

# *Literature Review*

'Mapping' the Review

# **Structuring a Literature Review**

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- Historical/Chronological Approach
- Schools of Thought
- Sections focussing on key disciplines
- Combination of the above

# Metaphors for a Literature Review: 'Mapping'

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- Focus on a defined space
- Main/Minor routes
- Side Roads?
- Scale
- Spaces between the routes
- Name routes/ areas
- Help your reader to navigate

# Metaphors for a Literature Review: 'Conversation'

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- Invite key voices
- Allow each to speak
- Debate
- Are they lone voices or representative?
- Acknowledge absent voices
- Conflicts?
- Resolutions?

# Metaphors for a Literature Review: 'Family Tree'

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- What traditions matter?
- Where to the begin and end?
- Are the points where the line ends?
- Do you have a single person at the top or bottom – direction of movement?

# Metaphors for a Literature Review: 'Researcher as Super-Hero'

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- What is the problem?
- How have others tried to solve it?
- Enter.... You!
- How are you going to save the day?
- Articulate how you will sort everything out that others have not quite managed.

## Discussion

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- What sort of structure are you anticipating developing in your literature review.. Chronological, schools of thought, grouping disciplines, combination?
- Which metaphor do you think best describes your approach... or do you have a metaphor of your own?

# Further Information

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- Remember to keep in touch with your supervisor as you plan and write your assignment.
- Reference: Petre, M. and Rugg, G. (2010) *The Unwritten Rules of PhD Research* [Second Edition] Maidenhead: Open University Press.