# Systematic reviews and meta-analysis: a practical approach

**Description**

As part of their PhD, many students will have to do one or several systematic reviews, and some students will also want to combine results from several studies in meta-analysis. This intensive 2-day course will cover the principles and practical steps of systematic reviews, including the design and conduct of comprehensive literature searches, data extraction and presentation, assessment of study quality and examination for publication bias and other biases. The statistical methods for combining results in meta-analysis will also be covered and the course will include practical exercises in Stata.

**Objectives**

To enable PhD students to conduct systematic reviews and meta-analyses as part of their PhD work, under the supervision of experienced reviewers.

**Dates**

**March 10 and 11, 2011**

**Eligibility**

Students who intend to do systematic reviews with or without formal meta-analysis. Students should have a basic understanding of the design, analysis and strengths and weaknesses of randomised clinical trials and epidemiological studies.

**Course structure**

The course will include lectures, pen and paper exercises, group work and computer practicals. PhD students will be involved as lecturers and tutors. Students will have to read several papers before the course and will continue working on the Stata practicals after the course, corresponding to 20-25 hours of student work.

**Assessment**

A self-assessment will be done before and after the course.

**Credits**

0.75
Prof. Matthias Egger and several PhD students from ISPM Bern.

Location
Seminar room, ISPM Bern

Course fee

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<tr>
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February 14, 2011