



# INTRO

## CHAPTER CONTENTS.

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What is causal mapping? What are its strengths and weaknesses?  
How does a causal map differ from a systems diagram? This chapter has some answers.

### PAGES IN THIS CHAPTER

- 📄 **Why causal mapping ?**
- 📄 **Causal mapping for outsiders**
- 📄 **Mind mapping and causal mapping**
- 📄 **A causal map consists of multiple links where a link from X to Y means someone believes X influences Y**
- 📄 **Causal mapping helps make sense of many causal claims from many sources**
- 📄 **Causal mapping starts from what people actually say**
- 📄 **Causal mapping has been used for over 50 years in many disciplines**
- 📄 **Do use causal mapping when you have large numbers of claims from multiple sources, and more open research questions**

**Do not use causal mapping if you have limited data or want precise models or specific causal links**

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**Causal mapping approaches differ in application, construction, analysis and how they deal with multiple sources**

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**Causal mappers believe that humans are good at thinking in terms of causal nuggets**

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**Causal mappers believe that humans are the best detectors of causation**

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**Causal mapping is part of the qualitative branch of the new causal revolution**

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**Wise as folk**

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**Causal mapping differs from related approaches - epistemic, less predictive, unsophisticated, many links, many sources, unclear boundaries**

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**Causal mapping has three tasks – gathering, coding and analysing data**

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**Task 1 – Gathering narrative data**

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**Task 2 – Coding causal claims as causal qualitative data analysis**

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**Task 3 – Analysing data, Answering questions**

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**Strong evidence for a link is not evidence of a strong link**

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**Causal mapping is easier if we are realist about causation**

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**Causal mapping is good at coping with messiness and complexity**

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**Granularity, generalisability and chunking are coding problems for causal mapping too**

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