



# **Making Sense of Systematic Reviewing for Social Work in the Field of Child Abuse & Neglect**

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# Growing Demand for EB SW

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- Research-knowledge for SW
- Accountability for SW practice

=> Systematic reviews to find the best evidence



# The Nature of Social Work

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- Incongruities
- The question of causality
- Complexity within complex contexts



# The Body of Evidence for SW

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- Quantitative & qualitative evidence
- Heterogeneity



# Risk Assessment

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- Available evidence is limited
- Possible research designs are limited



# Challenges

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- The nature of social work
- The body of evidence for social work
- The nature of risk assessment
- The context of Confidential Centres



# Broad approach

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- Importance of context
- Large scale of sources of evidence
- Systematic and rigorous method
- Narrative synthesis
- Iterativity



# Practice Reference Group

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- Practitioners
- Focusgroup
- Defining the review topic
  - ⇒ A practice theory about the intervention
- Discussing the preliminary findings
  - ⇒ Utility test of the synthesis
- Guide for dissemination & reporting





# Problems

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- Loss of depth
- Loss of generalizability
- Quality assessment



# Concluding...

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- Challenges
- Solutions
- Limitations
  
- Rigour



# Concluding...

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C. Baird:

‘To insist that no research is legitimate because the imperfections of data is to trap a field in its status quo.’



# Making sense ...

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- Questions?



# Thank you for your attention!

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