



# WHAT IS A SCOPING STUDY?

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# WHY DO A SCOPING STUDY?



# CONTEXT: SCOPING STUDIES AND SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

## Scoping study

- For researchers and research funders
- Broader topic; range of study designs relevant
- No quality assessment

## Systematic review

- For practitioners and policy makers
- Well-defined question; determines relevant study designs
- Narrow range of quality assessed studies

# DEFINITIONS OF A SCOPING STUDY

- Preliminary assessment of potential size and scope of research literature (Grant et al, 2009)
- Map rapidly the key concepts underpinning a research area and the main sources and types of evidence available (Arksey and O'Malley, 2005)
- Synthesis and analysis of a wide range of research and non-research material to provide greater conceptual clarity about a specific topic or field of evidence (Davis et al, 2009)
- Contextualize knowledge by identifying what we know and do not know, and then setting this within policy and practice contexts (Anderson et al, 2008)

# METHODS FOR SCOPING STUDIES – THE ARKSEY AND O’MALLEY FRAMEWORK

- 1: Identifying the research question
- 2: Identifying relevant studies
- 3: Study selection
- 4: Charting the data
- 5: Collating, summarizing, and reporting results
- 6: Consultation (optional)

# UNDERSTANDINGS SCOPING STUDIES CAN PROVIDE

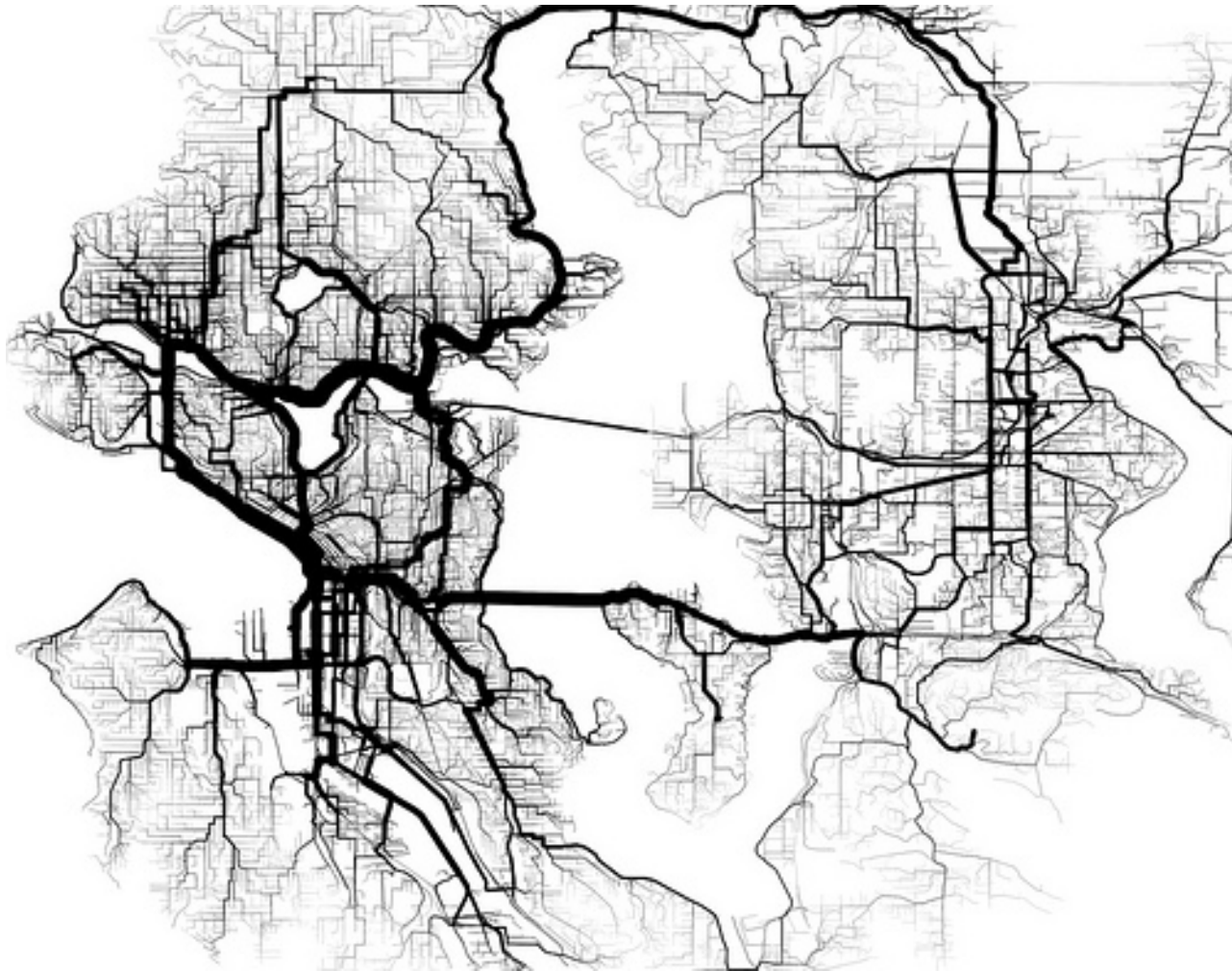


Image: arterial-map-02 by Brandon Martin-Anderson (CC BY-SA 2.0)

## EXAMPLE: EMERGENCY PLANNING IN HEALTHCARE

- Literature
- Researcher survey
- Debriefs, case studies and interviews
- Prioritisation workshop and survey

# EXAMPLE: TIME AND COMMUNITY

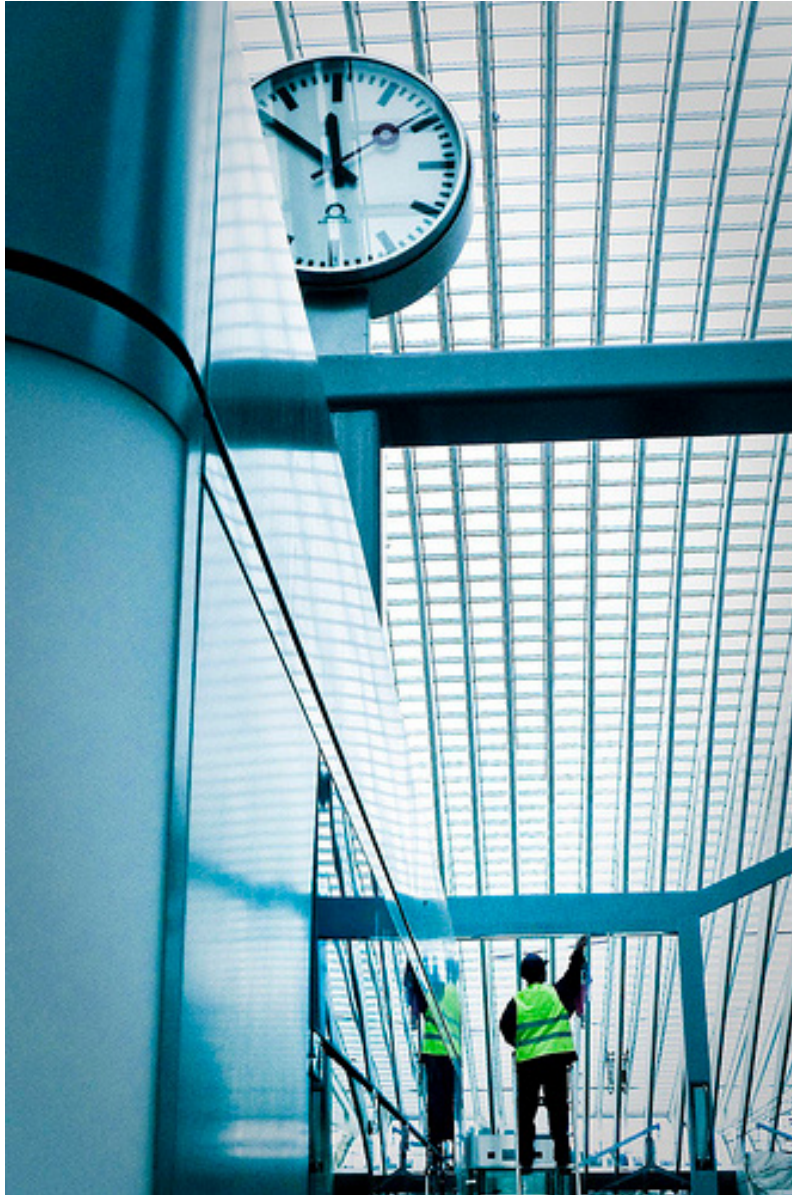


Image: Time and Men  
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# DEVELOPING SCOPING STUDY METHODOLOGY

- What kind of ‘histories’ can scoping studies produce, particularly for research areas that don’t yet explicitly exist?
- Scoping studies seem to be primarily used within healthcare research, how might they contribute to the humanities?
- What roles can stakeholders play?
- ... and what works for stakeholder involvement, in what circumstances?

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