

# Development of methodological guidance, publication standards and training materials for realist and meta-narrative reviews: the RAMESES (Realist And Meta-narrative Evidence Syntheses – Evolving Standards) project

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## Plain English summary

### The RAMESES project

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## Plain English summary

Every year, a lot of research is published. No one is able to read all of this research and so some researchers produce summaries – called literature (or systematic) reviews. There are many different ways of doing systematic reviews; realist and meta-narrative review are two relatively new approaches which both seek to explain why and how interventions work. When we started this project, there were no standards setting out how to judge if realist or meta-narrative reviews were of high quality – something we have called quality standards. Nor did any standards exist to guide researchers on how best to write up their reviews for publication – we have called these publication standards. Although there were some training materials for these review methods, more were needed which showed researchers in detail how to rigorously undertake certain parts of a review.

In this project, we developed quality and publication standards and training materials for realist and meta-narrative reviews. We used a range of information to help us choose and agree on what should be in the standards and training materials. We gathered together a group of experts. We set up an e-mail list and invited people to join and contribute. We asked researchers we worked with on realist or meta-narrative reviews for their comments, and we got feedback from researchers we trained in workshops or presented to at conferences. We analysed and wove together all this information to produce quality and publication standards and training materials. We have made all the outputs of our work freely available online ([www.ramesesproject.org](http://www.ramesesproject.org)).

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