

Excerpts from progress reports on MK's PhD by Professor Jenny Saul

June 2013

3. Supervisor's Statement:

The challenges Maria has faced throughout her PhD have been enormous, and they show no sign of letting up. She has huge financial and familial responsibilities, and these have only worsened with her husband's ill health. Yet nonetheless the work she is producing is of the very highest quality. The two chapters I just read are pretty much publishable as they stand. It is very important that we support Maria as she finishes her dissertation. She is just the sort of non-traditional student that it is vital to support—especially in a field like philosophy where very few women (and even fewer with children) manage to complete their PhDs. I give her my strongest possible support.

February 2014

Maria is an extremely talented philosopher and a very hard-working student. However, she is struggling against personal circumstances that make it nearly impossible to work. The work she does produce continues to be of extremely high quality, and I remain confident that she will finish a first-rate PhD, despite her difficulties. She is nearly there, and I think it's vital that we continue to support her. I think this is especially important in a field (Philosophy) that is 80% male worldwide, and enormously skewed toward traditional students: we need to make sure we don't lose a talented woman with huge caregiving responsibilities.