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The Balance Beam Scale Model for Visualizing Expectations and needs in Doctoral Student Supervision

The purpose of the paper presented at the poster presentation is to describe ongoing research on how to utilize the Balance Beam Scale Model (BBSM) in supervision situations. The BBSM serves as a valuable discussion and visualizing model for comprehending the intricate challenges faced by doctoral students during their research journey. Specifically, it sheds light on the delicate balance between exploitation (drawing upon prior knowledge) and exploration (embracing innovation and new thinking)—two fundamental dimensions that PhD students must navigate.

Furthermore, the BBSM contributes to the development of "shared mental models," fostering a common understanding of doctoral students' expectations and needs. As the research progresses, the next step involves engaging with doctoral students and supervisors to provide instructions on effectively utilizing the BBSM. Finally, the BBSM will undergo evaluation to assess its effectiveness and utility.