of your thesis differs substantially from your own-dealing with obstructive committee members, and keeping the fences mended-how to reconsider "negative" findings as useful data-reviewing your progress, and getting out of the "dissertation dumps"-defending your paper successfully--distinguishing between mere formalities and a serious substantive challenge-exploiting the career potential of your dissertation-and much, much more

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Synopsis Offers practical advice on the technical and psychological problems of planning and presenting a doctoral thesis.