PhD Quotes

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This is a series of quotes that I collected the very first day I started my PhD and finished collecting when I defended my dissertation. Originally, it was intended to be a list of quotes that can be used for my thesis, however, it ended up being a log of my state of mind in those years of hard work, frustration and excitement.

Most people would rather be certain they’re miserable than risk being happy.
- Robert Anthony
Careful. We don’t want to learn from this.
- Bill Watterson, "Calvin and Hobbes"
Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of it has tried to contact us.
- Bill Watterson, cartoonist, "Calvin and Hobbes"
The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution
- Bertrand Russell
"The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time.”
- Bertrand Russell
"My definition of an expert in any field is a person who knows enough about what’s really going on to be scared.”
- PJ Plauger
"You know that children are growing up when they start asking questions that have answers.”
- John J. Plomp
"If the facts don’t fit the theory, change the facts.”
- Albert Einstein
"I went into a McDonald’s yesterday and said, ‘I’d like some fries.’ The girl at the counter said, ‘Would you like some fries with that?’”
- Jay Leno
"God runs electromagnetics by wave theory on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and the Devil runs them by quantum theory on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.”
- Sir William Bragg
There are sadistic scientists who hurry to hunt down errors instead of establishing the truth.”
- Marie Curie
"A writer is a person for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.”
- Thomas Mann
" Beati hispani, qvibvs vivere bibere est”
* Traducción: "Dichosos los hispanos, para los que vivir es beber”.
* Nota: En referencia a que los hispanos no distinguen el sonido [b] del
* sonido [v] en latín.

"Tlal tic pac tonichtin ties” Nauhatl “La tierra sera como sean los hombres”

We live on an island surrounded by a sea of ignorance. As our island of knowledge grows, so does the shore of our ignorance.
- John Archibald Wheeler
"Know how to solve every problem that has ever been solved."
- Richard Feynman

"I believe that professional wrestling is clean and everything else in the world is fixed."
- Frank Deford

"It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not to deserve them."
- Mark Twain

The more original a discovery, the more obvious it seems afterwards.
- Arthur Koestler

Any man who afflicts the human race with ideas must be prepared to see them misunderstood.
- HL Mencken

If someone wants a sheep, then that means that he exists.
- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he’s wrong.
- Charles Wadsworth

We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing. Action always generates inspiration. Inspiration seldom generates action.
- Frank Tibolt

Ars Conjectandi, (The Art of Conjecturing)
- Jacob Bernoulli

We do not know what we want and yet we are responsible for what we are - that is the fact.
- Jean-Paul Sartre

"There is a great deal of difference between an eager man who wants to read a book and the tired man who wants a book to read."
- GK Chesterton

apoptosis
n : a type of cell death in which the cell uses specialized cellular machinery to kill itself; a cell suicide mechanism that enables metazoans to control cell number and eliminate cells that threaten the animal’s survival
syn: programmed cell death, caspase-mediated cell death

Anarchism is founded on the observation that since few men are wise enough to rule themselves, even fewer are wise enough to rule others.
- Edward Abbey

"If you tell the truth you don’t have to remember anything."
- Mark Twain

Computer games don’t affect kids, I mean if Pac Man affected us as kids, we’d all be running around in darkened rooms, munching pills and listening to repetitive music.
- Marcus Brigstocke

There are no such things as applied sciences, only applications of science.
- Louis Pasteur

If mankind minus one were of one opinion, then mankind is no more justified in silencing the one than the one - if he had the power - would be justified in
silencing mankind.
- John Stuart Mill

"We are not lost. We're locationally challenged."
- John M. Ford

Most advances in science come when a person for one reason or another is forced to change fields.
- Peter Borden

The worst thing about Europe is that you can't go out in the middle of the night and get a Slurpee.
- Tellis Frank

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."
- Albert Einstein

"All things are difficult before they are easy."
- Dr. Thomas Fuller

You've achieved success in your field when you don't know whether what you're doing is work or play.
- Warren Beatty

In science one tries to tell people, in such a way as to be understood by everyone, something that no one ever knew before. But in poetry, it's the exact opposite.
- Paul Dirac

My life has no purpose, no direction, no aim, no meaning, and yet I'm happy. I can't figure it out. What am I doing right?
- Charles M. Schulz

"Study without desire spoils the memory, and it retains nothing that it takes in."
- Leonardo da Vinci

When you look at yourself from a universal standpoint, something inside always reminds or informs you that there are bigger and better things to worry about.
- Albert Einstein

A university is what a college becomes when the faculty loses interest in students.
- John Ciardi

If you hate a person, you hate something in him that is part of yourself. What isn't part of ourselves doesn't disturb us.
- Hermann Hesse

How much easier it is to be critical than to be correct.
- Benjamin Disraeli

"What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books."
- Thomas Carlyle

We do not know what we want and yet we are responsible for what we are - that is the fact.
- Jean-Paul Sartre

Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes.
- EW Dijkstra
Each problem that I solved became a rule which served afterwards to solve other problems.
- Rene Descartes

I do not fear computers. I fear the lack of them.
- Isaac Asimov

"It is our responsibilities, not ourselves, that we should take seriously."
- Peter Ustinov

Laws are like sausages. It's better not to see them being made."
- Otto von Bismarck

"Don't knock the weather. If it didn’t change once in a while, nine out of ten people couldn’t start a conversation."
- Kin Hubbard

The man who writes about himself and his own time is the only man who writes about all people and all time.
- George Bernard Shaw

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius – and a lot of courage – to move in the opposite direction.
- EF Schumacher

The truth is more important than the facts.
- Frank Lloyd Wright

A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read.
- Mark Twain

In those days spirits were brave, the stakes were high, men were real men, women were real women and small furry creatures from Alpha Centauri were real small furry creatures from Alpha Centauri.
- Douglas Adams

I am not young enough to know everything.
- Oscar Wilde

Ours is the age that is proud of machines that think and suspicious of men who try to.
- H. Mumford Jones

We live in a Newtonian world of Einsteinian physics ruled by Frankenstein logic.
- David Russell

We rarely think people have good sense unless they agree with us.
- Francois de La Rochefoucauld

To have a right to do a thing is not at all the same as to be right in doing it.
- GK Chesterton

A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that works.
- John Gaule

There is always more misery among the lower classes than there is humanity in the higher.
- Victor Hugo
Anyone who can handle a needle convincingly can make us see a thread which is not there.
- EH Gombrich

Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious.
- Peter Ustinov

Thought is only a flash between two long nights, but this flash is everything.
- Henri Poincare

No es que fuera misterioso, pero no se sabia nada de el!
- El Piporro

The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. But the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth.
- Niels Bohr

The significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them.
- Albert Einstein

Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric.
- Bertrand Russell

The difference between a democracy and a dictatorship is that in a democracy you vote first and take orders later; in a dictatorship you don’t have to waste your time voting.
- Charles Bukowski

For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for Nature cannot be fooled.
- Richard Feynman

Good judgement comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgement.
- Unknown

The days of the digital watch are numbered.
- Tom Stoppard

An author is a fool who, not content with boring those he lives with, insists on boring future generations.
- Charles de Montesquieu

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.
- Soren Kierkegaard

The creator of the universe works in mysterious ways. But he uses a base ten counting system and likes round numbers.
- Scott Adams

You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat.
- Albert Einstein

The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority.
- Ralph W. Sockman

...when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.
- Sir Francis Bacon

You have to know how to accept rejection and reject acceptance.
- Ray Bradbury

The important work of moving the world forward does not wait to be done by perfect men.
- George Eliot

Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn’t.
- Mark Twain

I never guess. It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The trouble about trying to make yourself stupider than you really are is that you very often succeed.
- CS Lewis

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.
- Marie Curie

Don’t you wish there was a knob on the TV to turn up the intelligence? There’s one marked 'Brightness,' but it doesn’t work.
- Gallagher

I have never met a man so ignorant that I couldn’t learn something from him.
- Galileo Galilei

There are painters who transform the sun to a yellow spot, but there are others who with the help of their art and their intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun.
- Pablo Picasso

If everything seems under control, you’re not going fast enough
- Mario Andretti

If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.
- Isaac Newton

Yes, we have to divide up our time like that, between our politics and our equations. But to me our equations are far more important, for politics are only a matter of present concern. A mathematical equation stands forever.
- Albert Einstein

Silly is you in a natural state, and serious is something you have to do until you can get silly again.
- Mike Myers

In mathematics you don’t understand things. You just get used to them.
- Johann von Neumann

If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts he shall end in certainties.
- Sir Francis Bacon

The trouble with being punctual is that nobody’s there to appreciate it.
- Franklin P. Jones
No man needs a vacation so much as the man who has just had one.  
- Elbert Hubbard

The word 'politics' is derived from the word 'poly', meaning 'many', and the word 'ticks', meaning 'blood sucking parasites'.  
- Larry Hardiman

Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I ask, "Where have I gone wrong?"/ Then a voice says to me, "This is going to take more than one night."  
- Charles M. Schulz

Patriotism is often an arbitrary veneration of real estate above principles.  
- George Jean Nathan

It is impossible to travel faster than the speed of light, and certainly not desirable, as one's hat keeps blowing off.  
- Woody Allen

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--/ I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference.  
- Robert Frost

There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot.  
- Steven Wright

In the future everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes.  
- Andy Warhol

Important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them.  
- Sir William Bragg

Science may set limits to knowledge, but should not set limits to imagination.  
- Bertrand Russell

In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted.  
- Bertrand Russell

I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation.  
- George Bernard Shaw

Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future.  
- Niels Bohr

Philosophy is a battle against the bewitchment of our intelligence by means of language.  
- Ludwig Wittgenstein

Arithmetic is being able to count up to twenty without taking off your shoes.  
- Mickey Mouse

Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.  
- Edgar Allan Poe

If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.  
- Rene Descartes

There are $10^{11}$ stars in the galaxy. That used to be a huge number. But it's only a hundred billion. It's less than the national deficit! We used to call them astronomical numbers. Now we should call them economical numbers.  
- Richard Feynman
Always and never are two words you should always remember never to use.
- Wendell Johnson

God runs electromagnetics by wave theory on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and the Devil runs them by quantum theory on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- Sir William Bragg

War is a series of catastrophes that results in a victory.
- Georges Clemenceau

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.
- Sir Francis Bacon

The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.
- Samuel Johnson

The beginning of knowledge is the discovery of something we do not understand.
- Frank Herbert

Machines take me by surprise with great frequency.
- Alan Turing

What’s another word for Thesaurus?
- Steven Wright

CNN is one of the participants in the war. I have a fantasy where Ted Turner is elected president but refuses because he doesn’t want to give up power.
- Arthur C. Clarke

Perpetual devotion to what a man calls his business, is only to be sustained by perpetual neglect of many other things.
- Robert Louis Stevenson

Riddle:
Sir, I bear a rhyme excelling
In mystic force and magic spelling
Celestial sprites elucidate
All my own striving can’t relate
Answer: Pi

Reading made Don Quixote a gentleman. Believing what he read made him mad.
- George Bernard Shaw

Thought is only a flash between two long nights, but this flash is everything.
- Henri Poincare

The creator of the universe works in mysterious ways. But he uses a base ten counting system and likes round numbers.
- Scott Adams

When ideas fail, words come in very handy.
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

A signature always reveals a man’s character - and sometimes even his name.
- Evan Esar

The trouble with weather forecasting is that it’s right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it.
- Patrick Young

If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.
- Abraham Maslow
The road to hell is paved with adverbs.
- Stephen King

To avoid situations in which you might make mistakes may be the biggest mistake of all.
- Peter McWilliams

No man remains quite what he was when he recognizes himself.
- Thomas Mann

We are at the very beginning of time for the human race. It is not unreasonable that we grapple with problems. But there are tens of thousands of years in the future. Our responsibility is to do what we can, learn what we can, improve the solutions, and pass them on.
- Richard Feynman

Faith is, at one and the same time, absolutely necessary and altogether impossible.
- Stanislaw Lem

University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small.
- Henry Kissinger

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done.
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

An opinion should be the result of thought, not a substitute for it.
- Jef Mallett

If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.
- Isaac Newton

The skill of writing is to create a context in which other people can think.
- Edwin Schlossberg

Perpetual devotion to what a man calls his business, is only to be sustained by perpetual neglect of many other things.
- Robert Louis Stevenson

Why is it that our memory is good enough to retain the least triviality that happens to us, and yet not good enough to recollect how often we have told it to the same person?
- Francois de La Rochefoucauld

My toughest fight was with my first wife.
- Muhammad Ali

It is of interest to note that while some dolphins are reported to have learned English – up to fifty words used in correct context – no human being has been reported to have learned dolphinese.
- Carl Sagan

Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognizes genius.
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.
- Chinese Proverb

Few people can see genius in someone who has offended them.
- Robertson Davies

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.
- Arthur C. Clarke
A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary.
- Thomas Carruthers

If you meet a clown in the forest it means you’re gonna die.
- Unknown

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.
- George Bernard Shaw

Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of it has tried to contact us.
- Bill Watterson

The multitude of books is making us ignorant.
- Voltaire