



Orpheus Survey: Systematic Review as a PhD thesis

Dear ORPHEUS members,

Below is a short survey to collect information on systematic reviews in the context of doctoral education and doctoral theses. The survey has been designed as a part of a research project "Professionalism in Health Care", funded by the Croatian Research Foundation. The findings from the survey will be used to improve our programs and will be presented during the next ORPHEUS conference.

Your willingness to cooperate is highly appreciated. Your input will be treated with full confidentiality and anonymity, as your personal data will not be collected. By continuing to the survey questions you consent to participate in it.

You can include your contact details on the last page if you are interested in receiving a copy of the survey results.

Kind regards,

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Livia Puljak

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www.mefst.hr/TRIBE

* 1. What is the name of your PhD / doctoral program?

* 2. What is the name of your university?

* 3. What is the name of your school / faculty?

* 4. What is your role in the PhD / doctoral program?

* 5. Are PhD candidates enrolled in your PhD / doctoral program required to publish a research article prepared within their doctoral theses prior to the thesis defense?

Yes

No



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* 6. Is there a minimum number of published articles required for a dissertation?

Yes

No

7. If you answered Yes to the previous question, what is the number of published articles required?

* 8. Is there a requirement for the first authorship on research articles that constitute a dissertation?

Yes

No

9. If you answered Yes to the previous question, what is the number of first authored articles necessary for a dissertation?

* 10. Is there a requirement to publish in journals listed in certain databases (WoS, Current Contents, Scopus...)?

Yes

No

11. If you answered Yes to the previous question, please list all databases that apply.

* 12. Is there a requirement for publishing in journals of a certain quality?

Yes

No

13. If you answered Yes to the previous question, how is the quality of journal defined (quartiles, IF...) and what is the acceptable level of quality?

14. Please describe in brief if there are any other requirements for the thesis defense related to research articles.

* 15. Does a published systematic review, in whole or in part, meet the criteria for a dissertation at your school?

Yes

No



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* 16. What are the rules related to the use of systematic reviews as a part of a doctoral dissertation?

	Yes	No
A thesis can be exclusively based on systematic reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Systematic reviews can be one publication among others used for a dissertation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Systematic review can be used as a doctoral thesis or a part of the doctoral thesis only if it includes a meta analysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Only Cochrane systematic reviews can be used for a dissertation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Empty systematic reviews can be used for a dissertation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Updated Cochrane systematic reviews can be used for a dissertation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 17. The number of dissertations based on systematic reviews at your school / program is:

- Lower than the number of dissertations based on other types of studies
- Equal to the number of dissertations based on other types of studies
- Higher than the number of dissertations based on other types of studies



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* 18. In your opinion, should the bylaws at your school be changed to introduce the rule that each thesis should be based on work that was already published in a journal.

Yes

No



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* 19. Do you agree that a systematic review, in whole or in part, meets the criteria as a publication on which a doctoral dissertation can be based?

Yes

No

* 20. In your opinion, what are the main reasons why systematic reviews are not recognized in some institutions as a basis for the doctoral dissertation?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Systematic reviews are not a result of the candidate's independent work since systematic reviews tend to be conducted by a team	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Systematic reviews do not produce enough new knowledge for a dissertation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Because of a concern arising when there are no primary studies available on a particular topic, or the inclusion criteria are too narrow (issues "empty reviews")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Systematic reviews are too easy to perform	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are no major differences between classical narrative and systematic reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of expertise among committee members regarding systematic reviews, since they should be experienced in systematic review methodology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of adequate training of candidates in methodology of systematic reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Students are not experienced enough to perform critical analysis of primary studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of appreciation of systematic review methodology among faculty members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 21. What is your opinion on literature reviews?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Narrative, or critical/discursive literature reviews preceding clinical studies planned as a part of dissertation should be replaced with scoping reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Narrative, or critical/discursive literature reviews preceding clinical studies planned as a part of dissertation should be replaced with systematic reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Narrative, or critical/discursive literature reviews preceding basic studies planned as a part of dissertation should be replaced with scoping reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Narrative, or critical/discursive literature reviews preceding basic studies planned as a part of dissertation should be replaced with systematic reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 22. What are the characteristics of a good systematic review?

	Yes	No	I am not sure	I don't know
It is sufficient to search one database to produce a systematic review	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Systematic review must be produced by one author only	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Systematic review must contain meta-analysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Systematic review must have duplicate screening and data extraction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A list of both included and excluded studies must be provided	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of included studies must be assessed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In the case of meta-analysis, a heterogeneity test must be done to ensure the results of studies can be combined	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Results of meta-analysis must be presented as a funnel plot	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Results of publication bias analysis must be presented as a forest plot	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. Please include your mail address if you are interested in receiving a copy of the survey results.