

# How to conduct an evidence synthesis

Outline and agenda

Half-day (3-hour) session:

Virtual delivery

[training@fasttrackimpact.com](mailto:training@fasttrackimpact.com)

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Delivered from 2025 by the Institute for Methods Innovation,  
a registered non-profit organisation.

## Course description

This live online workshop provides a practical introduction to the essential methods and tools for conducting evidence synthesis. It covers key approaches to synthesising evidence effectively and efficiently, including Rapid Evidence Assessments (REAs). Participants will gain hands-on insights into formulating research questions, identifying and screening relevant evidence, and presenting findings clearly and confidently.

### Key benefits:

- Understand the purpose and types of evidence synthesis, including REAs.
- Learn how to develop clear and actionable research questions.
- Gain practical strategies for identifying, screening, and managing evidence.
- Explore techniques for analysing and presenting evidence effectively.
- Build confidence in assessing the quality and reliability of evidence.
- Familiarise yourself with reporting standards, including the PRISMA protocol.
- Develop outputs that meet professional and academic standards.

At the end of the workshop:

- You receive slides and links to useful resources you can borrow and adapt for your work.
- Prof Jensen continues to answer all questions from participants via email after the course, guaranteeing a response to all questions within one week.

# Indicative agenda

*Start: 09:30 am (20-minute break included)*

## Part 1: Introduction to evidence synthesis

- What is evidence synthesis?
- Types of evidence synthesis
- Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA)
- Developing your research question

## Part 2: Identifying and accessing relevant evidence

- Screening and selection of studies (inclusion/exclusion criteria)
- Managing and extracting evidence
- Analysing evidence
- Presenting evidence
- Assessing confidence in the evidence

## Part 3: Reporting requirements

- PRISMA protocol
- REA outputs

*Close: 12:30 pm*

## About Fast Track Impact

[Fast Track Impact](#) is an international training platform, delivered by the [Institute for Methods Innovation](#), a non-profit organisation. Its mission is to change the way busy researchers generate and share knowledge so that their ideas can change the world and they can get their thinking time back.

Fast Track Impact runs training for researchers from every discipline, from PhD students to Professors, from departmental away days to cross-institution training days. It has trained 15,000+ researchers from more than 200 institutions in 55 countries.

## About the trainer



### Professor Eric A. Jensen

Prof Jensen is a social scientist with a PhD from the University of Cambridge in sociology. He is part-time professor at the University of Warwick, where he has led courses on public engagement with science, science policy, audience research and social research methods (including surveys and statistics). He is also a doctoral research supervisor for the University of Oxford. As a visiting research scientist at the National Center for Supercomputing

Applications at the University of Illinois, Jensen works on a Sloan Foundation-funded project on research software policy.

Prof Jensen has 20+ years of research and practice experience in social research, evaluation, public and policy engagement and science communication. He has delivered hundreds of training workshops on evaluation methods and evidence-based science communication, as well as leading and consulting on projects large and small on public engagement with research, impact evaluation, socially responsible research, and environmental communication. Prof Jensen also serves as an Independent Ethics Mentor for European Commission-funded projects, reviewing data management and ethics planning. He has extensive experience in ethical approval processes in higher education.