

Oral presentation proposal

Title

Lessons learned from qualitative synthesis of environmental management literature – how to remain transparent and retain rigor

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Abstract (150 words)

The literature on environmental management is characterized by quantitative and qualitative research. After decades of primary research, many are now undertaking systematic reviews to synthesize available knowledge, search for emerging trends and trace knowledge gaps. A variety of disciplinary journals reports this research, which do not necessarily share the same topics, methods and themes. Diversity helps to shed light on issues from different viewpoints. However, due to core differences in how research is conducted and reported (qualitative vs. quantitative) there are also some challenges for those seeking synthesis. In the field of environmental management, there is limited discussion what it means to combine qualitative and quantitative approaches and there are no common standards for ensuring methodological clarity and rigor in this case. This article analyses the challenges we have encountered when conducting qualitative reviews. We inform the analysis with on-going debates about transparency and rigor in knowledge synthesis as found in other disciplines as is conservation research etc. We conclude the analysis with a few recommendations for future knowledge synthesis for environmental management research.

Link with a theme

“Synthesis of qualitative environmental research: how, when and what?”

Required support for French/English translation

If support is available a French translator from English would be needed