Traditional systematic reviews that examine the effectiveness of interventions have been criticised for being too reductionist, and for not taking context into account. Key to these criticisms, is that in stripping away the context, the research can only say whether an intervention works or not, but they cannot explain why it works or not. As such, traditional reviews may therefore be insufficient in aiding policy makers, managers, and communities in finding solutions to their real-world problems. Systematic reviews of qualitative studies can contribute to filling this gap. These reviews synthesise primary studies that speak to how actors within a particular context experience different interventions or phenomena, by taking the perspectives of those actors into account.
You are invited to join us in learning about the conduct of qualitative evidence syntheses that can contribute to public health policy making and advocacy.

**DATE**
- Sunday, 10 September to Tuesday, 12 September 2017
- Sunday will be half-day training and thereafter we invite you to enjoy a social event with us

**COSTS AND BOOKING**
The workshop and social event is free of charge. We will host the event for 30 participants and request that you return the registration form, separately attached, by 14 July 2017. We will let you know within one week if we are able to accept you into the workshop. We reserve the right to select participants based on the criteria for our target audience (see below).

**VENUE**
The workshop will be hosted at a venue close to the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**
We are interested in engaging with researchers, practitioners and decision makers who have a good understanding of evidence synthesis and/or qualitative research but who are new to qualitative evidence synthesis methods.

**SCOPE OF THE WORKSHOP**
- The workshop will provide a detailed introduction to the principles of conducting and interpreting qualitative evidence syntheses.
- We will work with real-life examples in the workshop, enabling you to practise using some of the tools and methods.
- You will also be introduced to CERQual, a method for assessing confidence in individual findings in qualitative evidence syntheses (very similar to the GRADE approach for quantitative reviews).

**TRAINERS**
The workshop is being hosted by experts in qualitative evidence syntheses (QES) at the University of Cape Town and the South African Medical Research Council. We are also making use of the Global Evidence Summit to invite a range of leaders in the field of QES to participate in specific training sessions.

**PROGRAMME**

**DAY 1:**
Overview of QES and formulating a review question

**DAY 2:**
QES search strategies, screening and inclusion, and assessing methodological limitations

**DAY 3:**
Extracting and synthesising findings, and applying the CERQual approach to QES findings