Exercises

# Chapter 11: Making good use of your supervisor

## Exercise 1: Assess your relationship with your supervisor

If you are beginning your research, ask your supervisor for a meeting to review the contents of Tables 11.3 and 11.4 in the book. Check whether these features fit your supervisor’s view of your relationship.

## Exercise 2: Work with your supervisor to understand your project

Here are a few activities which you might ask your supervisor to think about doing with you (adapted from Becker, 1998):

1. Offering a snap characterization of your work which you can, if you wish, deny and thereby be helped to get a better understanding of what you are doing.

2. Challenging any generalization that you come up with by asking ‘Or else what?’ You will then probably find that something you thought impossible (about your topic) happens all the time.

3. Cutting through purely theoretical characterizations of your work by giving you a limited task which asks you to begin from one situation or datum and then to theorize through it.