

Enhancing the impact of qualitative evidence synthesis: development of evidence-based reporting guidance for meta-ethnography



Nicola Ring, 3rd September 2019

Background

Qualitative evidence synthesis (QES):

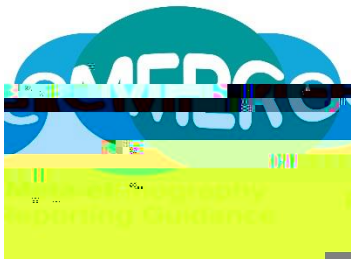
Increasingly popular

Several approaches.

Meta-ethnography (ME) (Noblit & Hare 1988) most cited approach but:

Often poorly reported reducing potential impact of ME findings on practice and policy.





George W. Noblit

Noblit & Hare (1988). *Meta-ethnography: synthesizing qualitative studies*. Beverly Hills: SAGE Publications.

Phase 5: Translating the studies into one another

Phase 6: Synthesizing trCoc03atioc0

Phase 7: Expressing the



THE eMERGe PROJECT
Developing
Evidence-based reporting guidance
for Meta-ethnography (ME)

(2015-2017)

eMERGe project advisory group CO

Stages

Outputs





Stage 1: Review of good practice

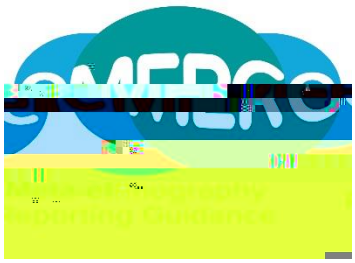
Aim & Methods: Systematic methodological review to identify good practice in ME.

Findings: 57 items included in review.

Identified where:

Methodological clarity needed.

Reporting guidance needed.

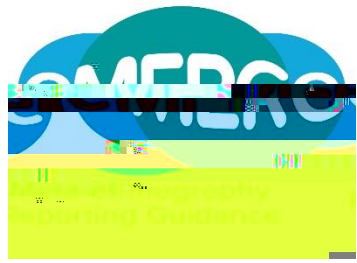


Stage 2: Review of current practice & information needs of ME users

Aim: Define good practice principles & standards in ME reporting.

Methods:

- Documentary analysis of sampled ME reports (Part 1)
- Interviewee analysis of these reports by potential end users (Part 1)
- Audit of published ME reports (Part 2).

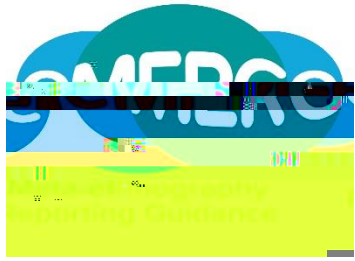


Stage 2: Part 1

Documentary & interviewee analysis: 29 ME reports and 14 potential end users.

Overall findings include:

- End users & academics can value different reporting aspects.
- Difficult to identify clear boundaries between the ME Phases.



Stage 2: Part 2

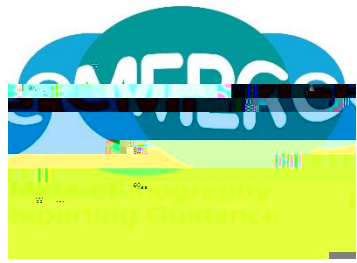
Audit of published MEs against 109 potential draft reporting standards.

Purposive sample (n=40) of ME reports.

Data descriptively analysed.

Qualitative auditor feedback e.g. ambiguous standards.

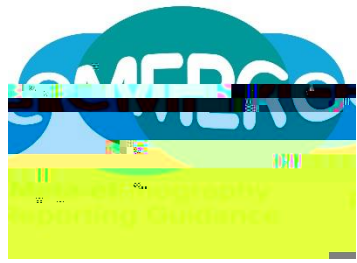




Stage 2: Part 2

Findings:

- Some sampled reports not recognisably ME.
- Provided systematic in-depth insight into:
 - Where reporting needed improved in practice.
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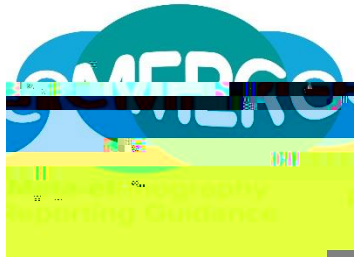


Stage 3: Agree guidance

Aim: Gain consensus on key reporting ME standards

Methods:

- Online expert & stakeholder workshop (n=31) (Part 1)
- eDelphi consensus studies (Part 2).



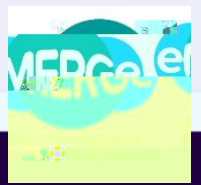
Stage 3: Agree guidance

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Image by [ijmaki](#) from [Pixabay](#)

oMERGe Reporting and Guidance



19 Benefits



No.	Criteria Headings	Reporting Criteria
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Phase 1 Selecting meta-ethnography and getting started

Introduction

1	Rationale and context for the meta-ethnography	Describe the gap in research or knowledge to be filled by the meta-ethnography, and the wider context of the meta-ethnography
2	Aim(s) of the meta-ethnography	Describe the meta-ethnography aim(s)
3	Focus of the meta-ethnography	Describe the meta-ethnography review question(s) (or objectives)
4	Rationale for using meta-ethnography	Explain why meta-ethnography was considered the most appropriate qualitative synthesis methodology

Conclusions

1st bespoke evidence-based meta-ethnography reporting guidance



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