Track 3 Guide- Planning for the Independent Research Phase

*Self-reflection questions to maximize outcomes from your Track 3 colloquium - From general interests to specific researchable topics*

**Part 1: Turning interests into unanswered questions:**

1. What are some of my ideas for potential dissertation topics?

2. What's not known about these topics?

3. How might research on these topics be used?

**Part 2: Questions stemming from my interests**

4. Using one of my potential topics, ask: “What exactly do I want to find out?”
5. If I stick with one of these topics, what aspect(s) of the topic will I examine?

6. What are the characteristics of the setting where I would conduct the research?

**Part 3: Connection to my academic discipline**

7. How is the problem I'm addressing relevant to my specialization?

8. What theoretical and/or professional issues specific to my specialization will this study deal with?

9. What makes it a topic that is worthy of investigation within my profession?
**Part 4: Theoretical Rationale**

10. What current empirical, theoretical, and practice literatures are associated with the key variables of the problem?

11. Within these literatures, what have other researchers said, written or researched about my topic?

12. How specifically does the literature relate to my research questions?

**Part 5: Research Literature and Methodologies**

13. Does the research design derive logically from the problem and the research question(s) or hypothesis(es)?

14. What are other scholar practitioners in my field using for their methodology?

15. Is the method/instrument appropriate for the question being asked?