Slide 1: Studying Complex Social Interventions and Processes: Impacts, Mechanisms, Evidence and Narrative
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Slide 2: Themes and Points
• Reinforce and expand on two key contributions:
  o Role of theory
  o Narrative
• Draw broader implications
  o The nature of complex social interventions and phenomena
  o Impact vs. mechanism oriented research approaches

Slide 3: Theory in Research on Social Processes
• Value of “black box” research and evidence
• Conditions for useful black box research
• Theory for evaluation, understanding

Slide 4: Narrative and Models of Decision Making
• What is a decision?
• What is a preference?
• What is a good decision?
• How do we improve decisions?
• What is the role of narrative in implementation / quality improvement research? Clinical research? Health services research?

Slide 5: Complex Social Interventions and Processes
• Policy and practice goals of research
  o Formulary decisions vs. guidance
• How do variations in the nature of phenomena influence research goals and choice of research approach?
• Theory-driven (mechanism-oriented) vs. impact-oriented research and evaluation

Source: Eisenberg Center Conference Series 2009, Translating Information Into Action: Improving Quality of Care Through Interactive Media, Effective Health Care Program Website (http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm)