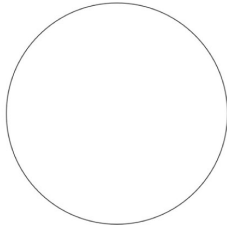
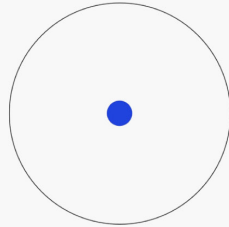


## The Illustrated Guide to a Ph.D. by [Matt Might](#)

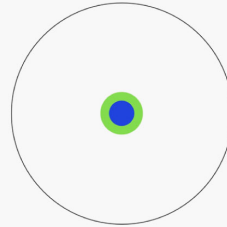
Imagine a circle that contains all of human knowledge:



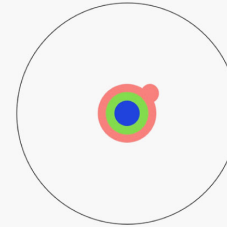
By the time you finish elementary school, you know a little:



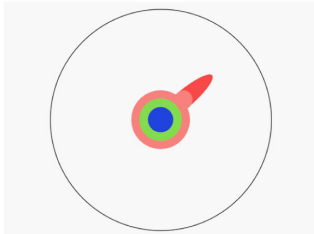
By the time you finish high school, you know a bit more:



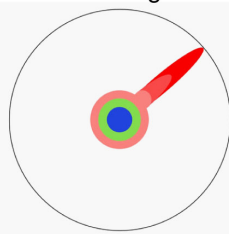
With a bachelor's degree, you gain a specialty:



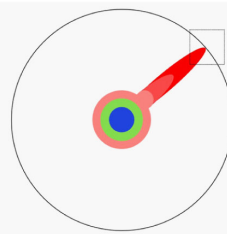
A master's degree deepens that specialty:



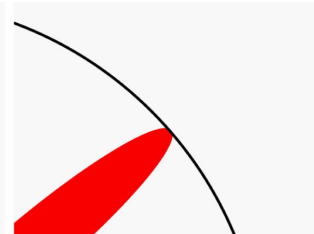
Reading research papers takes you to the edge of human knowledge:



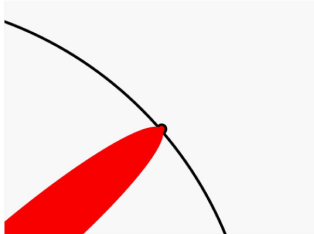
Once you're at the boundary, you focus:



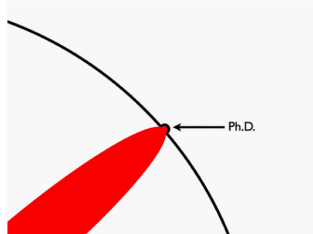
You push at the boundary for a few years:



Until one day, the boundary gives way:



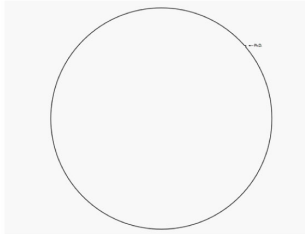
And, that dent you've made is called a Ph.D.:



Of course, the world looks different to you now:



So, don't forget the bigger picture:



Keep pushing.

## **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

- **Keeping in mind our work on mental Maps and Models; to what extent is the graphic an accurate and useful visualization of the progression through the various levels of academia and where they are positioned with regard to stretching the boundaries of knowledge?**
- **Mark your own current position on your copy of this scheme. Also mark where you think you might be in 10 years.**
- **Briefly describe any other real life examples of the ignorance/knowledge boundary being pushed that is not contingent on pursuing a PhD.?**