



The University of Manchester

Surviving your Viva!

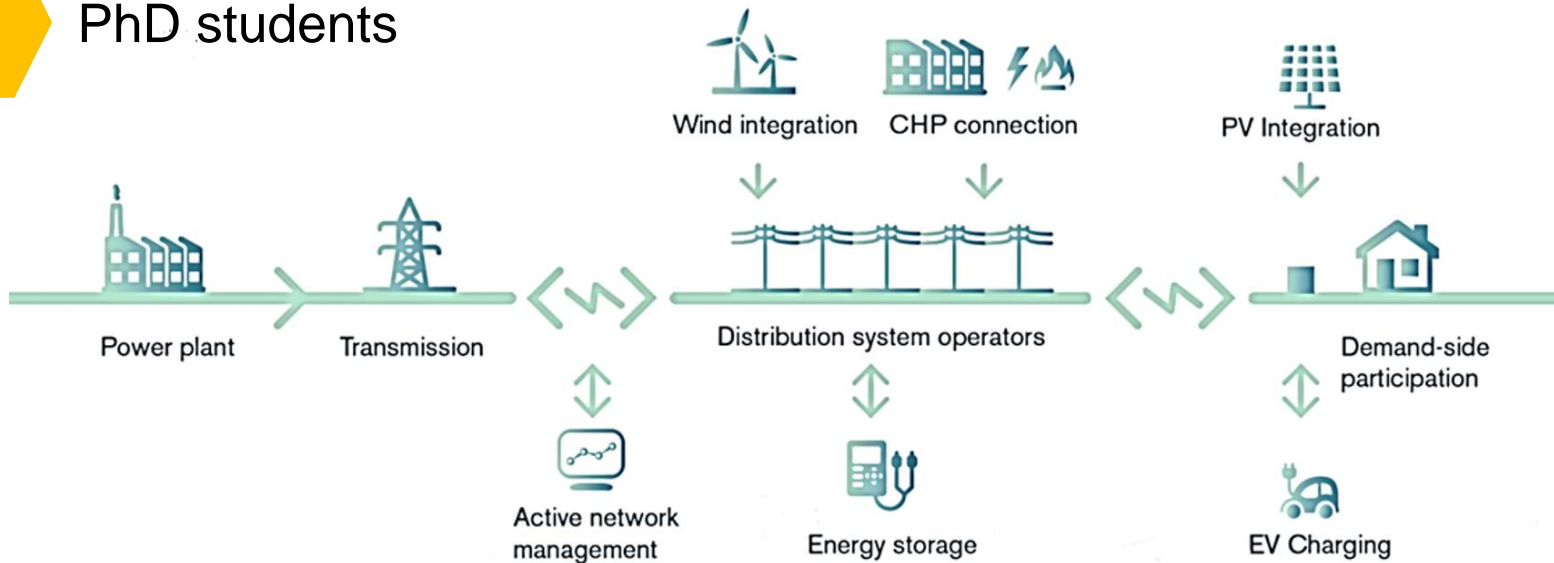
Dr Jelena Ponoćko

Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

IEEE PES Women in Power Representative for Region 8 (Europe, Middle East and Africa)

My research

3 PhD students



My teaching

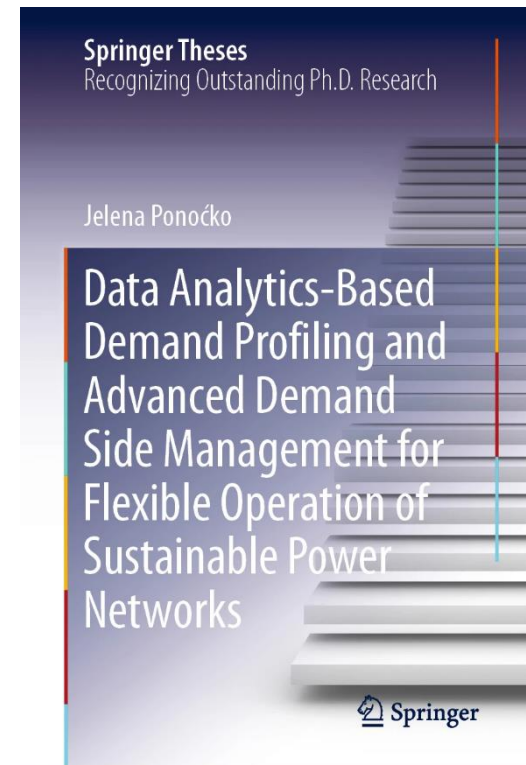
2 MSc taught units

11 MSc students

6 3rd year students

My PhD thesis:

- ✓ awarded with no corrections
- ✓ awarded with Springer prize for scientific excellence and research impact and published in its entirety as a book in Springer's series of best PhD research



Outcomes of a Viva:

A (i)/(ii): Award with no/minor corrections

B (i)/(ii): Allow resubmission without/with the need for a further oral examination

B (iii): Same as B(ii) + further research required

C (i)/(ii): Award MPhil with no/minor corrections

C (iii): Reject but allow resubmission for MPhil within 6 months

C (iv): No award and no resubmission

PhD thesis:

<https://studentnet.cs.manchester.ac.uk/pgr/handbook/>

“All PGRs must produce a thesis, which describes in full detail the wider context of the research field including a **literature review**, the **motivation** for the research, the research which was carried out, an **evaluation** of the results, and a discussion of the **contribution** made to the field by the research and what should be done in the **future**”.

Surviving your Viva:

#1: Your thesis (your story)

- *The introductory chapter is critical!*
- *Formatting and proofreading*
- *Use diagrams for complex methodologies*

#2: Your external examiner

#3: Examination environment (online/in person)

#4: Preparation (key references, theory)

#5: Relax (take a day off before the viva)

#6*: Be ready to defend, up to a point:

“try different routes of explanation, but then to take on examiner’s advice for any changes that would be required”

#7: Have some paper and pens to note down comments

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Thanks!

