

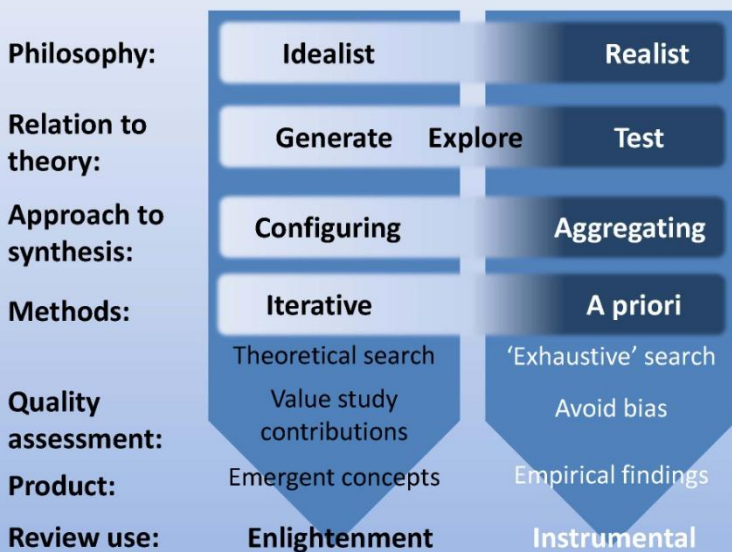
# Clarifying differences between review designs and methods

David Gough, Sandy Oliver and James Thomas  
Cochrane Colloquium, Auckland, October 2012

## Systematic reviews differ in terms of:

- Review question(s):** aims, theoretical and ideological assumptions, and use of theory and models
- Structure:** mapping and synthesis components and how they relate (including mixed methods reviews and reviews of reviews)
- Work done:** breadth of question, depth of analysis, and the extent to which a review addresses and progresses a research issue
- Review approach:** aggregating/configuring balance and the research paradigm being followed.

## These conceptual distinctions result in a spectrum of approaches to reviewing rather than distinct categories:



**For more information, please see:**

Gough D, Thomas J, Oliver S (2012)

Clarifying differences between review designs and methods, *Systematic Reviews*, 1:28  
<http://www.systematicreviewsjournal.com/content/1/1/28/abstract>