

RAMESES II Delphi - Round 3

Introduction

Thank you for continuing to help us with the RAMESES II project.

In Round 2 of our Delphi process, we asked you to rate 22 potential items for the RAMESES II reporting standards realist evaluations. After analysing your ratings and comments and from discussions within the project team, only one item needs to be rated again.

In Round 3, we would be grateful if you would please rate Item 11 for:

- Relevance (should we include an Item on this theme/topic at all?)
- Content (should we word this Item like this?)

There will be a free text box for you to make comments on any aspect of the Item. To help you understand why the Item has been included we have also provided a brief explanation.

This survey will take you only a few minutes to complete.

We would be most grateful if you would please try to complete the survey by *17th January 2016* at the latest.

Please click on the NEXT button below to proceed.

Methods section

The following question covers a potential Item for inclusion in the Methods section of the RAMESES II reporting standards for realist evaluations

Please click on the NEXT button below to proceed.

Item 11: Data collection methods

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Describe and justify the data collection methods used - which ones were used, why and how they fed into developing, supporting, refuting or refining programme theory. Provide relevant details of the steps taken to enhance the trustworthiness/accuracy of data collection and documentation.

* Please rate this Item for:

	1 = Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5	6	7 = Strongly Agree
Relevance - (Item inclusion)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Content - (Item wording)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Explanation:

Because of the nature of realist evaluation, a broad range of data may be required and a range of methods may be necessary to collect them. Data will be required for all of context, mechanism and outcome. Data collection methods should be adequate to capture intended and unintended outcomes, and the context-mechanism interactions that generated them. Where possible, 'objective' data about outcomes should be obtained. Where not possible, data about outcomes should be triangulated (at least using different sources, if not different types, of information).

Commonly, realist evaluations use more than one data method to gather data. Administrative and monitoring data for the programme or policy, existing data sets (e.g. census data, health systems data), photographs, videos or sound recordings, as well as data collected specifically for the evaluation may all be required. The only constraints are that the data should be relevant to the programme theory and to the purposes of and the questions for the evaluation.

Data collection tools and processes may need to be adapted to suit realist evaluation. The specific techniques used or adaptations made to instruments or processes should be described in detail. Judgements can then be made on whether the approaches chosen, instruments used and adaptations made are capable of capturing the necessary data, in formats that will be suitable for realist analysis.

For example, if interviews are used, the nature of the data collected must change from only accessing respondents' interpretations of events, or 'meanings' (as is often done in constructivist approaches) to identifying causal processes (i.e. mechanisms) or relevant elements of context – which may or may not have anything to do with respondents' interpretations.

Methods for recording data (for example, translation and transcription of qualitative data; choices between video or oral recording; and the structuring of quantitative data systems) are all theory driven. Explain the rationale for the methods used and their implications for data analysis.

It is important that it is possible to judge whether the processes used to collect and document the data used in a realist evaluation are rational and applied consistently. For example, a realist evaluation might report that all data from interviews were audio taped and transcribed verbatim and numerical data were entered into a spreadsheet, or collected using particular software.

Optional - Please comment on item, including wording and/or item order: