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Protocol for a realist evaluation of interventions to increase nature connection in children

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Protocol for a realist evaluation of interventions to increase nature connection in children

Alexia Barrable & Divya Jindal-Snape

Rationale

- Nature connection (NC) positively associated with increased wellbeing (Capaldi, Dopko & Zelenski, 2014 ; Pritchard, Richardson & Sheffield, 2019)
- NC linked with pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours (Nisbet, Zelenski & Murphy, 2009)
- NC has been identified as a distinct goal for environmental education (Frantz & Mayer, 2014)), outdoor education (Barrable & Arvanitis, 2019) and as an early childhood education goal (Barrable, 2019).

Why a realist review?

- Complex problem – complex solutions (Pawson, Greenhalgh, Harvey, & Walshe, 2005)
- Commonly used in healthcare to study context specific interventions

Objectives

Nature connection in children



Methodology



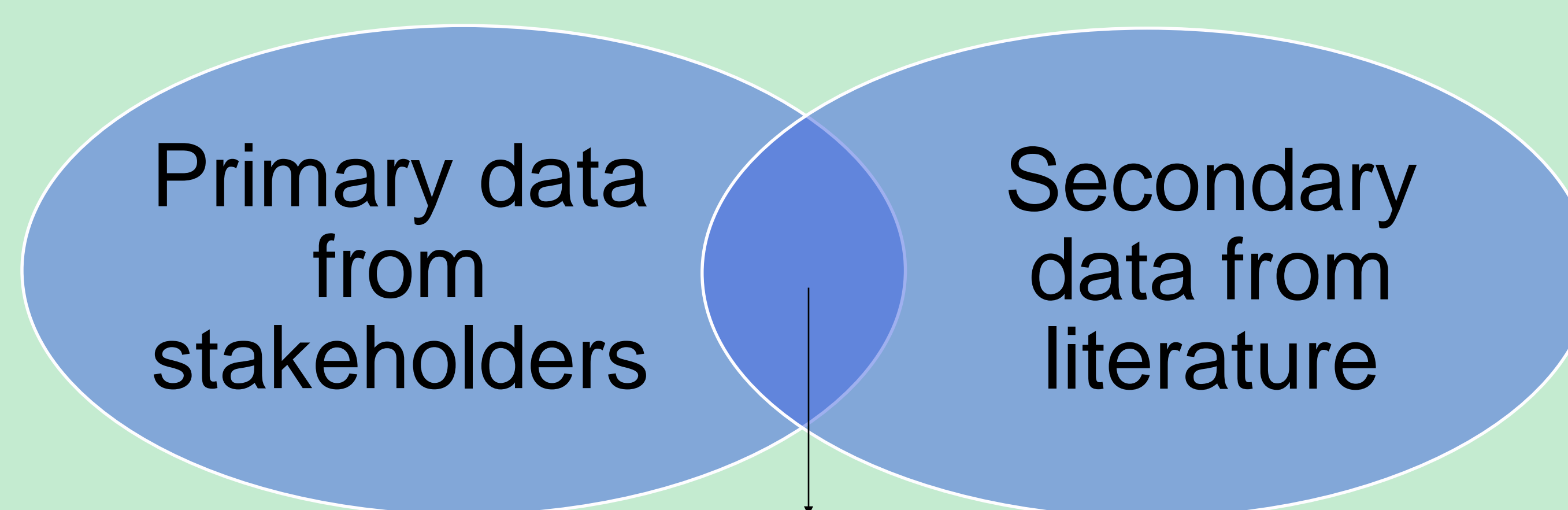
+ Inclusion criteria: Peer-reviewed and PhD theses; English language; majority of participants under 18; experimental or quasi-experimental

- Exclusion criteria: Not in English; adult participants; observational studies

Analysis

Qualitative data from stakeholders:

- Practitioners
- NGOs
- Academics
- Children



Realist synthesis

Search terms: nature connect*, nature relatedness, inclusion of nature in self, emotional affinity with nature, ecological identity AND Intervention, testing, evaluation

Data bases: PsychInfo, Web of Science, ERIC, SSRN, Scopus, Google Scholar

Dissemination

Given the nature of realist evaluations, this project aims to produce **meaningful** and **actionable** recommendations for practitioners in the field of formal and informal education, in which nature connection is an explicit or implicit aim.

We, therefore, aim to disseminate not just through academic channels, but through the use of other communications with the public, including infographics, and popular media.

Can you help?



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