

John Mawer

## Feedback on coursework provided by Professor Paul Dowling

### *Critical Review of MacRuairc and Dunne & Gazeley*

The emphasis in this review is clearly placed in the theoretical field and on the substantive research interests of the papers that are reviewed and in this respect demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of relevant research in issues. Rather less attention is paid to the methods deployed and this is a pity, though there is evidence of a good grasp of the methodological issues that are raised.

### *Proposal*

I am a little concerned that the candidate seems to be intending to analyse all 2000 reports that are available in his database. If this is indeed the intention, then I would suggest the deployment of a sampling strategy other than going for 100%. Apart from this, the proposal again shows a sophisticated understanding of a range of relevant research literature. Again, the emphasis is on the theoretical field, but the proposal also evidences a good understanding of relevant methodological issues and is refreshingly reflexive.

### *General Comments*

This work is clearly of a very high standard in terms of both the range and understanding shown in respect of literature covered and of the ability demonstrated in the construction of an argument. The work is also well written and presented.