

Mixed-Method Synthesis Training

Duration 2 days

Skill level Intermediate

Target Audience Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, post-graduate students, decision makers and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows who are interested in qualitative and mixed-methods synthesis.

Prerequisites Ideally participants will have some knowledge of evidence synthesis and the basic purpose and procedures of a systematic review.

Venue AMBG065, Psychology Building, NUI Galway

Dates November 25th and 26th, 2019

Background

Health care policy and practice decisions should be based on a synthesis of the global body of evidence rather than relying on individual studies. Cochrane Ireland and Evidence Synthesis Ireland promote evidence based healthcare policy and practice by supporting high quality, relevant systematic reviews and other synthesised research evidence.

Aim

This two-day workshop will provide knowledge and practical experience of undertaking mixed-methods evidence synthesis. It will cover the underpinning logic of mixed-method evidence synthesis, the range of possible approaches, and the benefits, procedures and challenges associated with the different approaches.

Learning outcomes

In this course participants will be enabled to:

- Understand why mixed-method synthesis is suited to answering the kinds of complex questions addressed in policy and practice decision-making.
- Recognise the spectrum of approaches for integrating the findings from qualitative and quantitative research.
- Experience the procedures for (and challenges associated with) integrating research from diverse epistemological standpoints.

Teaching strategies

The workshop will consist of a series of sessions with each involving some presentation and some hands-on activity. The presentations will include worked examples to illustrate the range of approaches to mixed-methods evidence synthesis. The hands-on activities will allow students to try out different aspects of conducting a mixed-methods evidence synthesis as well as providing an opportunity to ask questions and share what they have learned with others on the course.

Facilitator Dr Katy Sutcliffe, Deputy Director Department of Health and Social Care Policy Reviews Facility, EPPI-Centre, UCL Institute of Education

Course content/timetable

Day 1: Monday 25th November	
09:00	Arrival and registration
09:30	Session 1: Course overview and introductions
10:45	Break
11:00	Session 2: Approach 1 - Explanatory sequential synthesis – example children and healthy eating
12.15	Session 3: Policy relevant evidence and complexity: how mixed-methods can help
13:00	Lunch
13:45	Session 4: Diversity in approaches and purposes of mixed-methods reviews
14:30	Session 5: Approach 2 - Exploratory sequential synthesis
15:30	Break
15.45	Session 6: Challenges in conducting and communicating mixed-method reviews
16.30	Close
Day 2: Tuesday 26th November	
09:00	Arrival
09:30	Session 7: Searching for studies
10.30	Session 8: Approach 3 - Data-based convergent syntheses – example realist synthesis
11:30	Break
11:45	Session 9: Approach 4 - Results-based convergent synthesis – example Adverse childhood experiences
13:00	Lunch
13:45	Session 10: New approaches - simultaneously quantitative and qualitative synthesis – Weight management
14.45	Break
15:00	Session 11: Wrap up and whole-group discussion
16:00	Close