



# An Introduction to Systematic Reviews

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This timely, engaging book provides an overview of the nature, logic, diversity and process of undertaking systematic reviews as part of evidence informed decision making.

A focused, accessible and technically up-to-date book, it covers the full breadth of approaches to reviews from statistical meta analysis to meta ethnography. It is ideal for anyone undertaking their own systematic review - providing all the necessary conceptual and technical background needed to make a good start on the process.

The content is divided into five clear sections:

- Approaches to reviewing
- Getting started
- Gathering and describing research
- Appraising and synthesising data
- Making use of reviews/models of research use.

Easy to read and logically structured, this book is essential reading for anyone doing systematic reviews.

**David Gough** is Professor of Evidence Informed Policy and Practice and Director of SSRU and its EPPI-Centre and Co-Editor of the journal *Evidence & Policy*.

**Sandy Oliver** is Professor of Public Policy and Deputy Director of SSRU and its EPPI-Centre.

**James Thomas** is Reader in Social Policy, Assistant Director of SSRU and Associate Director of the EPPI-Centre.

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## **An Introduction to Systematic Reviews From SAGE Publications Ltd Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

"An excellent introduction to systematic review delivered in an accessible style and logical format. This new edition encourages thoughtful consideration of key methodological concepts in the generation and conduct of systematic reviews and embraces recent advances in review synthesis methods. Useful to researchers and students at all levels."

(Gabrielle Thorpe 2016-11-11)

"[This] book is written in a very accessible style, supported with examples of existing systematic reviews and meta-analyses at all stages of synthesis....The step-by-step structure and clear labelling of this book make it the ideal systematic review resource for students and researchers at all levels." (Emma Norris *The Psychologist* 2017-07-01)

### About the Author

David Gough is Professor of Evidence Informed Policy and Practice and the Director of SSRU and its EPPI-Centre. Prior to this he was senior research fellow at the University of Glasgow and professor at Japan Women's University. His early research focused on child welfare policy including roles in the international, British and Japanese societies for the prevention of child abuse and being Co-Editor of *Child Abuse Review*. His interest in the study of research synthesis and research use started in 1988 by developing coding guidelines to systematically describe and assess the child abuse intervention literature. He also studies evidence use including starting the EIPPEE network, the Science of Using Science project and the experimental evaluation of the RISE project to encourage evidence use in schools. He is Co-Managing Editor of the journal *Evidence and Policy*.

Sandy Oliver is Professor of Public Policy at UCL Institute of Education and Deputy Director of SSRU and its EPPI-Centre. For twenty five years her interests have focused on the interaction between researchers and people making decisions in their professional and personal lives. With this in mind she has been developing methods to collate knowledge from whole bodies of research – systematic reviews – not just single studies. Most recently this has been in the area of international development where she has conducted systematic reviews and built up a programme of support for research teams conducting reviews elsewhere. She works with DFID and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research at WHO to build capacity in systematic reviewing in developing countries.

James Thomas is a Professor in Social Policy, Assistant Director of SSRU and Associate Director of the EPPI-Centre. He directs the EPPI-Centre's Reviews Facility for the Department of Health, England, and undertakes systematic reviews across a range of policy areas. He has specialized in developing methods for research synthesis, in particular for qualitative and mixed methods reviews and in using emerging information technologies in research. He leads a module on synthesis and critical appraisal on the EPPI-

Centre's MSc in Evidence for Public Policy and Practice and development on the Centre's in-house reviewing software, EPPI-Reviewer.

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