

CochrAne qualitative MEthodological Limitations Assessment Tool (CAMELOT)

13 August 2024

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On behalf of the GRADE-CERQual Methodological Limitations subgroup



Agenda

- Welcome & introduction
- Overview of qualitative research & importance of critical appraisal
- Introduction to GRADE-CERQual
- Introduction to CAMELOT
- Group activity: Exploring CAMELOT
- Group activity: Applying CAMELOT (1)
- PAUSE
- Group activity: Applying CAMELOT (2)
- Group presentations and discussion
- iSoQ
- Wrap-up and Q&A
- Feedback and closing



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- Group activity: Applying CAMELOT (1)
- PAUSE
- Group activity: Applying CAMELOT (2)
- Group presentations and discussion
- iSoQ
- Wrap-up and Q&A
- Feedback and closing

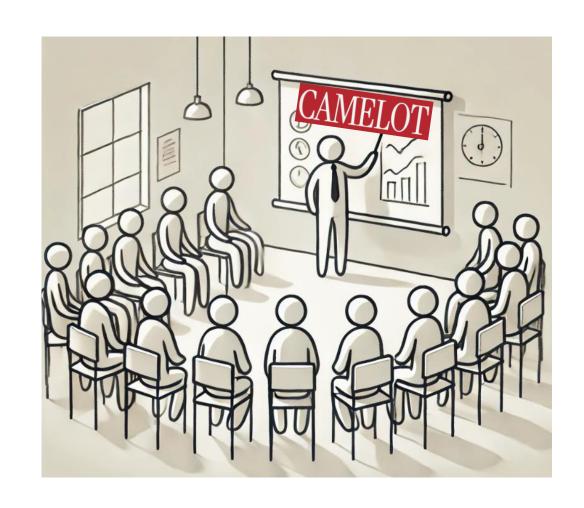
Working together today



- Question and comments welcome throughout
- Everyone's contributions are welcome and important – please give all participants a chance to give their input and be respectful of other people's views
- Coffee break: at around 1345 for 10 minutes
- After the workshop, I will provide link to an evaluation form – we would be grateful for your feedback, and you are welcome to also share your views with us directly on how this workshop could be improved

Objectives

- Understand importance of critical appraisal
- Become familiar with CAMELOT
- Gain experience applying CAMELOT





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Overview of qualitative research & importance of critical appraisal

Why qualitative research?

- To describe the social world
- To *understand* people's views, experiences and motivations
- In many cases, to explain the social world by developing hypotheses, theories or models

Common methods

- Focus groups
- Individual, semi-structured interviews
- (Participant) observation
- Document analysis

Systematic reviews of qualitative research (or "qualitative evidence syntheses") identify and synthesize these types of studies. These syntheses are becoming increasingly popular. Especially because...

Decision makers need evidence about intervention options...



And qualitative evidence is necessary to address many important questions



What questions and interventions matter to people?

Is the intervention effective and does it have side-effects?

How much does the intervention cost?

What intervention outcomes matter to people?

Is this intervention acceptable to people?

Is this intervention *feasible* to implement?

How could the intervention influence equity?

How should we implement this intervention?



For example...

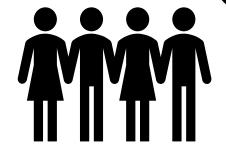
How do health workers feel about using mHealth technology to care for patients?



Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

Health workers' perceptions and experiences of using mHealth technologies to deliver primary healthcare services: a qualitative evidence synthesis (Review)

Odendaal WA, Anstey Watkins J, Leon N, Goudge J, Griffiths F, Tomlinson M, Daniels K



How do qualitative evidence syntheses differ from reviews of effectiveness?



The main structure is broadly similar



We carry out
systematic searches
for relevant
qualitative studies

We assess the quality of and extract data from the studies that are included



We synthesise this data

Stages of a qualitative evidence synthesis

- Stage 1: Formulating the question
- Stage 2: Developing inclusion criteria
- Stage 3: Searching for studies
- Stage 4: Including and sampling studies
- Stage 5: Critically appraising the studies
- Stage 6: Extracting and synthesising the study data
- Stage 7: Assessing confidence in the findings



Why critical appraisal?

Qualitative research

- Credibility and trustworthiness
- Rigour and appropriateness of methods
- Understanding research context
- Identifying researcher influence (biases and reflexivity)
- Contribution to knowledge
- Ethical issues
- Equity, diversity and inclusion issues

Discuss

Challenges with critical appraisal

A qualitative approach to critical appraisal



Considers:

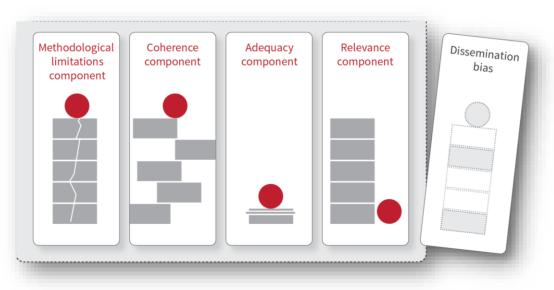
- Meaning and understanding
- Complexity and richness of data
- Methodological rigour
- Flexibility to deal with multitude of methodologies
- Context
- Subjectivity and reflexivity



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GRADE-CERQual approach



CERQual: Confidence in the Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative Research

- GRADE-CERQual aims to transparently assess and describe how much confidence to place in findings from qualitative evidence syntheses
- CERQual is part of the range of approaches for assessing confidence in evidence developed by the GRADE Working Group
- A key tool for facilitating the use of qualitative evidence in decision making processes



What do we mean by 'confidence in the evidence'?

The extent to which a review finding is a reasonable representation of the phenomenon of interest

• i.e. the phenomenon of interest is unlikely to be substantially different from the research finding



GRADE-CERQual is applied to *individual* synthesis findings

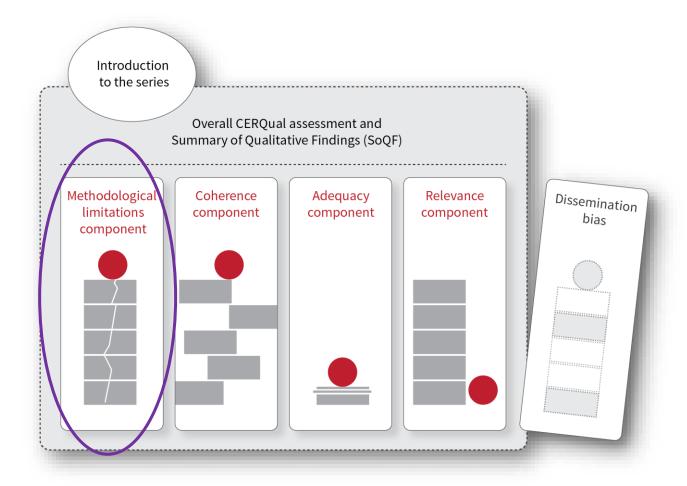
• In the context of a qualitative evidence synthesis, a finding is...:

...an analytic output that describes a phenomenon or an aspect of a phenomenon

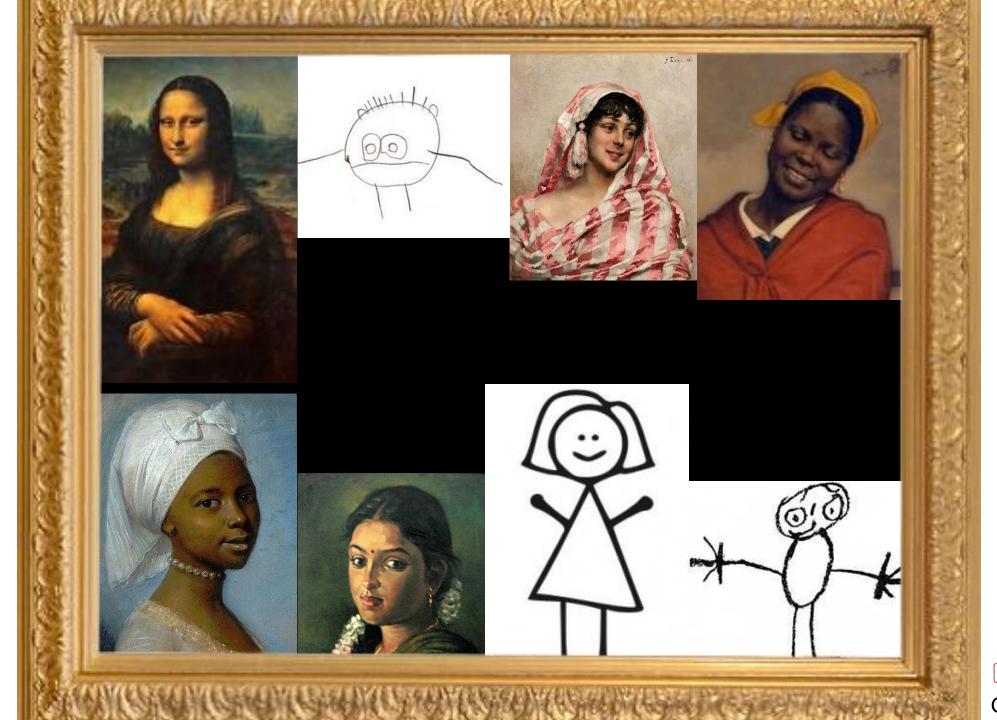
- Findings from qualitative evidence syntheses typically presented as:
 - Themes, categories or theories
 - As both descriptive or more interpretive findings



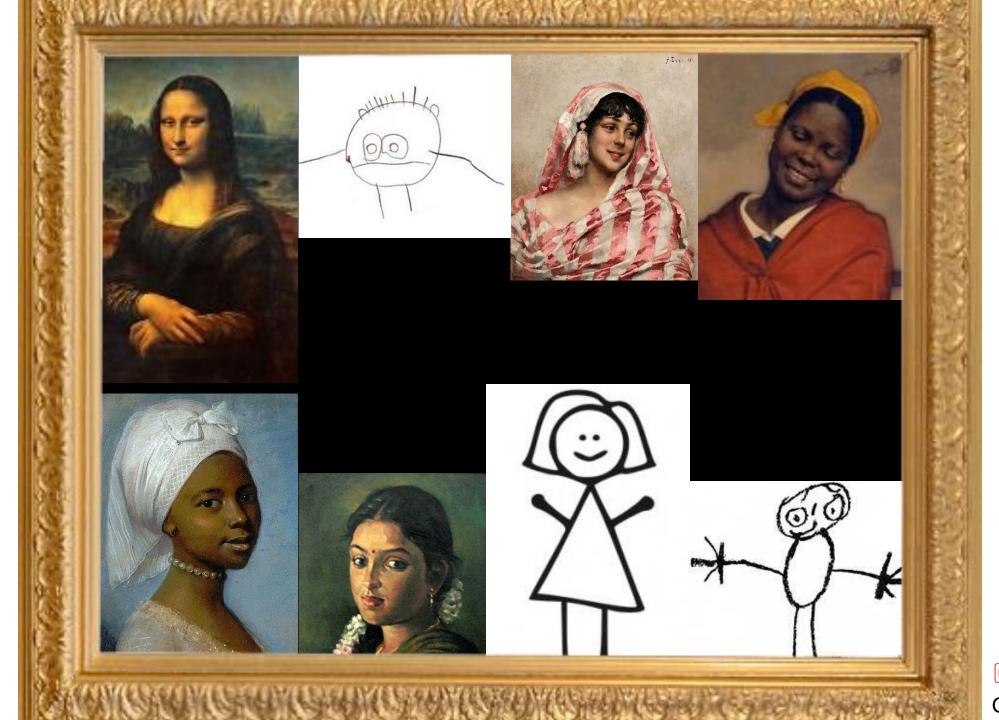
The GRADE-CERQual approach







GRADE CERQualGlenton 2018



GRADE CERQualGlenton 2018

Remember that.....



....we are <u>not</u> looking for perfection.



We <u>are</u> looking for problems
that are serious enough to warn
people about **GRADE CERQual**



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CAMELOT approach

Development of a qualitative approach to critically appraise primary qualitative research



1. Research aim & question(s)

Research design

5. Research approach

6. Theory

7. Ethical considerations

8. Equity, diversity & inclusion considerations

Research conduct

9. Participant recruitment & selection

10. Data collection

11. Analysis and interpretation

12. Presentation of findings

- 2. Stakeholders
- 3. Researchers
- 4. Context

Step 1

Step 1. Extract/code data

Extract or code data from the primary study related to the following domains (some of these domains will not be relevant for some studies):

Meta domains



- 1. Research aim & question(s)
- 2. Stakeholders
- 3. Researchers



4. Context

Method domains



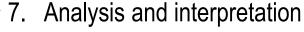


- 5. Research strategy
- 6. Theory
- 7. Ethical considerations
- 8. Equity, diversity & inclusion consideration

Research conduct



- 5. Participant recruitment & selection
- 6. Data collection





Step 2

Step 3

Step 2. Note any comments regarding each domain. This may include problems or missing information. This step is optional but will act as an audit trail and help to inform the subsequent steps.

Step 3. Describe concerns regarding, and make assessment of, fit between domains

- Describe concerns regarding appropriateness of fit between (1) the Research design and conduct domains and each of the Meta domains, and (2) between the research design and research conduct domains.
- Make an assessment using the following categories to describe the fit: Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Unclear

Meta domains



1 Research aim & question(s)



Definition: The purpose of the study and/or what questions the researchers intend to explore.

What to do: Consider the research aim & question(s) and describe (when possible):

- The research aim, the rationale for the research aim and how the aim relates to existing research.
- The research question, the clarity of the research question, and how the research question(s) was/were formed.

2 Stakeholders

Definition: Anyone with an interest (financial or otherwise) in the findings of the research study. Stakeholders are not the same as participants in this context. Stakeholders include patient and public participants.

What to do: Extract relevant data for the review question from the primary study related to any, some or all of (but not limited to) the following:

- Whether and how stakeholders were involved in the design, planning, conduct, analysis or interpretation of the study findings
- The type of stakeholders or stakeholder groups (including funders), how they
 were recruited/selected, who they represent, their relationship to the research
 question and whether their conflicts of interest have been considered (if
 relevant).
- How the study was funded and the role of the funding

3 Researchers

Definition: The investigators who have designed, planned and conducted the study and their relationship to the study question, context and/or participants.



What to do: Extract relevant data for the review question from the primary study related to any, some, or all of (but not limited to) the following:

- The researchers' role, their reflexivity including their relationship to (a) the research question, (b) research context and process, (c) any other decisions they make regarding methodology;
- The researchers' relationship to participants
- The researchers' background and/or epistemological stance, training, experience, affiliation;
- A discussion of how any of the above may influence the design and/or conduct of the study or the interpretation of the findings;
- A discussion of researcher actual or potential conflicts of interest (financial or otherwise).

4 Context



Definition: The local, national or global context that the study was conducted in.

What to do: Extract relevant data for the review question from the primary study related to any, some or all of (but not limited to) the following:

• The context in which the study was conducted, such as geography, climate, culture, when the study was conducted, and/or the legal, political, social, economic, healthcare or welfare systems.

Method domains - Research design



5 Research strategy

Definition: The overall intended plan, proposal or strategy for the study.

This domain refers to the overarching roadmap for carrying out the research project (also referred to as research approach, study design, or type of study). This domain does not include issues related to participant recruitment and selection, data collection and analysis and interpretation. These are separate domains.

What to do: Extract relevant data for the review question from the primary study related to some, any or all of (but not limited to) the following:

- The research strategy, including how the study was planned, designed and conducted.
- Availability or description of a research plan or protocol is available, any changes made to the original plan or protocol and rationale for changes
- The overarching methodologies (e.g., ethnography, phenomenology, etc.)
- Appropriate referencing to the methods used

6 Ethical considerations



Definition: How the researchers considered and incorporated ethical principles and standards into decisions related to the design, planning and conduct of the study.

What to do: Extract relevant data for the review question from the primary study related to any, some or all of (but not limited to) the following:

- Appropriate ethical approval
- Ethical issues in the design, planning, conduct, analysis, interpretation or dissemination of the study, selection, recruitment and informed consent of participants
- Discussion of how the study impacted the community, and how researchers considered issues related to maintaining respect and dignity of participants, and
- How the researchers addressed any issues related to ethics
- Data management and protection measures (e.g., data security and storage, etc.)

7 Equity, diversity & inclusion considerations



Definition: Whether and how the researchers considered:

- (1) equity including distribution of power within the research context, whether there was equitable
 representation and participation in the research process, particularly for underrepresented groups, the possible
 differential experiences or perspectives of a phenomenon of interest for different populations and whether there
 was and whether unnecessary or discriminating differences in how people participate in a study
- (2) diversity including seeking out diverse experiences, perspectives and backgrounds, inclusion of participants with diverse backgrounds and considering how diversity can influence research findings
- (3) inclusion including the degree to which the research environment was such that all participants felt welcome and valued, whether culturally sensitive and inclusive research methods and communication strategies were employed and whether research materials, locations and processes were accessible for all participants.

What to do: Extract relevant data for the review question from the primary study related to any, some or all (but not limited to) of the following:

- Equity, diversity and inclusion considerations, which could include, but is not limited to Place of Residence,
 Race/Ethnicity, Visa/Residency status, Occupation, Gender, Religion, Education, Socioeconomic Status, and Social
 Capital, and Plus represents additional categories such as Age, Disability, and Sexual Orientation (PROGRESS-Plus)1
 2. Review authors may consider using an existing framework or checklist to assess equity (e.g., CONSORT Equity
 extension 3 PRISMA equity extension 4)
- How the researchers addressed any issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion

8 Theory



Definition: Organization of concepts, ideas, literature or principles into systems or frameworks that attempt to describe, explore, explain, understand or predict a phenomenon.

What to do: Extract relevant data for the review question from the primary study related to any, some or all of (but not limited to) the following:

- Whether and how theory or a concept was used (appropriately and consistently) to inform the planning, design, and/or conduct of the study.
- Whether and how theory or a concept was used (appropriately and consistently) to analyze explore and/or contextualize the findings from the study.
- Whether and how a theoretical or conceptual framework was used. Theoretical or conceptual frameworks can be presented as logic models, theories of change, or conceptual model. Theory refers to a collection of concepts or ideas that are organized in a reasonable way to explain a phenomenon in the real world.
- If a theoretical or conceptual framework has not been used, is an appropriate rationale provided?

Method domains - Research conduct



9 Participant recruitment & selection



Definition: How participants were identified, recruited and selected for the research study.

What to do: Extract relevant data for the review question from the primary study related to any, some or all of (but not limited to) the following:

- How and why participants were recruited and selected, and who was not recruited and selected
- Description of participants and non-participants
- Numbers and reasons for any participant refusal, dropout, who was not included or represented
- Any incentives provided for participation

10 Data collection

Definition: The process of gathering qualitative information (data) in the form of perspectives, experiences or opinions from participants, and/or observations, prolonged engagement in the filed by researchers in order to explore or answer the research questions and address the research aim.

What to do: Extract relevant data for the review question from the primary study related to any, some or all of (but not limited to) the following:

- Rationale for data collection methods
- Development of data collection materials (e.g., interview guide development and testing)
- What type of data were collected (e.g., recorded interviews, structured observations, field notes, pictures, videos, photos, etc.)
- Data collection methods, including language used when engaging with participants, how long researchers were engaged with participants
- When data were collected, who was present during and physical setting of data collection, the medium through which data were collected (e.g., online or in-person or ethnographic fieldwork, etc.)

11 Analysis & intepretation

Definition: The process of systematically examining, exploring and interrogating data gathered during the study in order to identify themes, patterns, lines of argument and if appropriate theories and gain a greater understanding of the phenomenon of interest.

What to do: Extract data from the primary study related to all, some or any of (but not limited to) the following:

- Rationale for choice of analysis
- Analysis and interpretation methods, including plans for data analysis, deviations from the protocol, how analysis, interpretation and if appropriate theory development was conducted, who was involved in data analysis,
- Strategies to improve trustworthiness (e.g., methods of triangulation, participant feedback, multiple observations etc)
- Disconfirming findings and whether researchers challenged their findings
- Data saturation*
- Use of analysis software (including artificial intelligence software)

12 Presentation of findings



Definition: How the findings from the study are organized and communicated and how well they represent the underpinning data.

What to do: Consider the study findings and describe (when possible):

- How closely the study findings represent the data (e.g., how categories and themes, lines of inquiry and theories and author interpretations are derived from the data)
- How clearly findings are articulated
- The adequate reflection of participants' voices and participants' meanings of experiences, perceptions (etc) and, where relevant, inclusion of other forms of supporting evidence (e.g. quotations from an interview, field note entries, etc.)



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assessment

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META domains	Data extracted from print	ary study			Optional commen	ts (notes to self, inclu	onv problems o	or missing informatio	n)
Research aim & question(s)									
Stakeholders									
Researchers									
Context									
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Research strategy Ethical considerations									
Equity, diversity & inclusion considerations									
eory									
Re earch conduct doma	ins								
	Data extracted from primary study			Optional comments (notes to self, including any problems or missing information)					
Participant . cruitment & selection									
Data collection									
Analysis and interpretation Presentation of findings									
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domains (and indicate degree of fit using Excellent, Good,	question(s)			Context	Research aim &	Researchers	Researchers	Context	Research conduct domains
Fair, Poor or Unclear):					question(s)				conduct domains
OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF LIMITATIONS:									
(No or minimal, minor,									
moderate, serious)									
Explanation for overall									



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Step 1 & 2

- Code/extract data for each domain
- Note any comments or concerns

Received: 31 May 2022 | Revised: 16 July 2022 | Accepted: 3 August 2022

DOI: 10.1111/jan.15419

ORIGINAL RESEARCH: EMPIRICAL RESEARCH - QUALITATIVE



Check for updates

'Doing the best we can': Registered Nurses' experiences and perceptions of patient safety in intensive care during COVID-19

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²Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK

³Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK

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⁵Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

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⁹Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, UK

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Abstract

Aims: To explore registered nurses' experiences of patient safety in intensive care during COVID-19.

Design: A qualitative interview study informed by constructivism.

Method: Semi-structured interviews were conducted and audio-recorded with 19 registered nurses who worked in intensive care during COVID-19 between May and July 2021. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and thematically analysed utilizing framework.

Results: Two key themes were identified. 'On a war footing'—an unprecedented situation which describes the situation nurses faced, and the actions are taken to prepare for the safe delivery of care. 'Doing the best we can'—Safe Delivery of Care which describes the ramifications of the actions taken on short- and long-term patient safety including organization of care, missed and suboptimal care and communication. Both themes were embedded in the landscape of Staff Well-being and Peer Support.

Conclusion: Nurses reported an increase in patient safety risks which they attributed to the dilution of skill mix and fragmentation of care. Nurses demonstrated an understanding of the holistic and long-term impacts on patient safety and recovery from critical illness.

Impact: This study explored the perceived impact of COVID-19 on patient safety in intensive care from a nursing perspective. Dilution of skill mix, where specialist critical care registered nurses were diluted with registered nurses with no critical care experience, and the fragmentation of care was perceived to lead to reduced quality of care









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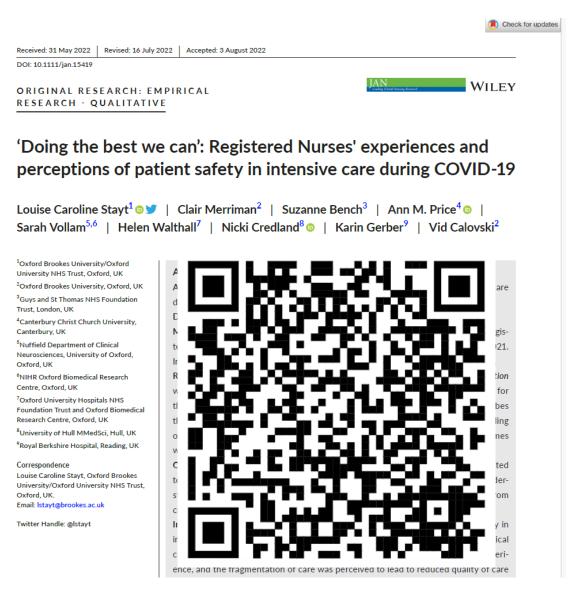


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Step 3

- Assess fit between domains
 - Excellent
 - Good
 - Fair
 - Poor
 - Unclear
- Provide explanation
- Describe level of concerns regarding methodological limitations
 - No or minimal
 - Minor
 - Moderate
 - Serious

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jan.15419



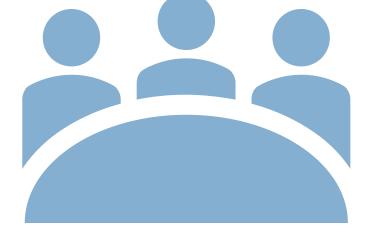
assessment

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Stakeholders								'
Researchers								'
Context								,
METHOD domains								
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Ethical considerations Equity, diversity & inclusion								'
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Participant recruitment &								
selection Data collection								
Analysis and interpretation								
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Describe if you have any						Fit between	- Chucon	Fit between
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Good, Fir Poor or Unclear):								
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OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF								
LIMITATIONS:								
(No or minimal, minor, moderate, serious)								
Explanation for overall								

Examples of fit

Concerns regarding fit	Research aim and/or question	Stakeholders
Research	The research aims to explore adolescent pregnancy and education obtainment. The ethnographic approach failed to consider that the phenomenon of interest happened long before the study took place.	Community-based participatory research, but teenagers (main target group) not included in stakeholder group.
Ethical considerations	The aim of the research was to explore conflict between different community groups. Unclear whether the study authors considered the impact of the research on the local community.	Informed consent was not obtained from all stakeholders.





Group work

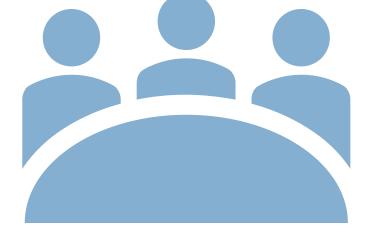
Concerns about methodological limitations

- No or minimal
- Minor
- Moderate
- Serious

assessment

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Participant recruitment &									
selection									
Data collection									
Analysis and interpretation									
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indicate degree of fit between	question(s)	Stakenoluers	Researchers	Context	domains and Research aim &	Researchers	Researchers	Context	Research
domains using Excellent,	question(s)			Context	question(s)	Nescarcileis	Nescarchers	Context	conduct domains
Good, Fair, Poor or Unclear):					question(s)				conduct domains
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OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF									
LIMITATIONS:									
or minimal, minor,									
moderate serious)									
Explanation for overall									





Group work

Step 4

Step [

Step 4. Describe level of concern regarding methodological limitations

Combine these assessments to make an overall assessment of methodological limitations by indicating level of concern using the following categories and provide an explanation for your assessment:

 No or minimal concerns, minor concerns, moderate concerns, serious concerns

Step 5. Combine assessmenta cross studies

Combine assessing a cross studies contributing to a methodological many indicate level of concern regarding methodological many indicate following categories:

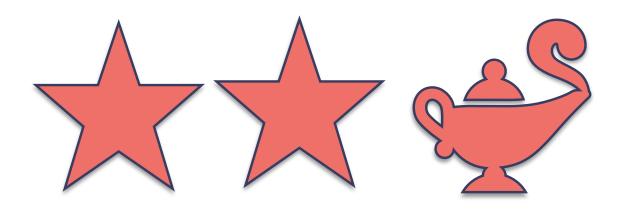
- No or minimal concerns, minor concerns, moderate concerns, serious concerns



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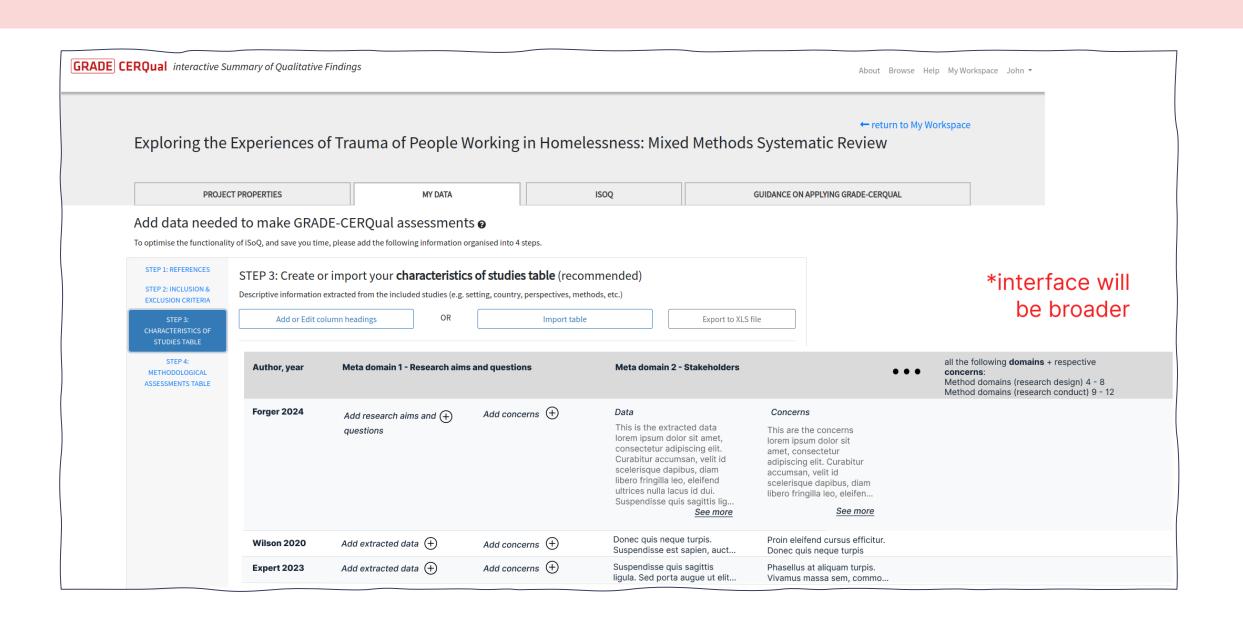
Group presentations (3 minutes)

- Things you liked
- Things you didn't like
- Ideas for improvement





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Explain any concerns you have in your own words

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METHOD - Research conduct domains

Participant recruitment & selection

Data collection

Analysis and interpretation

Presentation of findings

Concerns V

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META domains - Fit assessment

Research question & aim domain

Fit assessment

Excellent



Poor



Explain any concerns you have in your own words

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Stakeholders domain

Fit assessment

Excellent



Good





Explain any concerns you have in your own words

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Researchers domain

Fit assessment

Excellent Good Poor

Unclear

Concerns V

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OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF CONCERNS

No or minimal concerns
Minor concerns
Moderate concerns
Serious concerns

Explanation for overall assessment

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Research Design domains - META domains - Fit assessment

Research question & aim domain	Good	[Data from fit assessment: Concerns, explanation, etc]. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisì ut aliquip ex ea commod
Stakeholders domain	Poor	[Data from fit assessment: Concerns, explanation, etc] Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do elusmod tempor incididinut ut abore et dolore magna alique. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commod
Researchers domain	Unclear	[Data from fit assessment: Concerns, explanation, etc] Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do elusmod tempor incididinut ut abore et dolore magna alique. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisì ut aliquip ex ea commod
Context domain	Excellent	[Data from fit assessment: Concerns, explanation, etc] Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commod
Research conduct domains	Good	[Data from fit assessment: Concerns, explanation, etc] Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ulamoc laboris nisi ut aliquio exe ecommod

Research Conduct domains - META domains - Fit assessment

Research question & aim domain	Good	[Data from fit assessment: Concerns, explanation, etc] Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do elusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim venlam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisì ut aliquip ex ea commod
Stakeholders domain	Poor	[Data from fit assessment: Concerns, explanation, etc] Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commod
Researchers domain	Good	[Data from fit assessment: Concerns, explanation, etc] Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliquu. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commod
Context domain	Excellent	[Data from fit assessment: Concerns, explanation, etc] Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commod



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THANK YOU

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Thank you to Claire Glenton, Simon Lewin,
Epistemonikos, members of the GRADECERQual coordinating team, and members of
the CAMELOT working group for their
contributions to this presentation