
Workshop - What is meta-ethnography and how do you do it? (1 Day)

Duration	1 day
Skill level	Intermediate
Target Audience	Health and social care professionals, academics, researchers, postgraduate students, decision makers, Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows and other professionals involved in the use of synthesised health care evidence who have some knowledge or expertise in qualitative evidence synthesis.
Prerequisites	Some knowledge or expertise in qualitative evidence synthesis (QES)/ qualitative systematic reviews, for example, have training in QES, have conducted a QES, supervise or teach students to conduct QES, peer-review QES journal articles. Are interested in learning more on the methodology of meta-ethnography.
Venue	Lecture Room 3, Riddel Hall, Queen's University, Belfast, NI,
Date	December 10 th 2019

Background

Evidence-based health and social care requires robust syntheses of qualitative research studies – qualitative evidence syntheses to increase our understanding of people's experiences to inform policy and practice. Meta-ethnography is a popular and influential interpretive methodology for synthesising qualitative research studies in health and social care. Developed in 1988 by sociologists in education Noblit and Hare, the systematic, seven-phase meta-ethnography methodology has evolved and advanced in the subsequent 30 years.

Aim

This workshop aims to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the key principles of meta-ethnography conduct including the complex analytic synthesis processes of 'translation' and 'synthesising translations.'

Learning outcomes

In this course participants will be enabled to:

- Describe the 7 phases of meta-ethnography
- Understand how meta-ethnography differs from other QES methodologies
- Understand when use of meta-ethnography is and is not appropriate
- Identify the range of literature search and selection methods suitable for meta-ethnography
- Identify the impact of different strategies for reading primary studies on the output of a meta-ethnography

- Attain an understanding of the principles for conducting meta-ethnography phases 4 to 6: determining how studies are related, translation, synthesis of translations and line of argument synthesis

Teaching strategies

The workshop will consist of presentations, led by Emma France, covering each of the phases of meta-ethnography conduct, small group activities and plenary discussions, providing participants with the opportunity to reflect on key aspects and principles of meta-ethnography conduct. The number of participants for the course is limited to 35.

Facilitators

Dr Emma France, Senior Lecturer, NMAHP Research Unit, University of Stirling.
Dr Linda Biesty, Evidence Synthesis Ireland and NUI Galway

Course content/timetable (provisional)

Day 1	
09:00	Registration and coffee
09:30	Welcome & introductions by presenter and attendees
09:45	Introduction to meta-ethnography Phases 1-4 - Why choose meta-ethnography? Literature searching, study sampling/ selection, quality appraisal. Reading primary studies & deciding how they are related.
10.45	Discussion and questions
11.00	Break
11.15	Phase 5 – Translating the studies into on another. What is it? How is it done? Includes practical activity.
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Phase 6 - synthesising translations, line of argument synthesis. What are they? How are they done? Phase 7 – writing up. Includes practical activity.
14:45	Discussion & Summing up
15:00	Meta-ethnography in action'
16:00	Wrap up, discussion
16:30	Close