
4-22-2024

Understandings of Vulnerability and Social Determinants of Health in Forensic and Expert Social Anthropology: A Scoping Review

James W. W. Rose

The University of Melbourne, james.rose@unimelb.edu.au

David M. Tran

The University of Melbourne, tran.d1@unimelb.edu.au

Follow this and additional works at: <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/tqr>



Part of the [Forensic Science and Technology Commons](#), [Health Law and Policy Commons](#), and the [Social and Cultural Anthropology Commons](#)

Recommended APA Citation

Rose, J. W., & Tran, D. M. (2024). Understandings of Vulnerability and Social Determinants of Health in Forensic and Expert Social Anthropology: A Scoping Review. *The Qualitative Report*, 29(4), 1212-1232. <https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2024.6704>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The Qualitative Report at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Qualitative Report by an authorized administrator of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact nsuworks@nova.edu.



Understandings of Vulnerability and Social Determinants of Health in Forensic and Expert Social Anthropology: A Scoping Review

Abstract

Forensic and expert social anthropology (FESA) is a branch of social anthropology that specialises in the provision of evidence to legal-administrative processes, which are overseen by courts and other legally empowered bodies, and which give regard to the social cultures of legally and administratively involved individuals and communities (LAIICs). Despite a preoccupation with political advocacy in the broader philosophy of social anthropology, FESA literature does not typically give regard to LAIIC vulnerability defined qualitatively in terms of social determinants of health, including physical, mental, and social well-being. This paper presents findings from a JBI/PRISMA-ScR scoping review of n=1,674 texts, identifying eight recurrent practice concerns in the relevant literature. Findings indicate that LAIIC vulnerability ranks only sixth among FESA practice concerns. This article serves as a study of FESA models of LAIIC vulnerability and social determinants of health and an unprecedented demonstration of scoping review methodology applied to social anthropological literature.

Keywords

social anthropology, cultural anthropology, forensic and expert social anthropology, expert witnessing, forensic science

Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

Acknowledgements

This research was funded by the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne.

Understandings of Vulnerability and Social Determinants of Health in Forensic and Expert Social Anthropology: A Scoping Review

James W. W. Rose and David Minh Tran
University of Melbourne, Australia

Forensic and expert social anthropology (FESA) is a branch of social anthropology that specialises in the provision of evidence to legal-administrative processes, which are overseen by courts and other legally empowered bodies, and which give regard to the social cultures of legally and administratively involved individuals and communities (LAIICs). Despite a preoccupation with political advocacy in the broader philosophy of social anthropology, FESA literature does not typically give regard to LAIIC vulnerability defined qualitatively in terms of social determinants of health, including physical, mental, and social well-being. This paper presents findings from a JBI/PRISMA-ScR scoping review of $n=1,674$ texts, identifying eight recurrent practice concerns in the relevant literature. Findings indicate that LAIIC vulnerability ranks only sixth among FESA practice concerns. This article serves as a study of FESA models of LAIIC vulnerability and social determinants of health and an unprecedented demonstration of scoping review methodology applied to social anthropological literature.

Keywords: social anthropology, cultural anthropology, forensic and expert social anthropology, expert witnessing, forensic science

Within the discipline of anthropology, the subsidiary field of social anthropology has developed a forensic and expert specialisation for application in legal-administrative processes (Rose, 2023a). The specialised field of forensic and expert social anthropology (FESA) includes forensic investigation and expert opinion and advice functions that are used as sources of evidence commissioned by courts, tribunals, governments, and other legally empowered bodies, where questions of social culture are relevant (Rose, 2022, 2023b). Since the 1970s FESA has become a well-established source of cultural evidence for legal-administrative processes, including in asylum claims, cultural heritage preservation, culturally-based land claims, war crimes and genocide trials, criminal defence proceedings, and related matters (Campbell, 2023; Good, 2022; Hoffman, 2007; Holden, 2022; Idrus, 2023; Leaf, 2018, 2022; Monteiro De Matos, 2023; Morphy & Morphy, 2023; Ngin, 2018; Ngin et al., 2023; Rodriguez, 2021; Rosen, 1977; D. Trigger et al., 2013; D. S. Trigger, 2023). Legally and administratively involved individuals and communities (LAIICs) who seek justice via such processes, are often members of culturally distinct minority groups within larger multicultural populations (Burdziej, 2023; Rodriguez, 2021). The minority status of LAIICs also often corresponds with social, economic, and political marginalisation, which in turn reflects an elevated degree of vulnerability to harm (Krishnan, 2020; Phillips, 2018; Umberg, 2018).

Within the broader social anthropological literature, models of LAIIC vulnerability are often tied to a claim that legal-administrative processes are themselves a source of harm (Mattei & Nader, 2008), and that FESA practice inadvertently exacerbates this harm due to its cooperation with presiding authorities in the course of contributing evidence (Austin-Broos et

al., 2012; Foblets et al., 2022; Loperena et al., 2020). Such models are consistent with a broader pattern of political advocacy in the academically oriented social anthropological literature generally. The carry-over of this political advocacy from academic social anthropology into specialised FESA practice creates challenges for that practice in legal-administrative settings, where forensic investigators and expert witnesses are typically required to exercise high levels of professional probative independence and impartiality (Edmond, 2004; Freckelton, 2019; Rangiah, 2016). Any forensic investigators or expert witnesses, including FESA practitioners, who are perceived by presiding authorities to engage in such advocacy, risk their evidence being deemed inadmissible and therefore useless to LAIICs' pursuit of justice.

The goal of the current study was to identify in an objective and reproducible manner, the motivations for and priorities of FESA practitioners' political advocacy, as represented in the relevant literature, and then to identify a possible theoretical and methodological synthesis of these elements, which might resolve the problem of evidentiary admissibility. The study was conducted in the context of a qualitative population health framework, such that the corollary elements of LAIIC vulnerability to harm have been defined as bearing inherently on the physical, mental, and social well-being of individuals and communities (Donkin et al., 2018; WHO, 1946; World Health Organization, 2010). This definition is based on a qualitative model of social determinants of health, focussing on social, economic, and political marginalisation, including its thematic description and analysis (Selvarajah et al., 2022; The Lancet, 2022).

The authors draw on their combined experience as FESA practitioners contributing forensic investigation and expert opinion and advice services to legal-administrative processes across a range of contexts, both in Australia and internationally. Rose has 20 years' experience providing FESA services to courts, tribunals, statutory authorities, and NGOs working with LAIICs across a range of Australian jurisdictions, from an academic base in social anthropology and population health. Tran is engaged as an expert adviser to Australian NGOs focusing on climate justice, finance, and restitutive loss-and-damage intervention policies, from an academic base in social anthropology and history. Both authors share an interest in maximising the probative weight attributed to FESA evidence across the widest possible range of relevant legal-administrative processes involving vulnerable LAIICs.

Using a scoping review methodology selected specifically for modelling underdeveloped bodies of scholarly literature in emerging areas of research, particularly in the health sciences (Peters et al., 2022), we identified $n=1,674$ relevant texts relating to FESA practice. Within this body of literature, we then identified eight key conceptual themes in texts where LAIIC vulnerability to harm is specifically discussed. Among these latter texts, we found health and wellbeing was ranked only sixth, measured according to the number of texts that specifically addressed it. Discussions of LAIIC health and wellbeing ranked behind discussions of (a) FESA antagonism towards legal-administrative processes and presiding authorities; (b) the cultural translation role of FESA practitioners in legal-administrative settings, and (c) the need for professional standards guiding FESA practice.

Following recent joint guidance on the conduct of scoping reviews issued by the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) and Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses' extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) (Peters et al., 2022), this article reports on the implementation and findings of an appropriately adapted JBI/PRISMA-ScR review comprising six stages. Stage 1 describes the rationale for the study, elaborating and specifying the theoretical premise of the review and its methodological relevance. Stage 2 describes the development of a relevant research question used for capturing the objective and parameters of the review. Stage 3 describes the process used to identify information sources, including academic literature search systems and databases. Stage 4 describes the elaboration and specification of a search strategy using a tailored query syntax. Stage 5 describes the extraction, modelling and analysis of data resulting from implementation of the search,

including the innovative use of relational network modelling and analysis. Finally, Stage 6 summarises the outcomes of the review, and identifies priorities for further follow-up research.

Stage 1: Rationale: Why a Scoping Review?

Scoping reviews are a widely used tool in the health sciences, designed to detect the extent and content or “scope” of existing scholarly literature relevant to a research question. Scoping reviews derive from an older and more formal method for conducting scholarly literature reviews, known as “systematic reviews” (Arksey & O’Malley, 2005). Systematic reviews are highly refined tools used to collate large quantities of data from the published results of comparable health science research studies and to detect and rank effective interventions. Systematic reviews are unknown in humanities literature, where formal, coherent, and consistent datasets are rare. By contrast, scoping reviews are used to a limited extent in social science fields such as economics and linguistics. In the case of social anthropology, where research theories and methods are not typically formalised to the same degree (Bernstein, 1999; Leaf, 2007; Read, 2008; Rose, 2024), we could find no published indications of scoping reviews having been previously conducted. Unlike social anthropology, the more specialised FESA literature tends to be more terminologically and conceptually coherent and consistent due to its application in the interdisciplinary setting of legal-administrative processes and is therefore amenable to scoping review.

The benefit of a scoping review to FESA practice lies in its potential to objectively identify and measure points of focus across an associated body of literature delimited by a definite set of parameters. Because FESA practice is defined by a specific object of study, parameters of study, and model of causality (Rose, 2022, 2023b), scoping reviews offer a reliable means to objectively identify convergence and divergence in the literature across each aspect. As elaborated below, scoping review eligibility criteria function to guide reviewers through the selection of texts according to clear definitions of (a) a relevant population, (b) a relevant concept, and (c) a relevant context (Peters et al., 2022). These criteria transpose neatly onto an established definition of FESA practice as involving (a) FESA practitioners, allied professionals including particularly legal professionals, and LAIICs with which FESAs work; (b) the provision of forensic investigation and expert opinion and advice services as forms of fact and opinion evidence, and (c) legal-administrative processes overseen by courts and other legally-empowered bodies (Rose, 2022, 2023a). The function of these eligibility criteria in delimiting the selection of texts for review, means that specific variations in the literature are clearly identifiable and measurable. Since the current paper presents findings on what appears to be the first scoping review ever applied to social anthropological literature, and in order to provide guidance for prospective future reviews of this literature, we have opted to include a detailed account of the process that we followed.

The earliest formal method for conducting scoping reviews was developed by Arksey and O’Malley (2005) as an explicit derivation of the systematic review method. This method was tailored to new and emerging fields of research and fields of research using mixed and exclusively qualitative methods, including the social sciences. The features of this method were subsequently refined and elaborated by Levac et al. (2010), Peters et al. (2015, 2022), Peterson et al. (2017), and Tricco et al. (2016, 2018). In 2015, the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) published formal guidance on best practice for conducting scoping reviews of health science literature (Peters et al., 2015). Earlier, in 2009, updated standardisation for reporting on systematic reviews had been adopted by international convention, termed PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items of systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses; Moher et al., 2009). Because the scoping review methodology had been explicitly derived from systematic review processes at its inception, PRISMA was subsequently modified for application to reporting on that

methodology as well, with guidance termed PRISMA-ScR (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews; Tricco et al., 2016, 2018). As noted by Peters et al. (2022), JBI and PRISMA-ScR guidance are mutually complementary and intended for adaptation as required. Accordingly, the scoping review presented here has been adapted for streamlined application to social anthropological literature in general, and to FESA literature in particular.

In their account of the JBI guidance, Peters et al. (2015) describe scoping reviews as ideally suited to the “reconnaissance” of literature exhibiting “a complex and heterogenous nature” (2015, p. 151). Since social anthropological literature in general is of a “complex and heterogeneous nature,” as noted by Bernstein (1999) and others (Kuhn, 1962; Leaf, 2007; Read, 2008; Rose, 2024; Wilson, 1998), and since the more specialised FESA literature is of a similar nature (Rose, 2022), the JBI and PRISMA-ScR guidance is ideally suited to social anthropological literature in general, and to FESA literature in particular. In updated guidance, Peters et al. (2022) corroborate an integrated model for conducting and reporting scoping reviews, comprising a sequential checklist of 17 items. The first five of these items relate to administrative information, while the last four relate to questions of bias connected with medical studies, which Peters et al. (2022, p. 968) note are “not typically included” in scoping reviews. These nine extraneous items are excluded here. The remaining eight items are set out List 1 below¹, commencing with the current item “Rationale.”

As noted above, among the most important elements in this series of items is the *Population, Concept and Context (PCC)* criteria applied in Item 3 “Eligibility Criteria,” as an objective and reportable means for reviewers to decide on which information sources to include and exclude. Although PCC criteria are listed at Item 3 in List 1, the PCC criteria are applied repeatedly throughout the review process in the elaborated model provided by Peters et al. (2022, pp. 956–958). We found that for application to social anthropological literature in general, and to FESA literature in particular, repeated application of the PCC criteria in successive steps induced reiterative, overlapping cycles or “loops” in successive stages. We found that Items 5, 6, 7 and 8 overlapped in such a way as to warrant integration into three interlinked PCC cycles. Therefore, in conducting and reporting on the current review, we reconfigured the eight items listed in the JBI/PRISMA-ScR guidance at List 1, into six sequential stages, with explicitly cyclical applications of the PCC criteria, as shown at List 2.

<p><i>List 1: 8 items listed in the JBI/PRISMA-ScR guidance.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Rationale</i> (Item 6) 2. <i>Objectives</i> (Item 7) 3. <i>Eligibility Criteria</i> (Item 8) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Population</i> ii. <i>Concept</i> iii. <i>Context</i> 4. <i>Information sources</i> (Item 9) 5. <i>Search strategy</i> (Item 10) 6. <i>Study Records</i> (Item 11) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Data management</i> b. <i>Selection process</i> c. <i>Data collection process</i> 7. <i>Data items</i> (Item 12) 8. <i>Outcomes and prioritization</i> (Item 13) 	<p><i>List 2: Adaptation incorporating cyclical PCC criteria.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Rationale</i> (Item 6) 2. <i>Objectives</i> (Item 7) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Eligibility criteria</i> (Item 8) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Population</i> ii. <i>Concept</i> iii. <i>Context</i> 3. <i>Information sources</i> (Item 9) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Eligibility criteria</i> (Item 8) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Population</i> ii. <i>Concept</i> iii. <i>Context</i> 4. <i>Search strategy</i> (Item 10) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Eligibility criteria</i> (Item 8) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Population</i>
--	---

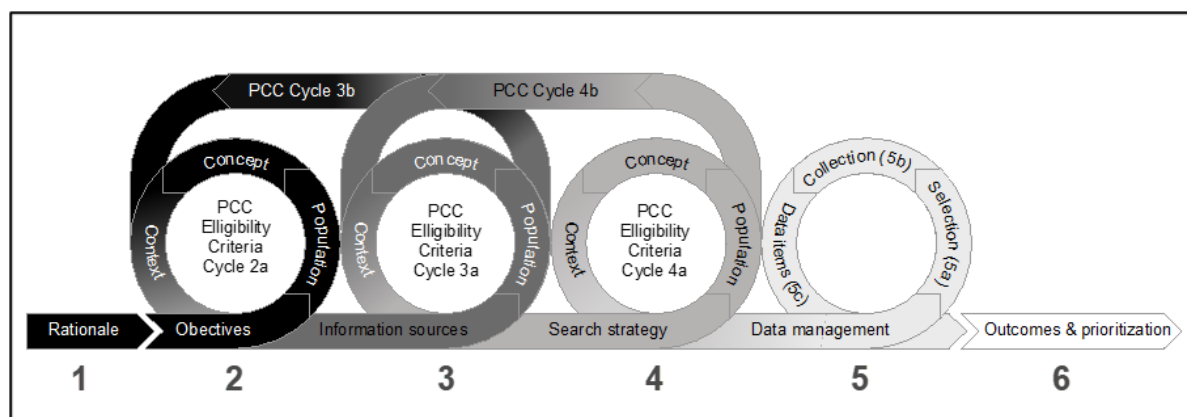
¹ See Appendix for elaborated definitions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. <i>Concept</i> iii. <i>Context</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <i>Data management</i> (Item 11a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Selection process</i> (Item 11b) b. <i>Data collection process</i> (Item 11c) c. <i>Data items</i> (Item 12) 6. <i>Outcomes and prioritization</i> (Item 13)
--	---

Our adaptation of the JBI/PRISMA-ScR item sequence is visualised at Figure 1 below. Here, Stage 1 *Rationale* is treated as a precursor. Stage 2 *Objectives*, Stage 3 *Information Sources*, and Stage 4 *Search Strategy* are each accompanied by a cyclical application of the PCC *Eligibility criteria*. In our review these cyclical tests were applied $N \geq 1$ times to the implementation of Stages 2, 3, and 4, with successive reformulations as necessary. Once a useful result was achieved, we exited the cycle and moved to the next stage. If a useful result was not reached after a reasonable number of PCC criteria cycles, then we opted to loop back either to the preceding stage or to the first of the three stage of the review process, and start again. In Figure 1, these long “back-cycles” are represented by larger arcs linking smaller PCC criteria cycles together. Next in our adaptation, Stage 5 *Data management* has been appended with JBI/PRISMA-ScR subsidiary Items 11b and 11c, and item 12 (5a, 5b, and 5c), forming a single stage. Finally, Stage 6 *Outcomes and prioritization* has been implemented without adaptation, where results of the review are discussed, and future lines of inquiry proposed.

Figure 1

Visualisation of adapted JBI/PRISMA-ScR Scoping Review (adapted from Peters et al., 2022)



Stage 2: Objective: Formulating Questions about LAIC Vulnerability and Social Determinants of Health in FESA Practice Settings

In line with advice from Peters et al. (2022, p. 967), we adapted the rationale developed in Stage 1 above into the following question:

How are the health impacts of involvement in legal-administrative processes upon LAICs conceptualised by forensic and expert social anthropologists who are also involved in those processes?

With this PCC criteria configuration, and consistent with our cyclical approach to the JBI/PRISMA-ScR guidance, we then proceeded to Stage 3 *Information sources*, where we selected Google Scholar as a provisional search system on which to trial the viability of our PCC criteria, and then on to Stage 4 *Search strategy*, where we ran a semi-structured provisional search query. While maintaining a focus on the Stage 2 objective of resolving a research question, we then repeated this cycle several times using iteratively amended question wording in Stage 2, restricting our search to the single Google Scholar information source in Stage 3, and iteratively modifying query syntax in Stage 4, until our searches began to yield results that exhibited *prima facie* relevance. On the basis of this cyclical approach to Stages 2, 3 and 4, we refined the following subsidiary eligibility questions for Stage 2

Objective:

1. *Does the text address FESA practice?*
2. *Does the text address the causal link between FESA practice and the health and well-being of communities involved in legal-administrative processes?*
3. *Is the text based on accounts of real legal-administrative processes and real communities (i.e., not speculative, theoretical, or philosophical discussion)?*
4. *Does the text describe how the causal link between FESA practice and population health outcomes is purported to function (i.e., does the text describe a model of causality)?*

Also, on the basis of these cycles, we refined a provisional query syntax, as shown at Table 1. This syntax configuration was designed to capture the three elements of the PCC criteria. One element was designed to capture the specialised provision of forensic investigation and expert opinion and advice services using an optional range of inconsistent terminology found in the literature. A second element was designed to capture associated discussions of legal-administrative processes. A third element was designed to capture associated discussions of LAIC health. Each category is differentiated internally by an “OR” operator to specify the inclusion of at least one term, and externally by an “AND” operator to specify that a term from each category must be included.

As elaborated below, and notwithstanding limitations of Google Scholar’s relatively coarse search functionality², this approach to Stage 2 *Objective* enabled us to capture a maximal range of texts in which relevant issues were discussed. As also elaborated below, this approach accommodated what we discovered to be an inconsistent terminological, theoretical, and methodological base across the literature. The restriction of provisional searching to the single generalised information source of Google Scholar enabled the widest possible range of results. The experimental reformulation of a provisional query syntax allowed us to progress to Stage 3.

Stage 3: Information Sources: Selecting Relevant Search Systems and Databases

As with the preceding stage *Objective*, Peters et al. (2022, p. 967) recommend using a PCC criteria in the selection and description of information sources. For our initial selection of relevant information sources, we commenced with Gusenbauer and Haddaway’s (2020)

² Most critically, Google Scholar queries re limited to 256 characters, meaning that our query syntax had to be “chunked” and run in variable permutations under that limit.

recommended list of 27 search systems and 32 associated databases³, as shown at Table 4. This list includes common information sources widely cited in systematic reviews and meta-analyses, such as EbscoHost, Embase, ProQuest, PsycINFO and Scopus, as well as those regularly cited by academic researchers across multiple disciplines, such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, Wiley Online Library and SpringerLink. We also sought input from the University of Melbourne Library Service and used our own experience and familiarity with the FESA literature to add one further search system and three further databases, bringing the total list to 28 search systems and 35 databases.

With this provisional configuration for *Information sources*, and consistent with our cyclical approach to the JBI/PRISMA-ScR guidance, we then ran the same provisional query as in Stage 2 (see Table 1). However, we found that the expanded Gusenbauer and Haddaway (GH) list was too broad and insufficiently focused to be useful. We therefore amended and re-applied our PCC criteria. This involved three measures. Firstly, we excluded any databases from the expanded Gusenbauer and Haddaway list for which initial search results did not exhibit a clear relevance to our existing PCC criteria, as described in Stage 2. This measure reduced the database list from 37 to 22 (see Table 4, column “Relevant”).

Table 1

First Provisional query syntax configuration, used for testing PCC eligibility criteria in Stage 1 “Objective.”

PCC elements	Query syntax component
<i>FESA practice</i>	(anthropology OR anthropologist OR anthropologists OR anthropological OR “cultural expert” OR “cultural experts” OR “cultural expertise” OR “expert witness” OR “expert witnesses” OR “expert witnessing”) AND
<i>Legal-admin processes</i>	(law OR legal OR judicial OR judiciary OR judge OR court OR courts) AND
<i>LAICC health</i>	("social determinants of health" OR "community health" OR "population health")

Table 2

Second provisional query syntax configuration, used for testing PCC eligibility criteria in Stage 3 “Information sources.”

PCC elements	Query syntax component
<i>FESA practice</i>	(anthropolog* OR cultural expert* OR expert witness*) AND
<i>Legal-admin processes</i>	(law OR legal OR judici* OR judge OR court*) AND
<i>LAICC health</i>	("social determinants of health" OR "community health" OR "population health")

³ “Search systems” (Gusenbauer & Haddaway, 2020) comprise search tools accessible via the web, which are typically attached to one or more databases.

Table 3

Third and final query syntax configuration, used for final search in Stage 4 “Search strategy.”

PCC elements	Query syntax component
<i>FESA practice</i>	(“social anthropology” OR “cultural anthropology”) AND
<i>Legal-admin processes</i>	(“expert witness*” OR “cultural expert*” OR “judici*” OR “court*”) AND
<i>LAICC health</i>	(“health”)

Secondly, we amended our provisional query syntax. For this measure, we contracted multiple etymologically related terms used in the provisional query syntax to a single common root (e.g., “anthropolog-” instead of “anthropology,” “anthropologist,” “anthropological”), and appended a wildcard (*) in each instance, as shown in Table 2. We then ran this query on the residual 22 databases, and excluded those that yielded initial results insufficiently focused to enable application of PCC criteria to all. This measure reduced the residual list of 22 databases to 9 distributed across 4 search systems (see Table 4, Column “*Focused*”).

Table 4

Information sources after Gusenbauer and Haddaway (2020). Orange = exclusion on the basis of insufficient relevance or focus. Green = inclusion. Yellow = added by authors.

Search system ID	Search systems	Database ID	Databases	Relevant?	Focused?
1	ACM Digital Library	1	ACM Digital Library	N	
2	AMiner	2	AMiner	N	
3	arXiv	3	arXiv	N	
4	Bielefeld Academic Search Engine	4	Bielefeld Academic Search Engine	Y	N
5	CiteSeerX	5	CiteSeerX	N	
6	ClinicalTrials.gov	6	ClinicalTrials.gov	N	
7	Cochrane Library (CENTRAL)	7	Cochrane Library (CENTRAL)	N	
8	Digital Bibliography & Library Project	8	Digital Bibliography & Library Project	N	
9	Directory of Open Access Journals	9	Directory of Open Access Journals	Y	N
10	EbscoHost	10	a. CINAHL Plus	Y	N
		11	b. EconLit	Y	N
		12	c. ERIC	N	
		13	e. SportDiscus	N	
11	Google Scholar	14	Google Scholar	Y	N
12	Education Resources Information Center	15	Education Resources Information Center	N	
13	IEEE Xplore Digital Library	16	IEEE Xplore Digital Library	N	
14	JSTOR	17	JSTOR	Y	Y
15	Microsoft Academic	18	Microsoft Academic	Y	N
16	OVID	19	a. Embase/Embase Classic	N	
		20	b. PsycINFO	Y	Y
17	ProQuest	21	a. ABI/Inform Global	Y	Y
		22	b. Nursing & Allied Health Database	Y	Y
		23	c. Public Health Database	Y	Y
		24	d. Applied Social Sciences Index & Abstracts (ASSIA)	Y	Y
		25	e. Social Science Database	Y	Y
18	ScienceDirect	26	ScienceDirect	Y	N
19	Scopus	27	Scopus	Y	N
20	Semantic Scholar	28	Semantic Scholar	N	
21	SpringerLink	29	SpringerLink	Y	N
22	Transport Research International	30	Transport Research International Documentation	N	
23	Virtual Health Library (LILACS)	31	Virtual Health Library (LILACS)	Y	N
24	Web of Science	32	a. Medline	N	Y
		33	b. Web of Science Core Collection	Y	N

25	Wiley Online Library	34	Wiley Online Library	Y	Y
26	WorldCat–Thesis/Dissertations	35	WorldCat–Thesis/Dissertations	Y	N
27	WorldWideScience	36	WorldWideScience	Y	N
28	Global Health (CAB Direct)	37	Global Health (CAB Direct)	Y	Y
Total				37	22
Excluded				15	13
Included				22	9

Stage 4: Search Strategy

As with the preceding Stage 2 *Objective*, and Stage 3 *Information sources*, Peters et al. (2022, p. 967) recommend using PCC criteria in the development of a search strategy. While the two iterations of our provisional query syntax were suitable for completing those stages, we found the results of the second syntax remained both insufficiently focused in some respects, and overly narrow in other respects. In particular, we found that the term <anthropolog*> returned more texts related to physical anthropology than to social anthropology, and that the terms <cultural expert*> and <expert witness*> returned more texts related to forensic psychology and other social sciences than to anthropology. Conversely, we found that the terms <social determinants of health>, <community health> and <population health> were too narrowly focused and were likely excluding relevant texts. To address these shortcomings, we made three further refinements to the query syntax, as shown at Table 3.

Running this third query on the 9 databases distilled in Stage 3, yielded $n=6,103$ texts, including duplicates, residual non-English language texts, and residual texts not either scholarly articles, book chapters, or grey literature. In order to further narrow this result to a workable dataset, we implemented a measure that we termed a “traffic light” approach. In this measure, a sample of the first $n \leq 100$ text titles + abstracts was exported from each of the 9 database query results, based on default system ordering. The number of text titles + abstracts varied according to the limitations of each search system. While some systems permitted export of up to 100 search results, others permitted export of as few as 20.⁴ For each database that did not permit search result exports at all, we compromised by manually exporting the first page of results using a copy-paste function.⁵

Sample query results were then tabulated using a spreadsheet independently accessible by both reviewers, wherein each column represented a distinct search system and database, and individual rows represented a distinct search query permutable from the final query syntax (see Table 3). At the intersecting cell of each column and row, three indices were shown, including the number of total search results, number of permitted result exports, and joint reviewer comments. One reviewer first evaluated each cell as either green, amber, or yellow, representing “certainly relevant,” “certainly irrelevant,” or “uncertainly relevant” respectively, according to our PCC criteria. The second reviewer then repeated this process independently. Where inconsistencies arose in any of the three indices, both reviewers discussed the cause and sought a resolution until only green “certainly relevant” and amber “certainly irrelevant” cells remained. Exclusively amber columns and rows were then removed, such that the number of eligible search systems was reduced from 4 to 3, and the number of eligible unique texts reduced from $n=6,103$ to $n=1,674$.

⁴ We observed that social sciences and humanities databases seemed to be more restricted in this regard, presumably due to a lack of demand for systematic and scoping review functionality.

⁵ Social science and humanities databases such as JSTOR and Wiley Online Library notably lacked bulk export functions, presumably also due to a lack of demand for systematic and scoping review functionality.

Stage 5: Study Records

In their summary explanation for the inclusion of subsidiary items 11a *Data management*, 11b *Selection process*, and 11c *Data collection process* into a single Item 11, Peters et al. (2022, p. 967) add that, “[Since] meta-analyses are not typically conducted in scoping reviews, this [item] can refer to the presentation of the results of the scoping review” (2022, p. 957). For subsequent Item 12 *Data Items*, they go on to advise reviewers to, “List and define all variables for which data will be sought (such as ... JBI's Population, Concept, and Context [PCC] ...)” (Peters et al., 2022, p. 967).

For the purposes of our review, we adapted these elements into the following three substages: 5a, “*Data extraction, screening and review*,” including extraction of data from sources identified in Stages 3 and 4, blind screening, and open review by both reviewers; 5b, “*Data modelling*,” including charting of the extracted data and preliminary observations, and; Substage 5c, “*Data analysis*,” including secondary modelling and final detailed analysis of the extracted data, consistent with the “presentation of the results” guidance provided by Peters et al. (2022).

Figure 1 distinguishes the three substages of Stage 5 as comprising a final cycle without the potential for reiteration. This is a deliberate feature of the schematic visualisation designed to reflect the discrete informative value of each of the Stage 5 substages. Whereas the PCC criteria comprising the cycles in Stages 2, 3 and 4 can all be reiteratively modified until a useful outcome enables progress, Substages 5a, 5b and 5c flow directly in sequence to the final Stage 6.

Substage 5a: Data Extraction, Screening and Review

In Stage 4 *Search strategy*, we used Zotero reference management software to extract title + abstract data from sample texts identified in Stage 3 *Information sources*. The result was the identification of 1,674 texts across seven information sources. In the current Substage 5a *Data selection process*, we used two different software applications to further winnow down this list to a most-relevant subset amenable to full-text review, using blind screening and open screening processes respectively. For blind screening, we used the web-based systematic review tool Covidence⁶. For subsequent open screening we used a simple cloud-based FileMaker Pro solution custom-developed by the authors⁷.

In the blind screening process, we imported text + abstract data for $n=1,674$ texts generated in Stage 4 into Covidence, and then applied a sequential screening process of progressively less complex keyword combination searches, for which the tool is designed. In this process each reviewer conducted an iterative series of three blind reviews of the title + abstract of each of the texts. For this process, a list of 11 relevant keywords was developed, based on our PCC criteria, yielding 36 distinct keyword search combinations (see Table 5, Table 6, Table 7). For each text returned by a keyword combination search, each researcher marked it for either inclusion or exclusion, based on the PCC criteria. Once both researchers completed each round of evaluation, Covidence returned with a list of conflicting evaluations and the process was repeated again, until both reviewers' evaluations were rendered consistent and without conflicts. Consistent with the Stage 4 *Search strategy* using Zotero, we excluded residual texts that were not scholarly books, articles, reports or relevant grey literature. We also excluded any residual non-English language texts. This process reduced the number of results from $n=1,674$ to $n=92$ texts.

⁶ <https://www.covidence.org>

⁷ FileMaker Pro is a relational database design, development and implementation tool that allows multiple users to contribute, access and edit data remotely: <https://www.claris.com/filemaker/pro/>

Table 5
Covidence blind screening phase 1, 3-keyword combination

3 Keyword terms	<i>health + social anthropology</i>	<i>Health + cultural anthropology</i>	<i>Health + cultural evidence</i>
+ court	health + social anthropology + court	health + cultural anthropology + court	health + cultural evidence + court
+ cultural evidence	health + social anthropology + cultural evidence	health + cultural anthropology + cultural evidence	health + cultural evidence + cultural evidence [REDUNDANT]
+ cultural expert	health + social anthropology + cultural expert	health + cultural anthropology + cultural expert	health + cultural evidence + cultural expert
+ evidence	health + social anthropology + evidence	health + cultural anthropology + evidence	health + cultural evidence + expert witness
+ expert witness	health + social anthropology + expert witness	health + cultural anthropology + expert witness	health + cultural evidence + judici*
+ judici*	health + social anthropology + judici*	health + cultural anthropology + judici*	health + cultural evidence + law
+ law	health + social anthropology + law	health + cultural anthropology + law	health + cultural evidence + legal
+ legal	health + social anthropology + legal	health + cultural anthropology + legal	health + cultural evidence + court

Table 6
Covidence blind screening phase 2, 2-keyword combination

2 Keyword terms	<i>social anthropology</i>	<i>cultural anthropology</i>	<i>cultural evidence</i>
+ court	social anthropology + court	cultural anthropology + court	cultural evidence + court
+ cultural evidence	social anthropology + cultural evidence	cultural anthropology + cultural evidence	health + cultural evidence + cultural evidence [REDUNDANT]
+ cultural expert	social anthropology + cultural expert	cultural anthropology + cultural expert	health + cultural evidence + cultural expert
+ evidence	social anthropology + evidence	cultural anthropology + evidence	cultural evidence + expert witness
+ expert witness	social anthropology + expert witness	cultural anthropology + expert witness	cultural evidence + judici*
+ judici*	social anthropology + judici*	cultural anthropology + judici*	cultural evidence + law
+ law	social anthropology + law	cultural anthropology + law	cultural evidence + legal
+ legal	social anthropology + legal	cultural anthropology + legal	cultural evidence + court

Table 7
Covidence blind screening phase 3, 1-keyword combination

1 Keyword Term	court	cultural evidence	cultural expert	evidence	expert witness	judici*	law	legal

In order to effectively review the resulting 92 texts against our PCC criteria, we migrated these texts to an independently accessible cloud-based FileMaker Pro solution,

purpose designed and built by the authors. Unlike Covidence, which enforces a blind review structure on individual text titles and abstracts and shepherds reviewers through a reductive process of inclusion and exclusion evaluation based on keyword combination searches, the purpose-designed FileMaker Pro solution enabled an open review based on free-text searching of body text, as well as title and abstract. A free-text “notes” field was also included for each text record, to enable each reviewer to record a justification for their inclusion/exclusion evaluation. Each reviewer then reviewed each of the 92 texts in full. This process ultimately yielded 25 texts for inclusion in subsequent Substage 5b *Data Modelling*.

Substage 5b: Data Modelling

While scoping reviews of health science literature may draw on formal and consistent terms and definitions, and coherent theoretical and methodological models typical of associated research fields, scoping reviews of social science and humanities literature must be configured in order to accommodate scholarship of a more “complex and heterogeneous nature” (Peters et al., 2015, p. 141). As noted above, this is the case in social anthropological literature generally, and consequently also in the FESA literature at the current time. Peters et al. (2022) note that methods used to identify “conceptual categories” in such literature may utilise a degree of subjectivity without loss of analytical benefit, provided that those categories are used consistently (2022, p. 965).

Table 8

Distribution of 33 distinct conceptual themes across 25 texts, based on phrasings used in the texts themselves.

Theme ID	Text ID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Theme/Text	Anders (2014)	Campbell et al. (2017)	Castillo (2017)	Cohen & Trank (2018)	Edmond (2004)	England (2022)	Gallagher (2018)	Good (2004)	Heidbrink (2022)	Hoshine (2016)	Jones & Campbell (2022)	Keele (2011)	Kirsch (2018)	Leaf (2018)	Levy (2022)	Loperena (2020)	Nglin (2018)	Phillips (2018)	Rodriguez (2014)	Rodriguez (2022)	Rosen (1977)	Schwandner-Sievers (2008)	Stephan (2018)	Suisse et al. (2013)	Winkelmann (1996)
1	Agency of LAICs when attempting to pursue their rights under the law			1																						
2	FESA's closeness to LAICs		3		3				1								1		2			2				
3	FESA practice in an adversarial system		1								2											2				
4	Aspects of legal and FESA practice common to both, where both professions work with and reference			2		1		1									2		1							1
5	Credibility of FESAs or of LAICs	1				1	2		2	9						5										2
6	Differences between FESA and academic social anthropology					5																				
7	'Good enough' standards in FESA practice, balancing between essentialising cultures and building strong			10		1		1			2															1
8	Educative role of FESA in the courtroom	3																					1			
9	Vulnerability of FESAs												4													
10	Epistemological differences between the law and social anthropology more broadly, particularly	8	3			5	1	2	3		2				1				3	2		1				
11	Ethics of FESA	1	4	1	1	12												1				1				
12	FESA advocacy and activism					7						1			1			8		1		1				
13	FESA practice promoting social and macro-structural change			1	2										2										1	2
14	FESA awareness of the stakes at play for the case					1			1		2				1					1		1				
15	FESA's explanations of LAIC vulnerability					3	1		2	1					4						12				1	4
16	Flexibility and arbitrariness in legal categories and in judges' decisions	1	2	1	12				2							18						1				
17	Hegemony of the adjudicator or judge and role of the FESAs as assistants	4		4		1		1	12	1	4					1						1				
18	Pressure on FESAs to cater to essentialising logics, norms, and assumptions of the courtroom	1	3					1	1		4		1	4	4		6	3	4	2	3	7	1	2		1
19	FESA articulation of 'culture' in the court room		3	3	1			2						5	26	1		12	4	1		3	1	2		6
20	Immediate positive effect of FESA practice for LAICs		3																							
21	Legal assumptions about FESA and social anthropology more broadly	6			1	8		2	3											2		2	2			
22	Limits and errors of FESA practice					6	1																			
23	Notions of 'objectivity' and 'truth' as expressed by FESAs and courts, as distinct from 'subjectivity'	1			1	6			10			6							1	4	3					
24	Recommendations by legal professionals to FESAs on FESA practice, or by FESAs to legal professionals on	1				1		1							1											
25	Responding to public assumptions and understandings of countries and cultures, which can influence				1															1				5		
26	Role of FESAs in cultural contextualisation or explanation			1	1		1			1			6		4	1				4	1	1	3	1	3	1
27	State or structural issues influencing conditions for LAICs, cases, or courts			3							2															8
28	Role of FESAs in translation and bridging knowledge gaps		3		2				9							1	1				2					1
29	Unsuitability of legal categories, terms and processes, and constraints imposed on FESAs in legal settings	1	1	1		1	2	3							3	4				4						1
30	Use of social anthropological and social science frameworks, concepts, and methods in FESA practice	10			2			5		1		1		1	1	3				6	7	1		1	1	2
31	Value to court cases and the legal discipline of social anthropology more broadly	2	1			1						1	1													1
32	Value of creating common standards for FESA		1			2			1														5			
33	Value of FESA to the field of social anthropology more broadly											3									2		2			1

Given that the PCC criteria consistently applied in the previous Stages 2, 3 and 4 set the parameters on the final selection of 25 texts identified in Substage 5a, we sought to identify recurrent conceptual categories using phrasing from the texts themselves, rather than the form of words used in our review question, as set out in Stage 2. Factoring in the thematically

oriented grammar of social science and humanities literature (Bernstein, 1999; Rose, 2024), we opted to reformulate the “conceptual categories” predicted by Peters et al. (2022), as “themes.” Using this approach, we identified 33 themes recurring $n > 1$ times across the 25 texts, based on distinct phrasings used in the texts themselves. The threshold for the distinction of a theme was that it should include at least two elements of the PCC criteria. We then charted the incidence of these 33 themes across the 25 selected texts, with incidence defined by the number of discrete mentions of each theme both within each text and across the set of 33 texts, as shown at Table 8.

We found that while certain themes were mentioned only once in a single given text, other themes were mentioned repeatedly within single texts. Overall, we found an average incidence of 19.9 mentions per theme across all 25 texts, ranging from a minimum of four mentions of one theme across two texts (“*Educative role of FESA in the courtroom*”), to a maximum of 70 mentions across 14 texts (“*FESA articulation of 'culture' in the court room*”).

The motivation for paraphrasing 25 texts in the development of these 33 themes, was to show that the themes were not “imposed” on the texts by us, but were objectively identifiable on the basis of the language used by authors themselves. Where phrasing varied significantly between texts that otherwise appeared to be discussing the same theme, we nevertheless distinguished separate themes. As a consequence, many of the 33 themes ended up exhibiting high levels of semantic overlap. In order to focus the implications of this data model and enable clearer analysis, we grouped subsets of the 33 themes into a smaller number of more coherent thematic sets, based on reasonable interpretations of semantic overlap, and using a synthesised summary phrasing. We then reiteratively proposed, discussed and refined sets for each of the 33 themes, until they reached what we considered to be an irreducible list of 8 more inclusive and more coherent thematic sets. For each of these 8 new thematic sets, incident counts were aggregated, as shown in Table 9.

Table 9
33 themes organised into 8 sets, based on semantic overlaps, showing aggregate incident counts.

		Text ID																														
Theme Set ID	Theme Set	Theme ID	Theme/Text	Incidence	Anders (2014)	Campbell et al. (2017)	Casillo (2017)	Cohen & Trank (2018)	Edmond (2004)	England (2022)	Gallagher (2018)	Good (2004)	Heilbrink (2022)	Heine (2016)	Jones & Campbell (2022)	Keefe (2011)	Kirsch (2018)	Leaf (2018)	Livy (2022)	Lopera (2020)	Niger (2018)	Phillips (2018)	Rodriguez (2014)	Rodriguez (2022)	Rosen (1977)	Schwandner-Sievers (2006)	Stephens (2016)	Stussler et al. (2013)	Winkelmann (1996)			
					1	FESA antagonism to legal processes	Theme set incidence	253	23	8	6	5	34	2	10	42	1	18		1	7	33			8	10	12	6	4	13	7	2
3 FESA practice in an adversarial system	5		1												2												2					
5 Credibility of FESAs or of LAIICs	22	1		1			2				2	9							5									2				
10 Epistemological differences between the law and social anthropology more broadly, particularly positivism, and	31	8	3					5	1	2	3				2					1			3	2								
16 Flexibility and arbitrariness in legal categories and in judges' decisions	38	1		2			1	12				2															1		1			
17 Hegemony of the adjudicator or judge and role of FESAs as assistants	28	4		4				1			1	11	1	4							1								1			
18 Pressure on FESAs to cater to essentialising logics, norms, and assumptions of the courtroom	48	1	3									1	1			4		1	4	4		6	3	4	2	3	7	1	2		1	
21 Legal assumptions about FESA and social anthropology more broadly	28	6					1	8				2	3									1			2	1		2	2			
23 Notions of "objectivity" and "truth" as expressed by FESAs and courts, as distinct from "subjectivity"	32	1					1	6						10											4	3						
29 Unsuitability of legal categories, terms and processes, and constraints imposed on FESAs in legal settings	21	1	1				1			1	2	3																		1		
2	FESA's cultural translation function	Theme set incidence	177	15	7	4	7	1	3	14			2		2	12	27	7	5	12	10	14	2	2	7	6	6	3	9			
		8 Educative role of FESA in the courtroom	4	3																									1			
		19 FESA articulation of "culture" in the court room	70		3	3	1		2							5	26	1			12	4			1			3	1	2	6	
		25 Responding to public assumptions and understandings of countries and cultures, which can influence court processes	4				1																						2			
		26 Role of FESAs in cultural contextualisation or explanation	31			1	1			1				1				6		4	1			4	1	1	3	1	3	1	2	
		28 Role of FESAs in translation and bridging knowledge gaps	19		3		2					9												2								1
		30 Use of social anthropological and social science frameworks, concepts, and methods in FESA practice	42	10			2					5		1		1		1	1	3		6	7		1			1	1	2		
31 Value to court cases and the legal discipline of social anthropology more broadly	7	2	1			1								1	1												1					
3	Need for professional FESA standards	Theme set incidence	69	2	15	3	2	16	1	1	2	2	2		1		4	1		4		1					11	1	1	1		

	4	Aspects of legal and FESA practice common to both, where both professions work with and reference each other	8		2		1	1							2	1					1			
	7	'Good enough' standards in FESA practice, balancing between essentialising cultures and building strong cases for	21		10		1	1		2			4		1					1	1			
	11	Ethics of FESA	21	1	4	1	1	12							1					1				
	24	Recommendations by legal professionals to FESAs on FESA practice, or by FESAs to legal professionals on legal practice	10	1			1		1		1		1								5			
	32	Value of creating common standards for FESA	9		1			2		1											5			
4	Theme set incidence		54		4	6				4	1		20	1	1		1	3			2	9	2	
	1	Agency of LAICs when attempting to pursue their rights under the law	9			1						5	1			1					1			
	13	FESA practice promoting social and macro-structural change	11		1	2				2			2					1				1	2	
	20	Immediate positive effect of FESA practice for LAICs	7			3					1							2				1		
	27	State or structural issues influencing conditions for LAICs, cases, or courts	27			3				2			13	1									8	
5	Theme set incidence		38	3			3	13	1		1		1			9	3				3			
	2	FESA's closeness to LAICs	12	3			3			1					1	2					2			
	12	FESA advocacy and activism	19				7				1		1		8	1					1			
	22	Limits and errors of FESA practice	7				6	1																
6	Theme set incidence		38			3	2			3	1		2		5		3		12	1		1	1	4
	14	FESA awareness of the stakes at play for the case	10				1			1			2		1		3			1		1		
	15	FESA's explanations of LAICC vulnerability	28			3	1			2	1				4				12				1	4
7	Theme set incidence		14				5						3							2		2		1
	6	Differences between FESA and academic social anthropology	5				5																	
	33	Value of FESA to the field of social anthropology more broadly	8										3							2		2		1
8	Theme set incidence		6										4								2			
	9	Vulnerability of FESAs	6										4								2			

Following this grouping and aggregation process, we ranked the 8 new thematic sets according to incidence both within each text and across texts. In Table 9, the first column lists the 8 new thematic sets, the third column lists the original 33 themes, the fourth column lists the overall incidence counts for each. This table shows a clearly patterned distribution of both the original 33 themes and the 8 thematic sets. Of the 8 thematic sets, “*FESA antagonism to legal processes*” exhibits an aggregate incidence of 253 mentions across 22 texts, compared with the next most frequently mentioned thematic set, “*cultural translation*” with an incidence count of 177 mentions across 23 texts. In other words, “*FESA antagonism to legal processes*” is mentioned in some form nearly one-and-a-half times more frequently across the 25 texts in total, than “*FESA’s cultural translation function.*” The next most frequently mentioned thematic set is “*Need for FESA professional standards*” with an incidence count of 69 mentions, then “*FESA benefit to client communities*” to at 54 mentions, “*Insufficient FESA training*” and “*Vulnerability of LAICs*” at 38 mentions each, “*FESA as a specialisation*” at 14 mentions, and finally “*Vulnerability of FESAs*” at six mentions across two texts.

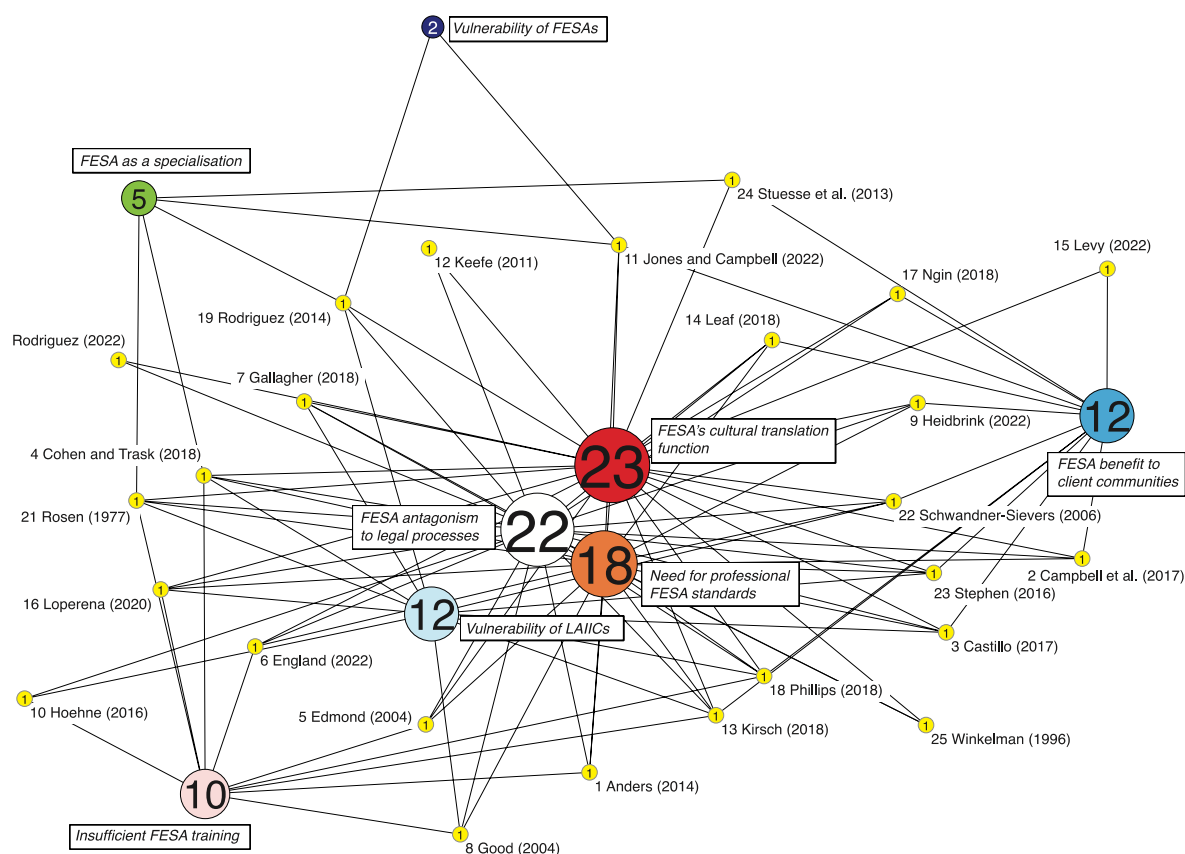
Substage 5c: Data Analysis

For the final Substage 5c “*Data Analysis,*” adapted from JBI/PRISMA-ScR Item 12, we decided to utilise a network analytic method to visualise the outcomes of Substages 5a and 5b, thereby highlighting what we considered to be the most informative properties of the review: Perceptions of FESA practitioners and allied professionals. Network analysis is a graphing method used for visualising tabulated data in such a way as to reveal meaningful relational patterns that may not be readily intuited from tables themselves. Network models consist of two basic elements: (a) nodes, and (b) ties between nodes. When transforming tabulated data into network graphs, the most typical method is to convert each row and each column into one node each, while the value at the intersection of a given row and column is converted into a tie between those two nodes. If there is no value at the intersection, then no tie is created between the nodes. Where the same row intersects with multiple columns, or where the same column intersects with multiple rows, multiple ties are created linking the same corresponding node to others in the network. Where the value of an intersection varies upwards from $n=1$, the value of either corresponding node or tie can be used to vary its size.

For our table of 8 thematic sets and 25 texts, developed in Substage 5b, we transposed the corresponding data into the network graph shown at Figure 2, created using the network modelling and analysis tool Pajek⁸. In this network, yellow-coloured nodes represent 25 individual texts, while nodes of other colours represent the 8 sets of themes described above. Ties between yellow nodes and nodes of other colours indicate that the connected text mentions the connected theme at least once. The size of thematic nodes represents the number of texts that mention the connected themes. Thus, the largest thematic node, “*FESA’s cultural translation function*,” is marked “23,” indicating that it is mentioned by 23 texts. This varies the aggregate mentions enumerated in Table 9, where the number of mentions per texts is also counted.

Figure 2

Network graph visualisation of incidence between 8 thematic sets (coloured) and 25 texts (yellow). Numbers $n > 1$ indicate incident citing texts per thematic set.



There are two significant additional insights provided by this network model of the data items extracted in the course of Stage 5, which are not necessarily clear from the tabulated model presented in Table 9. The first insight derives from the clear representation of the specific individual texts, which refer to either single or multiple themes and, in the latter case, which multiple themes are mentioned alongside each other within individual texts. The second additional insight derives from the shape of the overall network, which has been generated using a “spring-embedding” calculation that locates more frequently connected nodes closer to

⁸ <http://mrvar.fdv.uni-lj.si/pajek/>

one another, and less frequently connected nodes further apart. Yellow-coloured text nodes are consequently distributed at approximately equal distances from one another, since none are directly interconnected. By contrast, the thematic nodes show a variable distribution.

The three most frequently mentioned thematic sets are concentrated close to one another at the centre of the graph, surrounded by the majority of text nodes to which they are connected. The reason is that these themes are mentioned by most texts. Accordingly, “*FESA’s cultural translation function*,” “*FESA antagonism towards legal-administrative processes*,” and “*Need for FESA professional standards*” are all mentioned alongside each other to some degree, among most texts. Meanwhile “*Vulnerability of LAIICs*” is located slightly away from the centre of the graph, mentioned by just under half of the texts. Next, “*insufficient training*” and “*benefit to LAIICs*” are located away to the edges of the graph, and on opposite sides to one another, indicating that the 10 and 12 texts that respectively mention these themes, do not mention them alongside one another, except in the cases of two texts. Finally, the least frequently mentioned themes of “*FESA as a specialisation*” and “*Vulnerability of FESAs*” are located away to the top-left edge of the graph, but relatively close to another, indicating that the five and two texts that mention them respectively, do so jointly.

The network model of the tabulated data shown in Table 9 objectively demonstrates that of the $n=25$ scholarly texts published to 2022, the majority associate the role of FESA cultural translation and explanation, antagonism between FESA practitioners and legal professionals in legal-administrative processes, and the need for professional training, with effects on the health and wellbeing of LAIICs. Importantly however, none of the texts include any specific discussion of risks to the health and well-being of LAIICs, which aligns with formal or conventional definitions of health and wellbeing, including at a general level, the definition provided by the World Health Organisation as “physical, mental and social wellbeing” (WHO, 1946). Nor do any of the 25 texts refer to formal or conventional models of causality, as provided by a social determinant of health model (World Health Organization, 2010).

Stage 6: Outcomes and prioritization (Conclusion)

The goal of this paper has been twofold: Firstly, we have sought to undertake a comprehensive, impartial, and replicable review of scholarly literature relevant to FESA practice up to 2021, in order to develop a model of what FESA practitioners and allied professionals understand about the causal links between their professional practice and the health and well-being of individuals and communities with which they work. Secondly, we have trialled the use of a well-established formal review methodology specifically designed for application in health sciences, which has not been previously applied to social anthropological scholarly literature, but which we believe we have demonstrated to be effective.

Our hope is that the findings of this study will both clarify and enhance understandings of the causal links between professional FESA practice and the health and well-being of individuals and communities with which FESA practitioners work, and set a precedent for the application of scoping review methodologies to the FESA literature specifically, and to social anthropological literature generally. More specifically, we hope that the findings presented here will encourage the development of more formal and consistent terms and definition, and coherent theoretical and methodological models for use in the FESA literature. We especially hope to see an uptake by FESA practitioners of the World Health Organisation’s model of health as comprised of physical, psychological, and social well-being (WHO, 1946), and of its associated model of social determinants of health (World Health Organization, 2010). Our view is that such measures will assist FESA practitioners in elevating the professional standards of their field, attracting greater collaboration between their field and the fields of allied

professionals, and in neutralising the risks to just outcomes for LAIICs incurred by political advocacy rather than health advocacy.

Appendix: JBI/PRISMA-ScR Guidance, after Peters et al. (2022)

Section and topic	Item No.	Checklist item
INTRODUCTION		
Rationale	6	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known (Note: Consider providing a rationale for the choice of conducting a scoping review as compared to other evidence synthesis approaches)
Objectives	7	Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to the inclusion/ exclusion criteria
METHODS		
Eligibility criteria	8	Specify the study characteristics (such as [PCC criteria], study design, setting, timeframe) and report characteristics (such as years considered, language, publication status) to be used as criteria for eligibility for the review
Information sources	9	Describe all intended information sources (such as electronic databases, contact with study authors, trial registers or other grey literature sources) with planned dates of coverage
Search strategy	10	Present draft of search strategy to be used for at least one electronic database, including planned limits, such that it could be repeated
Study records		
Data management	11a	Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review
Selection process	11b	State the process that will be used for selecting studies (such as two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (that is, screening, eligibility and inclusion)
Data collection process	11c	Describe planned method of extracting data from reports (such as piloting forms, done independently, in duplicate), any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators
Data items	12	List and define all variables for which data will be sought (such as PICO items, funding sources), any preplanned data assumptions and simplifications (Note: Scoping reviews may not use PICO and instead may use JBI's Population, Concept, and Context [PCC] or another approach to reporting eligibility criteria)
Outcomes and prioritization	13	List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale (Note: Scoping reviews may not extract outcome data, so this can refer to whichever data items are extracted)

References

- Arksey, H., & O'Malley, L. (2005). Scoping studies: Towards a methodological framework. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 8(1), 19–32. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1364557032000119616>
- Austin-Broos, D., Bastin, R., Kapferer, B., Merlan, F., Morris, B., Peterson, N., Vaarzon-Morel, P., & Trigger, D. (2012). Responses to David Trigger's article anthropology pure and profane: The politics of applied research in Aboriginal Australia. *Anthropological Forum*, 22(1), 67–93. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2012.652588>
- Bernstein, B. (1999). Vertical and horizontal discourse: An essay. *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 20(2), 157–173. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01425699995380>
- Burdziej, S. (2023). Cultural expertise and procedural justice. In L. Holden (Ed.), *Cultural expertise, law, and rights* (1st ed., pp. 133–140). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003167075-15>
- Campbell, J. R. (2023). Article 1F and anthropological evidence: A fine line between justice and injustice? *Anthropological Forum*, 33(3), 268–282. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2023.2298767>
- Donkin, A., Goldblatt, P., Allen, J., Nathanson, V., & Marmot, M. (2018). Global action on the social determinants of health. *BMJ Global Health*, 3(Suppl 1), e000603. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2017-000603>
- Edmond, G. (2004). Thick decisions: Expertise, advocacy and reasonableness in the Federal Court of Australia. *Oceania*, 74(3), 190–230. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1834-4461.2004.tb02850.x>
- Foblets, M.-C., Gaudreault-DesBiens, J.-F., & Graziadei, M. (Eds.). (2022). Legal scholars engaging with social anthropology: Hardships and gains. *German Law Journal*, 23(7), 911–919. <https://doi.org/10.1017/glj.2022.66>
- Freckelton, I. R. (2019). *Expert evidence: Law, practice, procedure and advocacy* (6th ed.). Thomson Reuters.
- Good, A. (2022). Comment on Rose: 'Forensic and expert social anthropology'. *Open Anthropological Research*, 2(1), 76–79. <https://doi.org/10.1515/opan-2022-0119>
- Gusenbauer, M., & Haddaway, N. R. (2020). Which academic search systems are suitable for systematic reviews or meta-analyses? Evaluating retrieval qualities of Google Scholar, PubMed, and 26 other resources. *Research Synthesis Methods*, 11(2), 181–217. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1378>
- Hoffman, D. (2007). The meaning of a militia: Understanding the civil defence forces of Sierra Leone. *African Affairs*, 106(425), 639–662. <https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/adm054>
- Holden, L. (2022). Anthropologists as experts: Cultural expertise, colonialism, and positionality. *Law & Social Inquiry*, 47(2), 669–690. <https://doi.org/10.1017/lsi.2021.58>
- Idrus, R. (2023). Engaged social anthropology and Indigenous land claims in Malaysia. *Anthropological Forum*, 33(3), 213–228. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2023.2257898>
- Krishnan, L. (2020). The vulnerability of the Aboriginal community in relation to customary land rights. In T. Kananatu & S. G. M. Koh (Eds.), *Vulnerable groups in Malaysia* (pp. 69–88). De Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110610970-006>
- Kuhn, T. S. (1962). *The structure of scientific revolutions*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Leaf, M. J. (2007). Empirical formalism. *Structure and Dynamics: eJournal of Anthropological and Related Sciences*, 2(1). <https://doi.org/10.5070/SD921003288>
- Leaf, M. J. (2018). Judicial ethnocentrism versus expert witnesses in asylum cases. In A. Sarat & L. Rodriguez (Eds.), *Studies in Law, Politics and Society* (Vol. 74, pp. 49–99).

- Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1059-433720180000074004>
- Leaf, M. J. (2022). An anthropologist as expert witness. *Open Anthropological Research*, 2(1), 41–58. <https://doi.org/10.1515/opan-2022-0120>
- Levac, D., Colquhoun, H., & O'Brien, K. K. (2010). Scoping studies: Advancing the methodology. *Implementation Science*, 5(1), 69. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1748-5908-5-69>
- Loperena, C., Mora, M., & Hernández-Castillo, R. A. (2020). Cultural expertise? Anthropologist as witness in defense of Indigenous and Afro-descendant rights. *American Anthropologist*, 122(3), 588–594. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13458>
- Mattei, U., & Nader, L. (2008). *Plunder: When the rule of law is illegal*. Blackwell Pub. <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/alltitles/docDetail.action?docID=10297650>
- Moher, D., Liberati, A., Tetzlaff, J., Altman, D. G., & The PRISMA Group. (2009). Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: The PRISMA statement. *PLoS Medicine*, 6(7), e1000097. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1000097>
- Monteiro De Matos, M. (2023). The multiple roles of socio-anthropological expert evidence in Indigenous land claims: The Xukuru people case. *Anthropological Forum*, 33(3), 245–267. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2023.2288531>
- Morphy, F., & Morphy, H. (2023). Witness statements as cross-cultural (mis)communication? Evidence from Blue Mud Bay. *Anthropological Forum*, 33(3), 176–194. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2023.2271673>
- Ngin, C. (2018). Proving “RACE” identity of Chinese Indonesian asylum seekers. In A. Sarat & L. Rodriguez (Eds.), *Studies in Law, Politics and Society* (Vol. 74, pp. 133–164). Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1059-433720180000074007>
- Ngin, C., Yeh, J., & Borjon, L. (2023). Constructing anthropological expertise: Community support and legal partnership in Transgender cases. *Anthropological Forum*, 33(3), 229–244. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2023.2272580>
- Peters, M. D. J., Godfrey, C. M., Khalil, H., McInerney, P., Parker, D., & Soares, C. B. (2015). Guidance for conducting systematic scoping reviews. *International Journal of Evidence-Based Healthcare*, 13(3), 141–146. <https://doi.org/10.1097/XEB.0000000000000050>
- Peters, M. D. J., Godfrey, C., McInerney, P., Khalil, H., Larsen, P., Marnie, C., Pollock, D., Tricco, A. C., & Munn, Z. (2022). Best practice guidance and reporting items for the development of scoping review protocols. *JBI Evidence Synthesis*, 20(4), 953–968. <https://doi.org/10.11124/JBIES-21-00242>
- Peterson, J., Pearce, P. F., Ferguson, L. A., & Langford, C. A. (2017). Understanding scoping reviews: Definition, purpose, and process. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 29(1), 12–16. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2327-6924.12380>
- Phillips, J. (2018). Expert witnessing in Honduran asylum cases: What difference can twenty years make? In A. Sarat & L. Rodriguez (Eds.), *Studies in Law, Politics and Society* (Vol. 74, pp. 11–48). Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1059-433720180000074003>
- Rangiah, J. (2016, February 4). *Expert anthropological evidence: A judge's perspective*. Future of native title anthropology conference, Brisbane. <https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/digital-law-library/judges-speeches/justice-rangiah/rangiah-j-20160204>
- Read, D. W. (2008). A formal explanation of formal explanation. *Structure and Dynamics: eJournal of Anthropological and Related Sciences*, 3(2). <https://doi.org/10.5070/SD932003302>
- Rodriguez, L. (Ed.). (2021). *Culture as judicial evidence: Expert testimony in Latin America*. University of Cincinnati Press.
- Rose, J. W. W. (2022). Forensic and expert social anthropology. *Open Anthropological*

- Research*, 2(1), 27–37. <https://doi.org/10.1515/opan-2022-0116>
- Rose, J. W. W. (2023a). Forensic and expert social anthropological practice: An introduction. *Anthropological Forum*, 33(3), 153–161. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2023.2278405>
- Rose, J. W. W. (2023b). Forensic social anthropology: An Australian perspective. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 29(S2), 9–26. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9655.13991>
- Rose, J. W. W. (2024 *forthcoming*). Science and social anthropology: Resolving hierarchical and horizontal knowledge structures. In V. de Munck & K. Garalytė (Eds.), *Old discipline, new trajectories: Theories, methods and practices in anthropology*. University of Vilnius.
- Rosen, L. (1977). The anthropologist as expert witness. *American Anthropologist*, 79(3), 555–578. <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1977.79.3.02a00020>
- Selvarajah, S., Adil, H. S., & Ekechi, C. (2022). Race, ethnicity, and ill health: Making the non-modifiable modifiable. *The Lancet*, 400(10368), 2008–2009. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(22\)02460-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)02460-6)
- The Lancet. (2022). Advancing racial and ethnic equity in health. *The Lancet*, 400(10368), 2007. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(22\)02533-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)02533-8)
- Tricco, A. C., Lillie, E., Zarin, W., O'Brien, K., Colquhoun, H., Kastner, M., Levac, D., Ng, C., Sharpe, J. P., Wilson, K., Kenny, M., Warren, R., Wilson, C., Stelfox, H. T., & Straus, S. E. (2016). A scoping review on the conduct and reporting of scoping reviews. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 16(1), 15. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12874-016-0116-4>
- Tricco, A. C., Lillie, E., Zarin, W., O'Brien, K. K., Colquhoun, H., Levac, D., Moher, D., Peters, M. D. J., Horsley, T., Weeks, L., Hempel, S., Akl, E. A., Chang, C., McGowan, J., Stewart, L., Hartling, L., Aldcroft, A., Wilson, M. G., Garrity, C., ... Straus, S. E. (2018). Prisma extension for scoping reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and explanation. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 169(7), 467–473. <https://doi.org/10.7326/M18-0850>
- Trigger, D., Martin, D., Memmott, P., Winn, P., Burke, P., Peterson, N., Veth, P., Holcombe, S., & Palmer, K. (2013). Forensic social anthropology. In I. R. Freckelton & H. Selby (Eds.), *Expert evidence: Law, practice, procedure and advocacy* (5th ed., pp. 36.51-36.9058). Thomson Reuters (Scientific) Inc. & Affiliates. <https://research-repository.uwa.edu.au/en/publications/forensic-social-anthropology>
- Trigger, D. S. (2023). Anthropology in Australian Indigenous legal cases: What I've learned from the law and what lawyers have learned from me. *Anthropological Forum*, 33(3), 162–175. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2023.2278402>
- Umberg, J. (2018). *Trauma and the paradox of asylum seekers' credibility* [MA Thesis, Columbia University]. <https://academiccommons.columbia.edu/doi/10.7916/D8989QJV>
- WHO. (1946). *Constitution of the World Health Organization*. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/constitution-of-the-world-health-organization>
- Wilson, E. O. (1998). *Consilience: The unity of knowledge* (1st ed). Knopf: Distributed by Random House.
- World Health Organization. (2010). A conceptual framework for action on the social determinants of health. *Discussion Paper Series on Social Determinants of Health*, 2, 76.

Author Note

James W. W. Rose (ORCID 0000-0003-4983-1393) was Chief Investigator on this project. He is a forensic and expert social anthropologist working in research and teaching roles with the University of Melbourne and the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, and in private professional practice across Australia. Please direct correspondence to james.rose@unimelb.edu.au

David Minh Tran (ORCID 0009-0004-9700-7336) was Research Assistant on this project. He currently works as a policy, advocacy and campaigns officer at Oxfam Australia and has a background in history and anthropology. He has written on issues such as climate justice, climate inequality, climate finance and loss and damage. Please direct correspondence to tran.d1@unimelb.edu.au

Acknowledgements: This research was funded by the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne.

Copyright 2024: James W. W. Rose, David Minh Tran, and Nova Southeastern University.

Article Citation

Rose, J. W. W., & Minh Tran, D. (2024). Understandings of vulnerability and social determinants of health in forensic and expert social anthropology: A scoping review. *The Qualitative Report*, 29(4), 1212-1232. <https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2024.6704>
