

# Meta-Ethnographic Reviews in 7 Steps:



Curated by  
**Victoria Luong, Margaret Bearman, & Anna MacLeod**

## 01. Getting Started

- Reviews begin with identifying an issue needing further investigation or clarification
- Issues well suited for meta-ethnography are those rigorously investigated and well-described but lack clarity or consensus
- Review team should include experts in the area of interest



## 02. Deciding What is Relevant

- This step is critically important
- Identifying a clear focus will support review momentum and success
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria to select relevant articles should be negotiated by the team



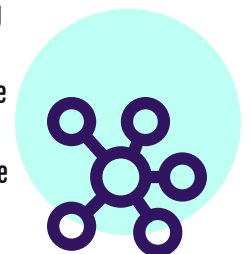
## 03. Reading the Studies

- Carefully read each of the selected studies
- Focus on identifying notable concepts
- This phase is similar to open coding in qualitative data analysis
- Denotes ideas that may be further categorized and elucidated through review



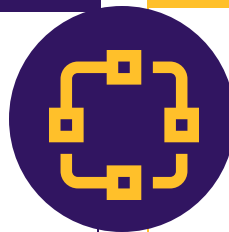
## 04. Determining How the Studies are Related

- This phase mirrors the act of grouping codes into themes
- Broad categorization of themes is done iteratively
- Multiple team members can contribute
- Various methods to organize data can be used to bring together concepts as they relate to, or contest, each other



## 05. Translating the Studies into One Another

- Involves exploring analogies, metaphors, themes, and concepts that help make sense of the relationships between studies
- This phase includes working differently using: reciprocal translation, refutational synthesis, or lines-of-argument synthesis



## 06. Synthesizing Translations

- Researchers work with identified concepts from the reviewed studies to arrive at new interpretations
- Involves searching for overarching explanations and identifying gaps, overlaps, and silences

## 07. Expressing the Synthesis

- Meta-ethnographic insights should be reported in a manner that advances understanding on a particular topic
- The eMERGE Reporting Guidelines provide useful steps

