

Greater than the sum of its parts: the role of Qualitative Evidence Synthesis

Duration	1 day
Skill level	Introductory/intermediate
Target Audience	Health and social care professionals, academics, researchers, postgraduate students, decision makers, Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows and other professionals who are interested in QES.
Prerequisites	Have a knowledge of health research. Are interested in learning about the methodology of a Qualitative Evidence Synthesis.
Venue	CA005 Cairnes Building, NUI Galway
Date	September 27 th 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. Evidence Synthesis Ireland promotes evidence based healthcare policy and practice by supporting high quality, relevant systematic reviews including the synthesis of qualitative evidence.

Aim

This event will provide knowledge and practical experience of methods of qualitative evidence synthesis (QES). By the end of this course, participants will be able to select an appropriate method for synthesis in a literature on their own topic and operationalize a strategy to take this through to synthesis and presentation.

Learning outcomes

In this course, participants will be enabled to:

- Gain knowledge and practical experience of methods of qualitative evidence synthesis (QES).
- Understand thematic synthesis
- Understand framework synthesis
- Understand meta-ethnography
- Select an appropriate method of synthesis

Teaching strategies

After a brief overview of the QES process the main body of the course will focus on the three most common and most flexible methods of synthesis namely, thematic synthesis, framework synthesis and meta-ethnography. Participants will be given an opportunity to try these three different methods; extracting data from some sample qualitative research studies and looking how to bring them together within a synthesis. Some considerations when choosing appropriate methods of synthesis will be rehearsed together with some of the current debates and controversies associated with the process.

Facilitator

Dr Andrew Booth. School of Health and Related Research (SchARR), University of Sheffield.

Dr Pauline Meskell. Senior lecturer in Nursing & Health Research. University of Limerick.

Course content/timetable

<i>Greater than the sum of its parts: the role of Qualitative Evidence Synthesis</i>	
09:00	Registration and coffee
09:30	Welcome and Introductions to the Day
09:45	Qualitative Evidence Synthesis – What is it and where does it come from?
10:05	The QES Process – Similar yet Different!
10:30	Choosing an Appropriate Method of Synthesis – Practical Exercise
11:00	Break
11:20	Data Extraction and QES
11:35	Data Extraction – Practical Exercise
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Thematic Synthesis – An Overview
13:50	Thematic Synthesis – Practical
14:45	Framework Synthesis – An Overview
14:55	Framework Synthesis – Practical
15:30	Break
15:50	Meta-ethnography – An Overview
16:10	Meta-ethnography – Practical
16:40	Presenting the Results of a Synthesis
16:55	Questions and Feedback
17:00	Close