



Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Literature Eeview

ARK-E5512 - Pre-Thesis Seminar

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What is a literature review?

[it] is the **comprehensive study** and **interpretation of literature** that relates to a particular topic. When undertaking a literature review, researcher **identifies the research question** then seeks the answer by **searching** for and **analysing relevant literature** using a systematic approach. This review then leads to the development of **new insights** that are only possible **when each piece of relevant information** is seen in the **context of other information**. If the researcher thinks of **one piece of literature** as **one part of a jigsaw**, then one can see how a review of the literature is like the whole completed jigsaw.

Why are reviews important?

Reviews seek to **summarize the literature** that is available **on any topic**. They **make sense of a body of research** and **present an analysis** of the **available literature** so that the reader does not have to access each individual research included in the review. This is important because there is an increasing amount of literature available. The literature review enables the researcher to **contextualise** the empirical data into **epistemological out put**.

A literature review should:

- set the scene, demonstrate current knowledge, identify gaps in the field and, if relevant, **demonstrate where your research fits**.
- be a **personal critical appraisal** of the current knowledge in a subject area.
- be evidence-based, using a variety of peer-reviewed original research articles, reporting facts, **commenting on similarities or discrepancies** and highlighting **knowledge gaps** or areas of unmet need.

Narrative vs Systematic Reviews

Narrative review

- no focused research question
- no focused searching strategy
- no clear method of appraisal or synthesis of literature
- not easily repeatable.

Systematic review

- well-focused research question
- well-focused searching strategy with comprehensive and explicit methods
- rigorous methods of appraisal of the literature
- method of undertaking review is explicit and repeatable
- the most detailed reviews require a demanding process

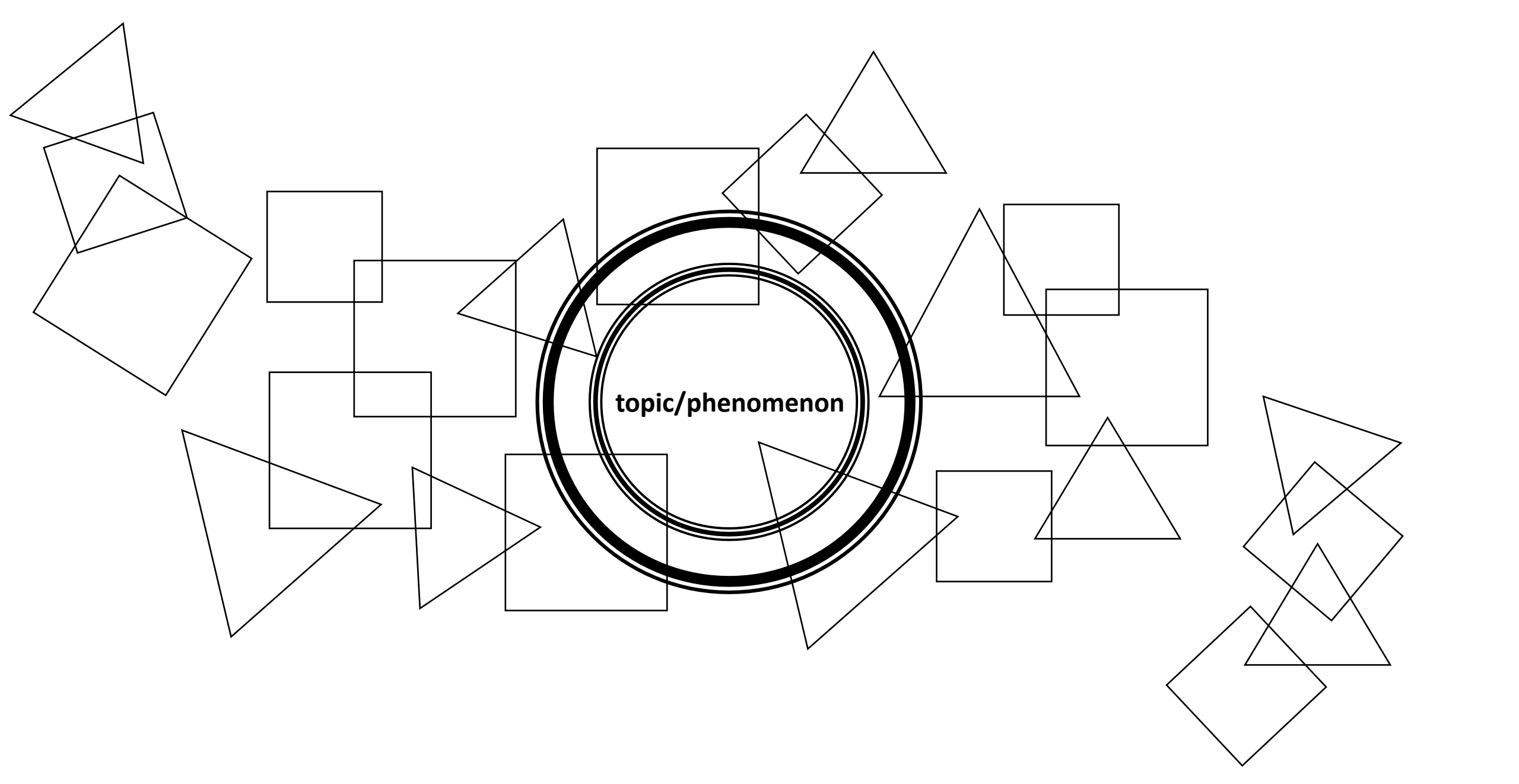
How to conduct a literature review?

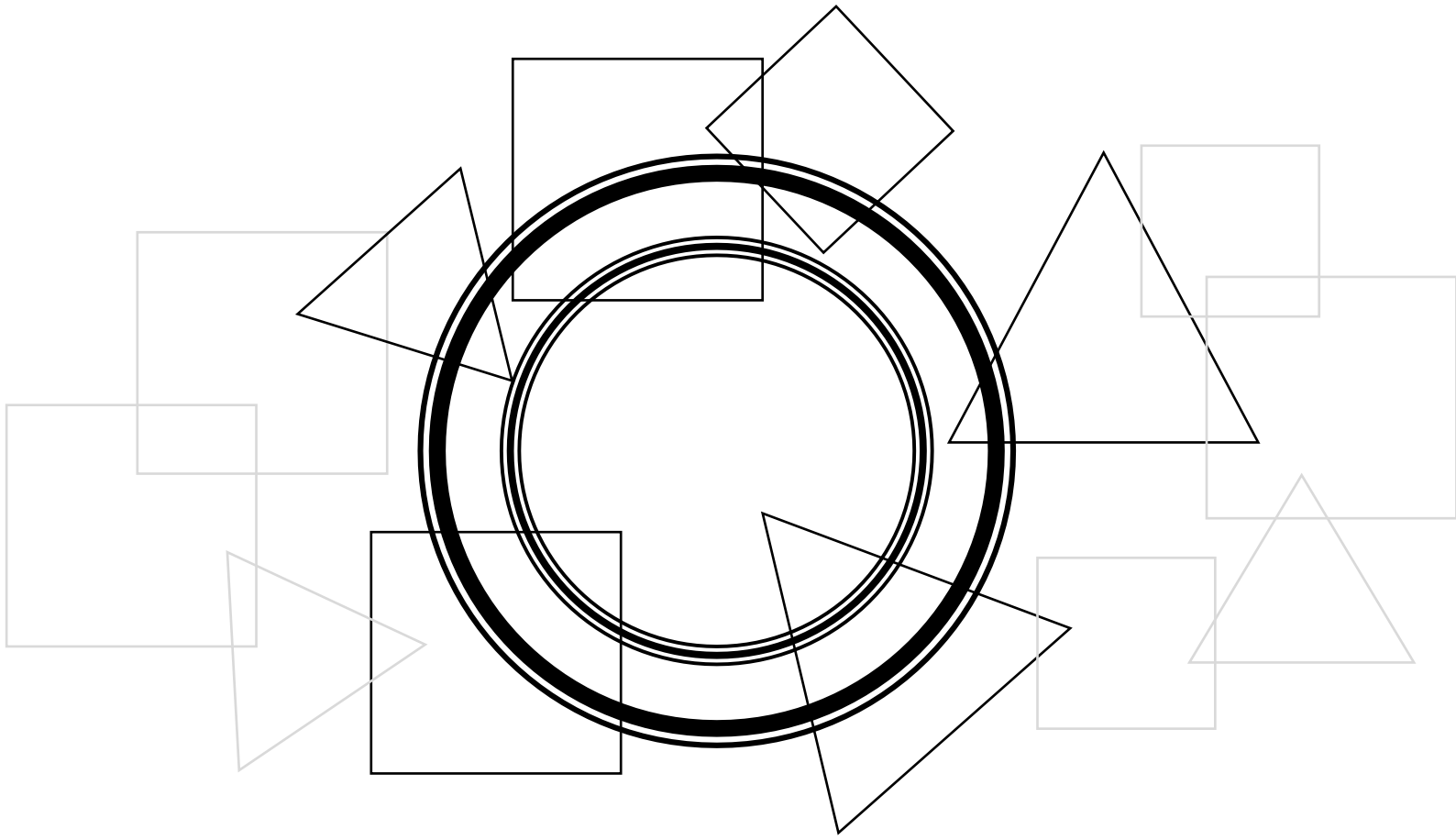
- It requires **gathering information on a subject or evidence to support a hypothesis** in order to **contextualise research data**.
- **Identify broad keywords** relevant to the studied subject. These require **careful consideration**, as they are responsible for directing the literature search and affect the material you will acquire to read.
- Based on these keywords, the researcher can **expand other subheadings to refine the search into specific topics**. A convenient way to start the literature search, it to start with the **published review articles** or **academic text books** to learn the background relevant to the subject.
- It is **recommended to achieve a balance between old established papers and current ones**, which refute as well as support a particular idea or research finding.

How to conduct a literature review?

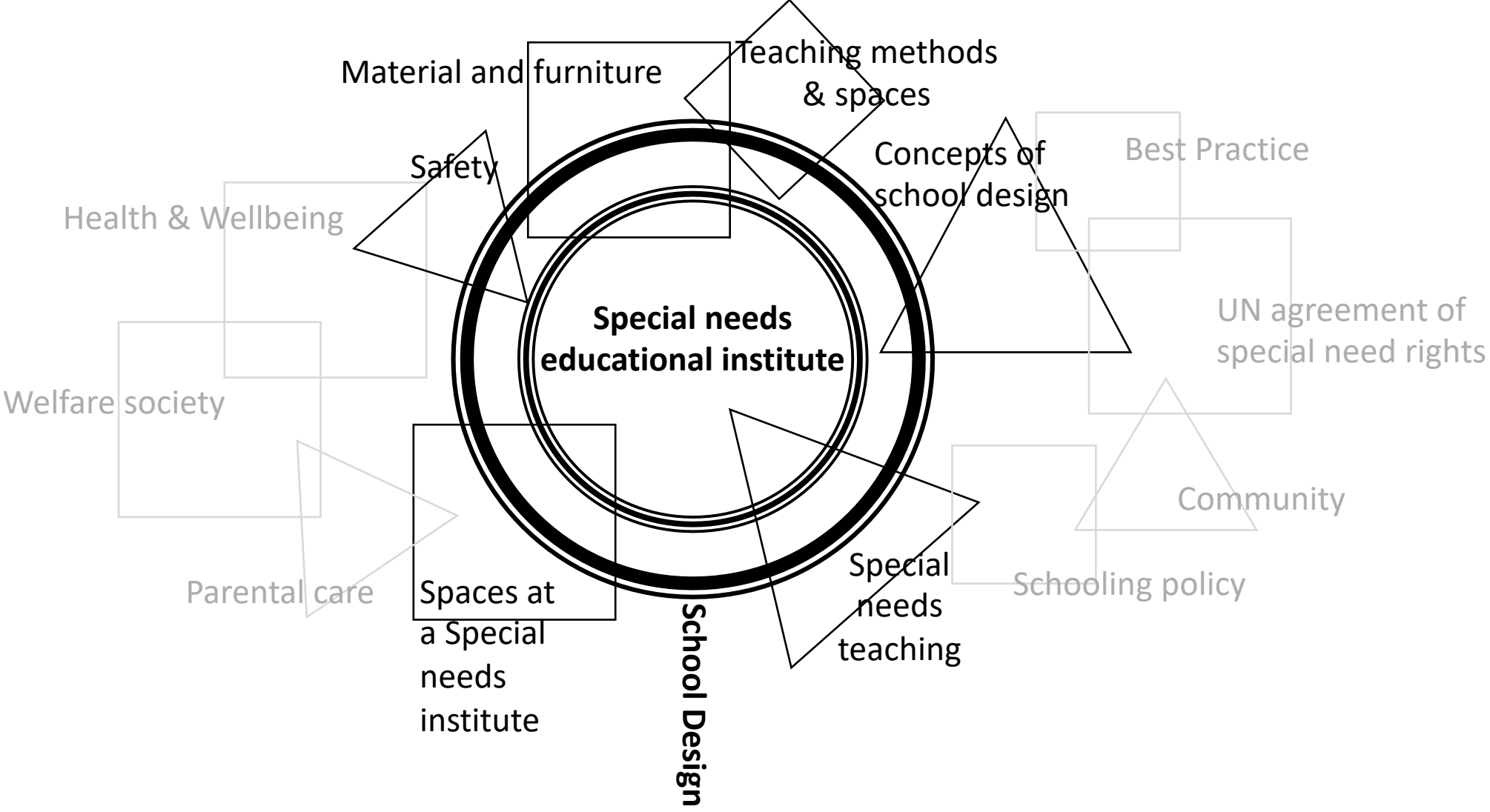
- structure your review with **an introduction, subsections** and a summary table if possible.
- summarise information **in your own words** and give appropriate credit to other authors' work.
- Use comprehensive and **“speaking”** subheadings for literature cores ideas/school of thoughts, that can be grouped for their relevancy.

Stages	Example
Select review topic/title	The decline of street public life in the era of the spectacular malls and the monopoly of chain stores
Identify keywords and search terms	street, leisure and shopping, urban space, decline of independent retail, public life
Identify information sources	Online search engines (Google scholar) Aalto Primo
	Journals of (urban planning, urban design, space and culture, urban economy etc.)
Generate reading list and collect articles	Start with broad search term
	Use online resources
	Save article titles and abstracts
	Collect full articles to read
Make notes in your own words	Group and collate information relating to keywords and search terms:
	e.g. social behaviour and place making, governing, neoliberal policies, alternative catalysts, consumption and city
	Evaluate the collected concepts
	Compare and contrast similarities and differences
Write literature review	Summarise findings: Use other subheadings to refine the search:
	Shopping street: A place of leisure or a space of consumption? Independent retail: the capacity to make urban culture Urban Renewal, gentrification and the lost Authenticity



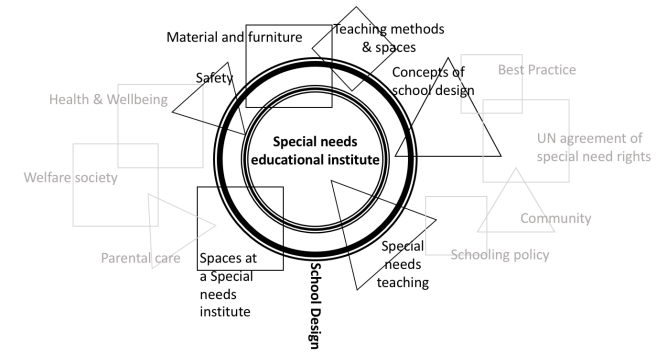


Example of Special needs' educational institute



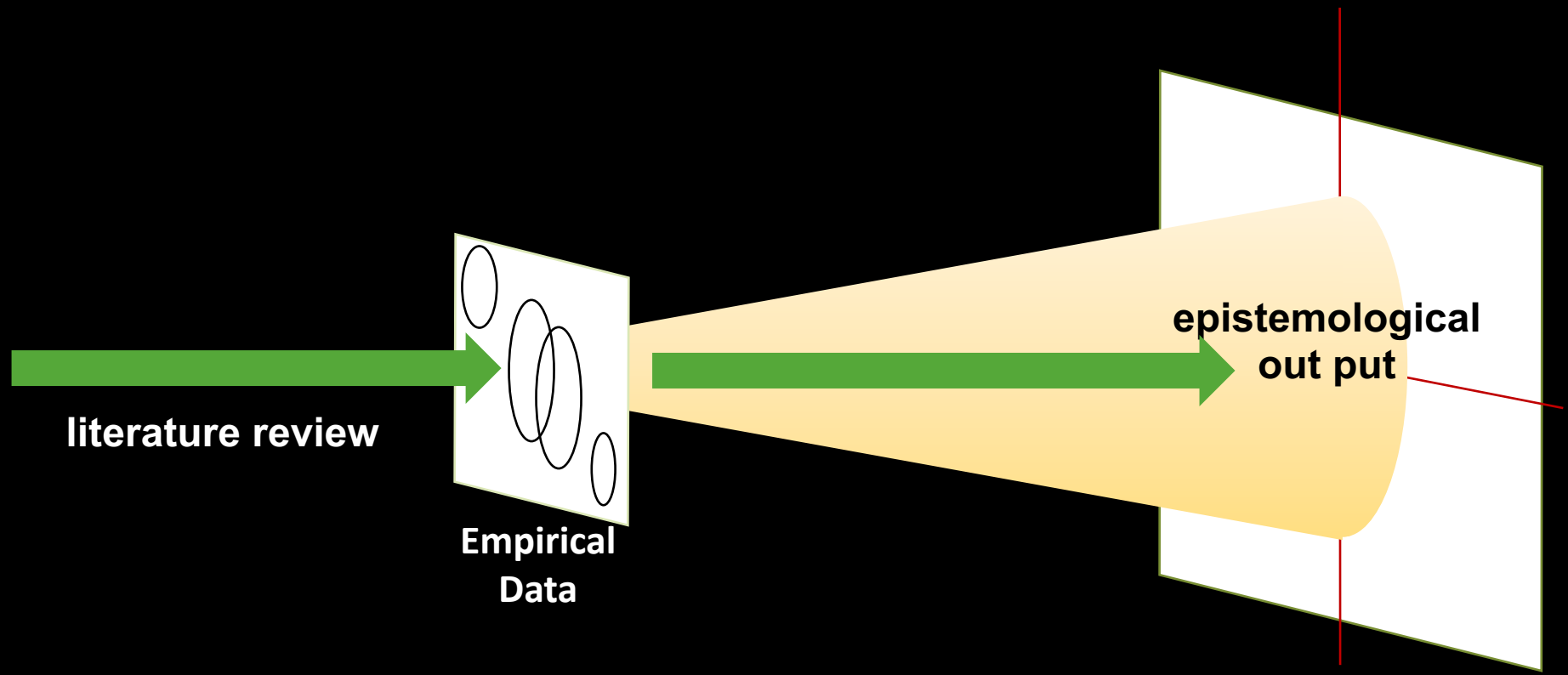
To Take

- Clear question is essential.
- Accordingly, method can be easily chosen.
- Understanding of empirical data.
- Literature "of relevance" review.
- Discuss the findings and critically look at them using the reviewed literature.
- Conclude, see below.



This enables you to phrase:

- In line with Lapintite (2016), this paper **argues**.....
- The findings demonstrated that the Finnish context, **on contrary to the ideal** by Lindgren (2019),...
- The author **draw** on Hewidy (2021) to urge the involving of end users.....
- Recalling Sassen (2005) concept of cities as platform, the paper **concludes** with a set of recommendations.....



literature review

Empirical
Data

epistemological
out put

Thank You!