

Conducting a Mixed Methods Systematic Review

University of Leeds, UK 23 and 24 October 2014

The purpose of a systematic review is to sum up the best available research on a specific question. Many applied health and public health questions concerned with complex interventions proceed, or go beyond effectiveness, and so the best available research often includes looking at quantitative and qualitative data. Randomised controlled trials can be useful in some situations, but other designs are more relevant for other questions, and so the reviewer needs to find ways to synthesise qualitative research and other quantitative approaches such as controlled before and after, cohort and case control studies. Ultimately, mixed methods reviews must be able to draw appropriate conclusions from wide range of studies to inform policy and practice. This course will explore the current thinking on approaches to mixed methods systematic reviews to answer questions of the effectiveness of complex interventions in applied health research.



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About the course

Following this two day course participants should have a strong understanding of:

- 1) The key concepts of mixed methods systematic reviews
- 2) How to write a mixed methods systematic review protocol
- 3) Methods for synthesising qualitative research
- 4) Methods for assessing bias and synthesising quantitative research, particularly non-RCT studies such as case control and cohort studies
- 5) Approaches to combining quantitative and qualitative synthesis

Who is the course for?

- Researchers planning to do a mixed methods review
- RCT Systematic reviewers who want to learn how to synthesise studies using a range of quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Qualitative researchers who want to learn how to synthesise qualitative data
- PhD students planning a qualitative or mixed methods systematic review
- Early career and more senior researchers wishing to build their skills in mixed methods systematic reviews

The module will be delivered by Professor James Thomas. Based at the Institute of Education, University of London, Professor Thomas is the Director of the Department of Health Reviews Facility at the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordination Centre (EPPI-Centre). He specialises in developing methods for research synthesis, in particular for qualitative and mixed methods reviews and in using emerging information technologies such as text mining in research. For more information please visit: www.ioe.ac.uk/staff/ssru_52.html.

Further details

The course will be delivered over two days at the University of Leeds. The fee for the course is **£400** for participants not at the University of Leeds. For participants from the University of Leeds (staff and students) the course fee is **£250** To book on the course or for further information about accommodation options please contact David Brennan: d.r.brennan@leeds.ac.uk or **0113-343-0939**. For further information on the content of the course please contact Helen Elsey: h.elsey@leeds.ac.uk.