

## **Janice Kentala moderation notes on Carin Tabag's pre-thesis proposal**

**How clear is the purpose?** Clear and focused purpose; Understand jury decision making process and how their experiences with the landscape influence this process with a focus specifically as to how this applies to toxic tort trials.

**Data/Methodology clarity?** Surveys, semi-structured interviews, focus group(s) and the use of Nvivo for data processing; A strong structure with great potential; For the purpose of the proposal, there should be more clarification as to how source selection of interviews and focus group(s) will be determined and justify; Clarify the decision making process and/or the structure of the focus group(s); Survey process should be briefly expanded upon; Choice of locations should be justified further; Additional/supplemental demographic information from 2010 Census should be clarified.

**Results intended?** “develop a common sense understanding of how laws regarding hazardous chemicals should be implemented”, and expose/uncover this gap/opportunity and contribute to the body of research encompassing legal geographies and landscape studies.

**Why?** Bring clarity to a part of the jury deliberation process and decision prediction studies; Contribute the current body of research;

### **Strengths:**

Clear improvement on thesis statement; focused  
Very well written  
Purpose and gap are clear  
Presents a strong and understandable justification  
Data and methods have the potential to produce useable data

### **Suggestions:**

Include citations regarding geography and landscape body of research  
Sentence structure could be improved/re-ordered in a few places  
Define terms and processes more clearly and focus explanations toward the universal reader.  
More detail on data and methods  
Potentially including a professional perspective or the traditional professional focus/process may reinforce your argument in regards to the gap and what needs to be explored further in order to understand the decision making process.

### **Plus:**

The knowledge gained/revealed in this research has the potential to be applied outside of toxic torts; The focus and process presented have the potential to cross over, not only to other types of trials, but if your process of data and methodology prove fruitful, could be applied to individual and group decision making interpretation and prediction.