

University of Dundee

COVID-19 and Divided States of Europe

Ota, Keiko

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Doctoral Research presentation

Overview

11 Jan. 2021

COVID-19 and Divided States of Europe

Sino-European Relationship after the Covid-19 Pandemic
and the EU's attempt to re-evaluate the Sino-European relation

Keiko Ota

Doctoral Research in
Politics and International Relations





Yes or No ?

- **Did the Covid-19 Pandemic alter the trajectory of EU-China Relations?**



How?

- **How does above policy influence Sino-European industrial relations?**
- As for the trade of states' strategic sectors and import of basic goods, do member states shift for a protection from China as advised by the EU, or welcome Chinese goods and investments to recover from the recession?






Gain or Lose?


- **Does China gain or lose political influence over Europe in the aftermath of the Covid-19?**

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Background : Covid-19 as of today (11 Jan. 2021)

11 Jan. 2021

	Infected	Casualty	Population	Ratio
	85,929,428	1,876,100	7.8 b	1.1%
	97,217	4,795	1.393b	0.0069%
	16,139,574	389,333	446 m	36,18%



The declaration of Pandemic:
Zoonotic spillover:
Possible Causes:

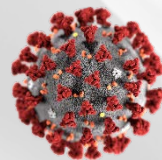
11th March 2020

2-3 times higher (c.f. 40 years ago)

200 events / annual

Increase in population, Density in metropolises, Expansion into wildlife area

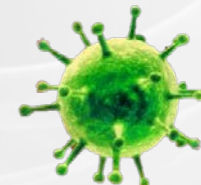
Examples: SARS(2003)



HINI Swine Flu(2009)



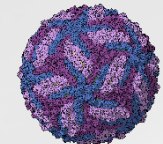
MERS(2012)



Ebola(2014)



ZIKA(2016)



- **Karl Marx (1848)** Globalization = An inevitable product of capitalism
 - **Nye & Keohane (1997)** Complex interdependence theory
 - > Reduction of war and disruptive measurements
 - > Reconciliation via negotiations
- ↕
- **Covid-19 pandemic** A negative product of globalism under the complex interdependence
- ↕
- ***Do states move away from the complex interdependence?***



Pre-existing difficulties

- Rising Production Costs
- Growing Tariff Pressure
- Intellectual Properties
- Slow down of Domestic Economy
- Oversupply of Domestic Investment
- World's dependency on Chinese manufacturing (E.g. Over half of masks produced in China)



Lesson from 2008 Crisis

- Accelerated PRC Investments by SOEs & Joint-Venture with European firms
- Chinese FDI 37% ↑ (2008-15)
200b USD (2005-2016)



Pre-existing difficulties

- Western Value under pressure (US Trump, Brexit, China/Russia)
- Capitalism, globalization, multi-institutionalism, advocacy of democracy
- Complex & Contradictory :
Public: PRC as employment threat
Business Elites/ Some Gvmnts: PRC as an opportunity due to investment flow



- **China's motivation for further Oversea Investment**
The Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) & New Silk Road
- Infrastructure Projects (Ports, Trains, Real estate) & High Value Added Area (Robotics, Chemical, Semiconductor etc.) while increasing influence in 5G/AI



- **Walking away from PRC?**
- China + one location (Western Balkan, Africa)
- Causes European Business less competitive? (Reduction of manufacturing technique, reduce inventory & idol moments, Worker's knowhow)

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Literature Review: Pre Covid19 / Sino-European Relations

11 Jan. 2021

Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3



Period

**Before 2003
Beginning**

**2003-2005
Honeymoon**

**2006-2009
PRC's disappointment**

Relation
Status

- Till 1975, Multilateral basis
- 1898 Tiananmen
- Late 1990s modernization attempt by EU
- 2001 PRC WTO
- Deng Xiao Ping's 5 Principles of Peaceful Co-existence

- EU's attempt to political integrate PRC internationally
- 2003 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with PRC
- PRC's demand: One China Policy, Non interference into its domestic matters (Taiwan, Tibet etc.)

- Growing responsibility (Sensitive issues: Technology)
- 2008-09 European leaders meeting with Dalai-Lama
- 11th EU China Summit canceled
- 2008 Financial Crisis (EU sovereign debt crisis)
- EU becomes more accommodating to PRC
- 2005 Not lifting Arms Export Ban
- Beijing not accorded Market economy status

Phase 4



Phase 5



Period

2010-2015

PRC's Tactics

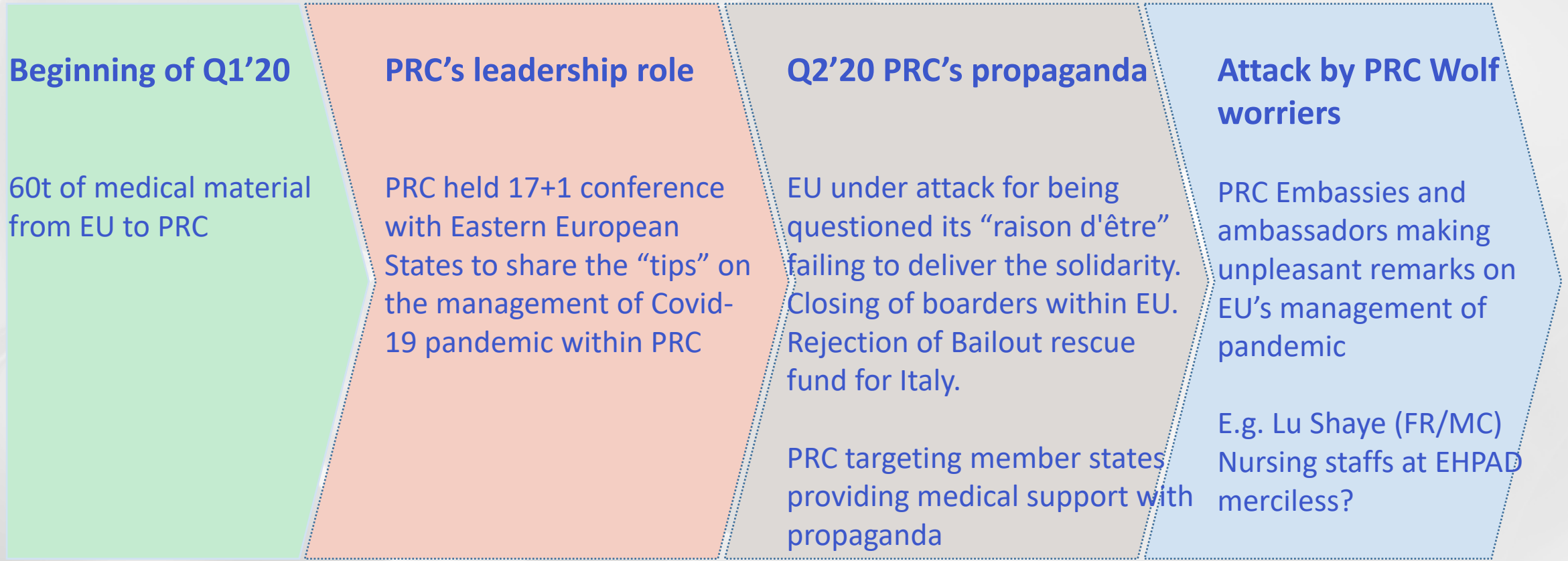
- 2014-15 Solar Panel Conflict (Anti-dumping)
- PRC's well targeted probe on wine & threat to regulate luxury cars from EU
- Turned Germany against EU Commission
- Berlin as a proxy Brussel

Relation Status

2016 onwards

PRC's Assertiveness

- Eroding Confidence with Brexit & Trump
- EU needs PRC's engagements in international community
- Fear of Sino-Russian Strategic Alignment (2014 Crimea)
- PRC's objective as plurilateral parallel orders (2016 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank / C.f. ADB)
->The most influential decision making as Business
- EU: a polity *Sui Generis* : EU's different qualities of incoherence & inconsistency from what appears in national and foreign policies
Instrumental asymmetry -> In favor for PRC
- 2020: 27 European heads were to meet PRC for the first time in Leipzig (Huawei 5G network, cyber security etc.)
Mere strategic Partner -> Economic Competitor
1.7b Euro trade a year. China as the EU's 2nd bigger trading partner



Pro-PRC

Eg. IT, ES, GR, CZ, BZ, AT, SRB

Anti-PRC

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Literature Review: From Covid19 / Sino-European Relation

11 Jan. 2021

PRC->Member states

- BRI & New Silk Road Project
- M&A, Looking for a bargain
- Propaganda to divide EU, increase of Political power over South/Eastern Europe

Member states ->PRC

- Different Interests
- Investment to reinstate its affected economy

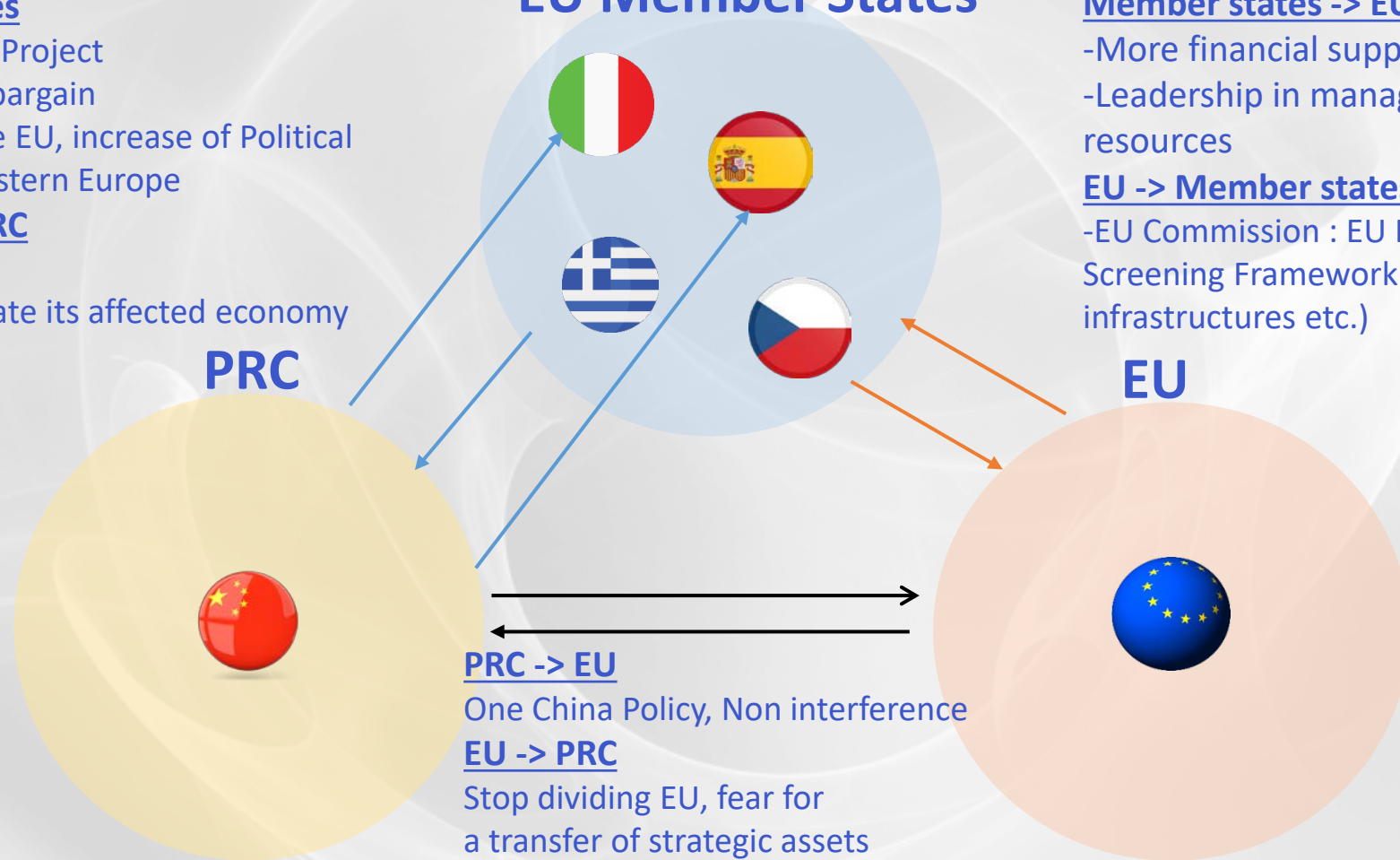
EU Member States

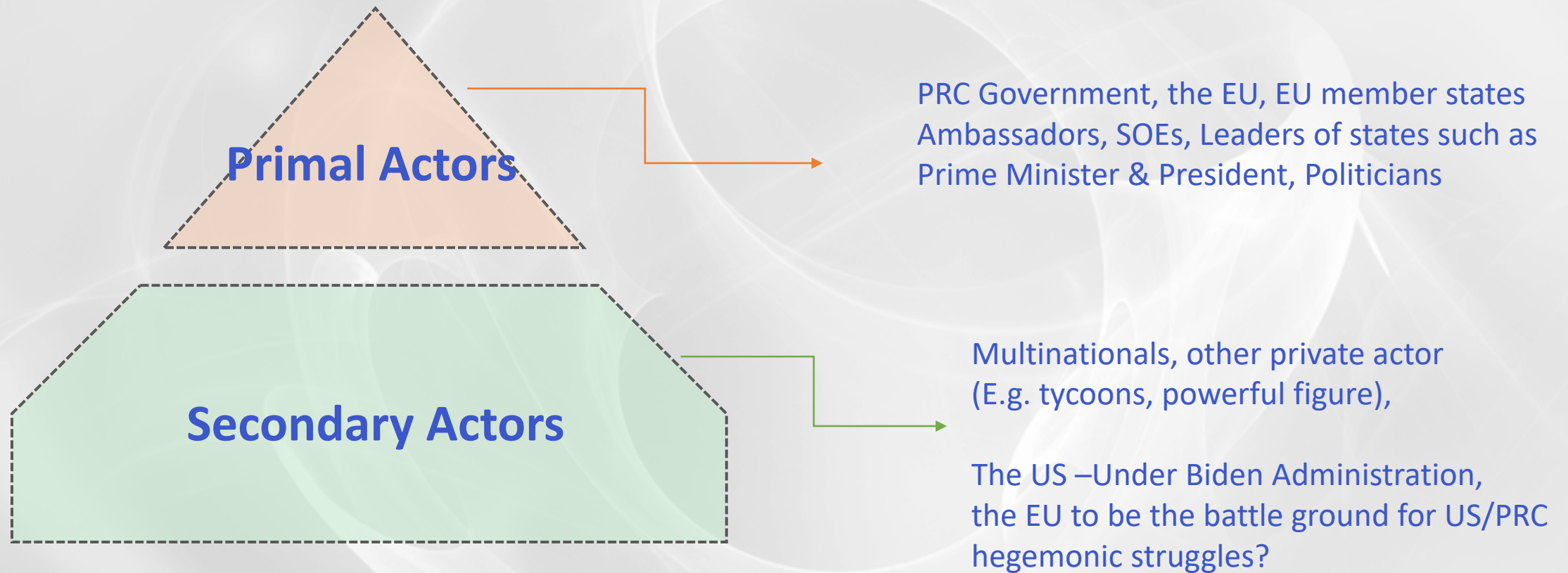
Member states -> EU

- More financial support and unity
- Leadership in managing crisis & resources

EU -> Member states

- EU Commission : EU Investment Screening Framework (5G network, AI, infrastructures etc.)





Quantitative

- Observation of Secondary Data
- Governmental websites, Multilateral organization's website (E.g. WHO)

Qualitative

- Policy papers, journals, academic papers, Research actors (un)official remarks, such as via social media (twitter etc.)

Hypothesis

- ❖ No theory : Unprecedented event of Pandemic
- ❖ No need for a hypothesis? Open end research?
- ❖ EU takes firmer stance towards PRC
- ❖ Avoiding heavy reliance on PRC's FDI or supplies (Roles of DE/FR)?
- ❖ Enlarged Divide between North & South/Eastern member states?
- ❖ Complex Interdependence will continue to last with some frameworks to avoid an excess?

Why? Causal Explanation

- To bridge gaps, **Semi-structured Interview** via Zoom to international policy elites (E.g. PRC officials working in EU embassies)



Anticipated Difficulties

1 : Due to unprecedented and on-going Pandemic, **not enough information / data available?**

-> *Semi-Structured interview to bridge*

2 : How to determine if the pandemic is **the solo cause of the phenomenon** in the highly complex and interdependent international political arena today?



Research Ethics

- ❖ Research Integrity Online Training
- ❖ Research Degrees Quality Code 2020/21
- ❖ Research Postgraduate Training Guide 2020/21



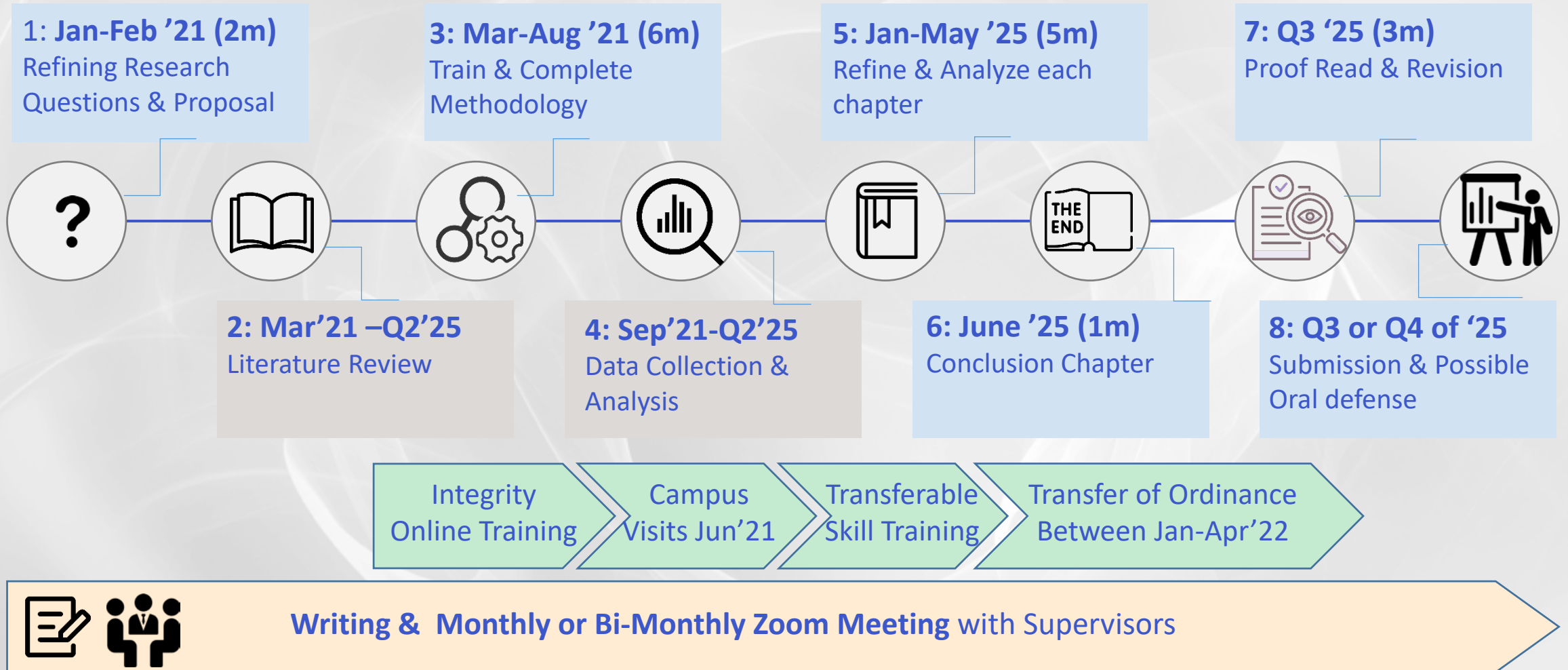
Training Needs Assessment (TNA)

1. **Research technique, Methodology**
 - ❖ Research Designs and Project Planning, Quantitative/Qualitative methods in Social Research
2. **Publishing**, understanding of the research impact beyond academic
3. Undertaking two weeks of **transferable skills training** per year? (PhD Handbook 2020/21)

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Research : Schedule

11 Jan. 2021





Thank you !

As for the source/reference of data and information mentioned on this PowerPoint,
Please kindly refer to the late page of my written PhD proposal.