



**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS**  
IRELAND



**Cochrane**  
Ireland

# Mixed methods evidence synthesis (In-person)

## Background

Methods for qualitative evidence synthesis (QES) are now well established and decision makers are able to access rigorous QES on issues such as patient experiences of health conditions and interventions, and contextual factors influencing intervention implementation. QES often generate theories and explanations about why and how interventions work or do not work as anticipated. By integrating these theories with evidence on intervention effects in a mixed methods synthesis, review teams can offer vital information to support implementation of review findings in practice. However, the diversity of approaches for integrating QES and effectiveness syntheses can make it challenging for reviewers to understand how best to integrate.

## Objectives

This two day interactive workshop delivered by co-convenors of the Cochrane Qualitative and Implementation Methods Group will introduce theory and practical examples of mixed methods synthesis. During group work participants will be encouraged to think reflectively on the strengths and limitations of diverse approaches. Each day will conclude with an open forum to reflect on the day's activities and discuss issues relating to participants' own review activity.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this workshop participants will:

- understand why and when it is useful to do a mixed methods synthesis
- be able to recognise and appraise diverse approaches and tools for mixed methods synthesis;
- describe challenges, and potential opportunities, for mixed methods synthesis;
- have gained hands on experience of integrating different types of evidence
- apply lessons learnt to their own review activity.

## Date:

**14th & 15th October 2025**

## Time:

**9:30am – 5:00pm**

## Location:

**Ashling Hotel, 10 – 13  
Parkgate Street, Dublin 8**

## Prerequisites:

**Some experience with  
systematic reviews**

## Target Audience:

**Healthcare professionals,  
academics, researchers,  
decision makers,  
librarians, information  
specialists, and Evidence  
Synthesis Ireland fellows  
and teaching faculty who  
would like to learn more  
about mixed method  
synthesis.**

## Places:

**15 places available for  
individuals who are  
resident on the island of  
Ireland**

## Registration fee:

**General €250  
Student €140**



email: [esi@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:esi@universityofgalway.ie) X [@EvidSynIRL](https://twitter.com/EvidSynIRL) 🦋 [evidsynirl.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/evidsynirl.bsky.social)



**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS**  
IRELAND



**Cochrane**  
Ireland

# Mixed methods evidence synthesis (In-person)

## Course content/timetable

Day 1 (14th Oct)	
09.30 - 11.00	Welcome, introduction and overview - <b>Lecture 1:</b> A worked example of a mixed methods review - <b>Activity 1:</b> Thematic synthesis
11.15 - 13.00	- <b>Lecture 2:</b> Why do mixed methods evidence synthesis? - <b>Activity 2:</b> Developing a question for a mixed methods review
14.00 - 15.30	- <b>Lecture 3:</b> A typology for mixed methods reviews - <b>Activity 3:</b> Recognising different types of mixed methods synthesis
16.00 - 17.00	Open plenary
Day 2 (15th Oct): 3 lectures – 3 activities	
09.30 - 11.00	- <b>Lecture 4:</b> Finding, describing and appraising studies for a mixed methods review - <b>Activity 4:</b> tbc
11.15 - 13.00	- <b>Lecture 5:</b> Approaches to comparing - <b>Activity 5:</b> Integrating using comparison approach
14.00 - 15.30	- <b>Lecture 6:</b> Approaches to connection - <b>Activity 6:</b> Integrating using a connection approach
16.00 - 17.00	Open plenary



An Bord  
Taighde Sláinte  
Health Research  
Board



Public Health  
Agency

Research and Development



**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS**  
IRELAND



**Cochrane**  
Ireland

# Mixed methods evidence synthesis (In-person)

## Facilitators:

**Prof. Angela Harden, Professor of Health Sciences, School of Health and Psychological Sciences, Department of Health Services Research and Management, City University of London**

Angela's research is interdisciplinary and inter-professional and she works with a wide range of research methods from participatory action research through to randomised controlled trials. Her research has led to direct impact on policy, practice and the public through, for example, underpinning NICE Guidance on community engagement to reduce health inequalities and integration of findings from a young commissioners model into a tool kit published by NHS England ('How to develop youth forums in the NHS'). She has published extensively and has secured funding from national and international bodies such as NIHR, ESRC, AHRC and EUFP7 as well as local health trusts and charities. She is a co-convener of the international Cochrane Collaboration's Qualitative and Implementation Methods Group. She was a key investigator and theme lead (child and adolescent health) within the NIHR funded North Thames CLAHRC (2013-2019) and is now the Director of the training academy and key investigator in the Population Health and Social Care theme in the successor to the CLAHRC, the North Thames ARC (2019 to 2024). From 2012 to 2018 she was a member of the NIHR Health Technology Assessment Commissioning Board.

**Dr. Katy Sutcliffe, Associate Professor, Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordination Centre (EPPI Centre), University College London**

Dr Katy Sutcliffe is an Associate Professor at the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordination Centre (EPPI Centre), Institute of Education, University College London. She is the Deputy Director of the London-York NIHR Policy Reviews Facility which produces research syntheses to support the Department of Health and Social Care's policy decisions. Katy specialises in developing systematic review methods for producing policy-relevant evidence, in particular qualitative and mixed-methods evidence syntheses and approaches for identifying the key ingredients and underlying mechanisms of interventions. Katy is associate editor of the forthcoming Cochrane handbook on QES and lead author of the chapter on integrating qualitative and quantitative evidence.



An Bord  
Taighde Sláinte  
Health Research  
Board



Public Health  
Agency  
Research and Development



**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS**  
IRELAND



**Cochrane**  
Ireland

# Mixed methods evidence synthesis (In-person)

**Prof. James Thomas, Professor of Social Research & Policy, Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordination Centre (EPPI Centre), UCL Social Research Unit, University College London**

Prof. James Thomas is based at the EPPI Centre and his research is centred on improving policy and decision-making through more creative use and appreciation of existing knowledge. It covers substantive disciplinary fields – such as health promotion, public health and education – and also the development of tools and methods that support this work conducted both within UCL and in the wider community. He has written extensively on research synthesis, including meta-analysis and methods for combining qualitative and quantitative research in 'mixed method' reviews; and also designed EPPI-Reviewer, software which manages data through all stages of a systematic review.



An Bord  
Taighde Sláinte  
Health Research  
Board



Research and Development

email: [esi@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:esi@universityofgalway.ie) X [@EvidSynIRL](https://twitter.com/EvidSynIRL) 🦋 [evidsynirl.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/evidsynirl.bsky.social)