



# Theoretical Foundations of Meta-Aggregation: Insights from Husserlian Phenomenology and American Pragmatism

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Doctoral Thesis

November 2015

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## **Abstract of the thesis**

The objectives of the thesis were: 1) to examine the Husserlian phenomenology and American pragmatism philosophical literature and to clarify the validity of the claims that the Joanna Briggs Institute's meta-aggregation is founded on Husserlian transcendental phenomenology and American pragmatism; 2) to develop an explicit coherent theoretical foundation for the Joanna Briggs Institute's approach to the meta-aggregation of qualitative studies based on insights from Husserlian phenomenology and American pragmatism.

The philosophical/theoretical perspective of the thesis was critical theory with a special focus on the philosophical works of Jurgen Habermas. Philosophical inquiry was used as methodology. Data collection involved critical reading of the Husserlian phenomenology and American pragmatism philosophical literature, the Joanna Briggs Institute's guidance on meta-aggregation and the international qualitative research literature regarding meta-synthesis of qualitative evidence - specifically meta-aggregation. Data analysis and synthesis used an integrative synthesis of ideas and theoretical framework development. Narrative (text) and graphical/visual approaches (tables; idea maps; diagrams) were used for the presentation of the results.

Chapter I of the thesis presents an introduction to the role of qualitative research and systematic reviews of qualitative evidence in evidence-based health care. Chapter II provides the details of the research questions/objectives, methodology, and methods. Chapter III of the thesis examines the Joanna Briggs Institute's meta-aggregation approach for synthesis of qualitative evidence. Chapter IV explores essential ideas of Husserlian phenomenology. Chapter V examines critically the validity of the claims that the Joanna Briggs Institute's meta-aggregation is founded on Husserlian transcendental phenomenology. Chapter VI explores fundamental ideas of American pragmatism as reflected in the works of Charles S. Peirce, William James, and John Dewey. Chapter VII examines critically the validity of the claims that the Joanna Briggs Institute's meta-aggregation is founded on American pragmatism. Chapter VIII provides an original explicit theoretical foundation for the Joanna Briggs Institute's meta-aggregation based on new insights from Husserlian phenomenology and American pragmatism.

## **Thesis Declaration**

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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Catalin Tufanaru

30th October 2015

## **Acknowledgement**

My sincere thanks and deepest appreciation to Emeritus Professor Alan Pearson AM, my Thesis Supervisor, for his guidance, encouragement, support, and endless patience.