

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:
 - Role of theory
 - Narrative
- Draw broader implications
 - The nature of complex social interventions and phenomena
 - 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
 - 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