

**Table 4.1: the ‘standard’ sequence of systematic review**

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1. Identifying the review question
  2. Searching for primary studies
  3. Quality appraisal
  4. Extracting the data
  5. Synthesizing the data
  6. Disseminating the findings
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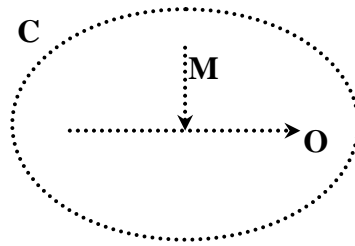
**Table 4.2: An explanatory compendium for complex programmes**

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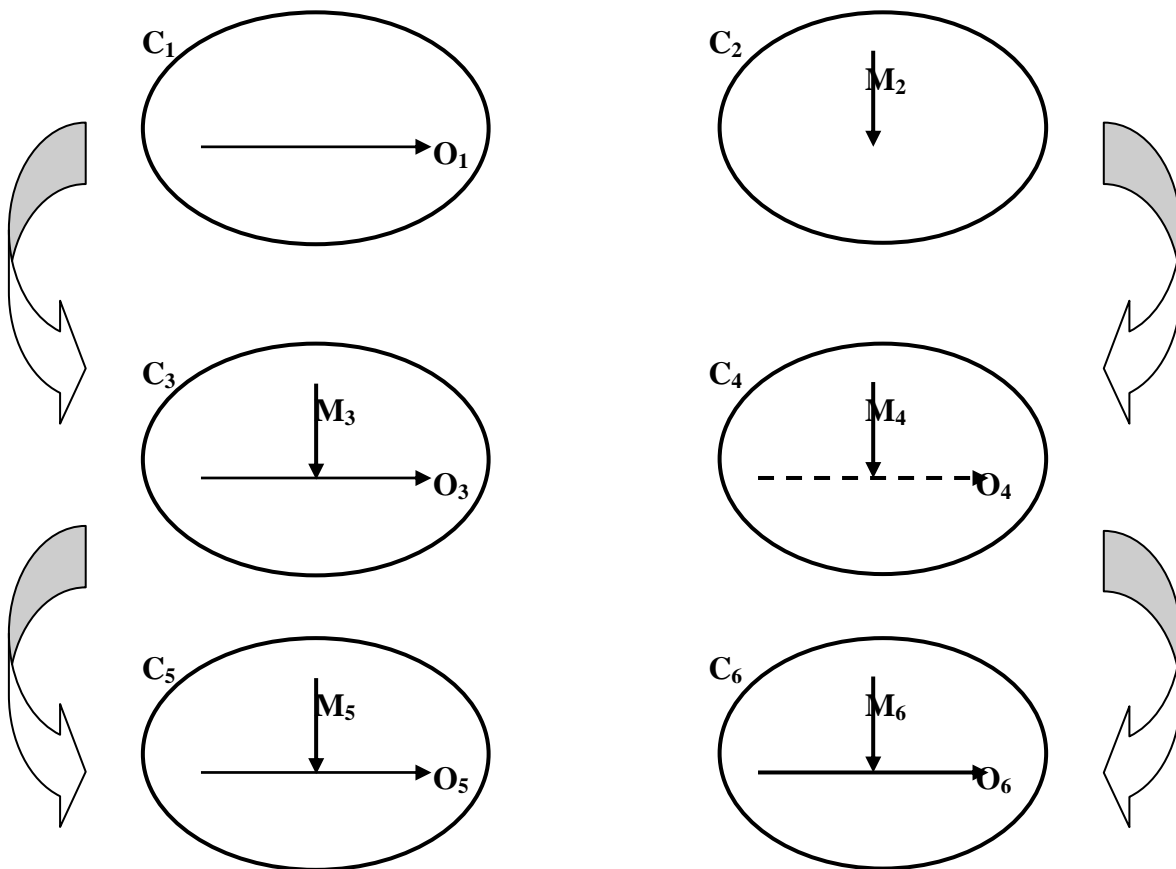
- Programme theories – how is the programme supposed to work?
  - Reasoning and reactions of stakeholders – are there differences in the understanding of the programme theory?
  - Integrity of the implementation chain – is the programme theory applied consistently and cumulatively?
  - Negotiation and feedback in implementation – does the programme theory tend to bend in actual usage?
  - Contextual influences – does the programme theory fare better with particular individuals, interpersonal relations, institutions and infrastructure?
  - History of the programme and relationships with other policies – does the policy apparatus surrounding the theory advance or impede it?
  - Multiple, unintended, long-term effects – is the theory self-affirming or self-defeating or self-neutralizing?
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**Figure 4.1: The logic of realist synthesis**

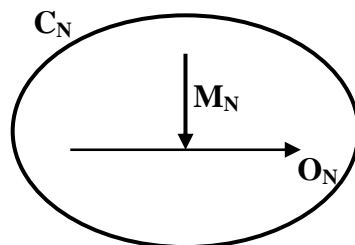
*Initial Programme Theory*



*Primary Studies*

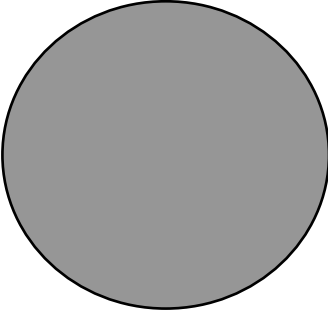


*Revised Theory*

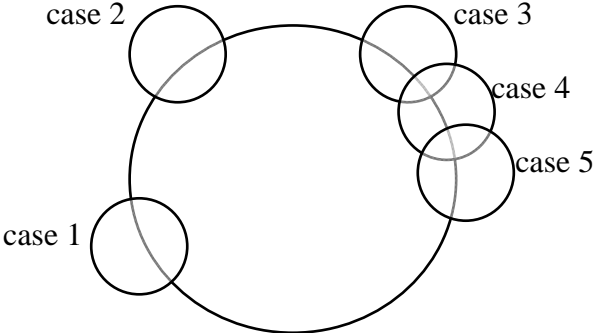


**Figure 4.2: Synthesis as ‘accumulating explanation’**

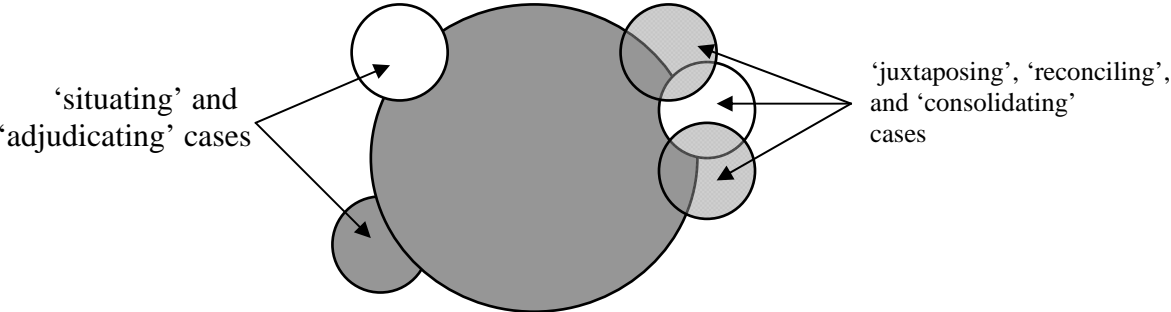
*Initial explanation: the basic model*



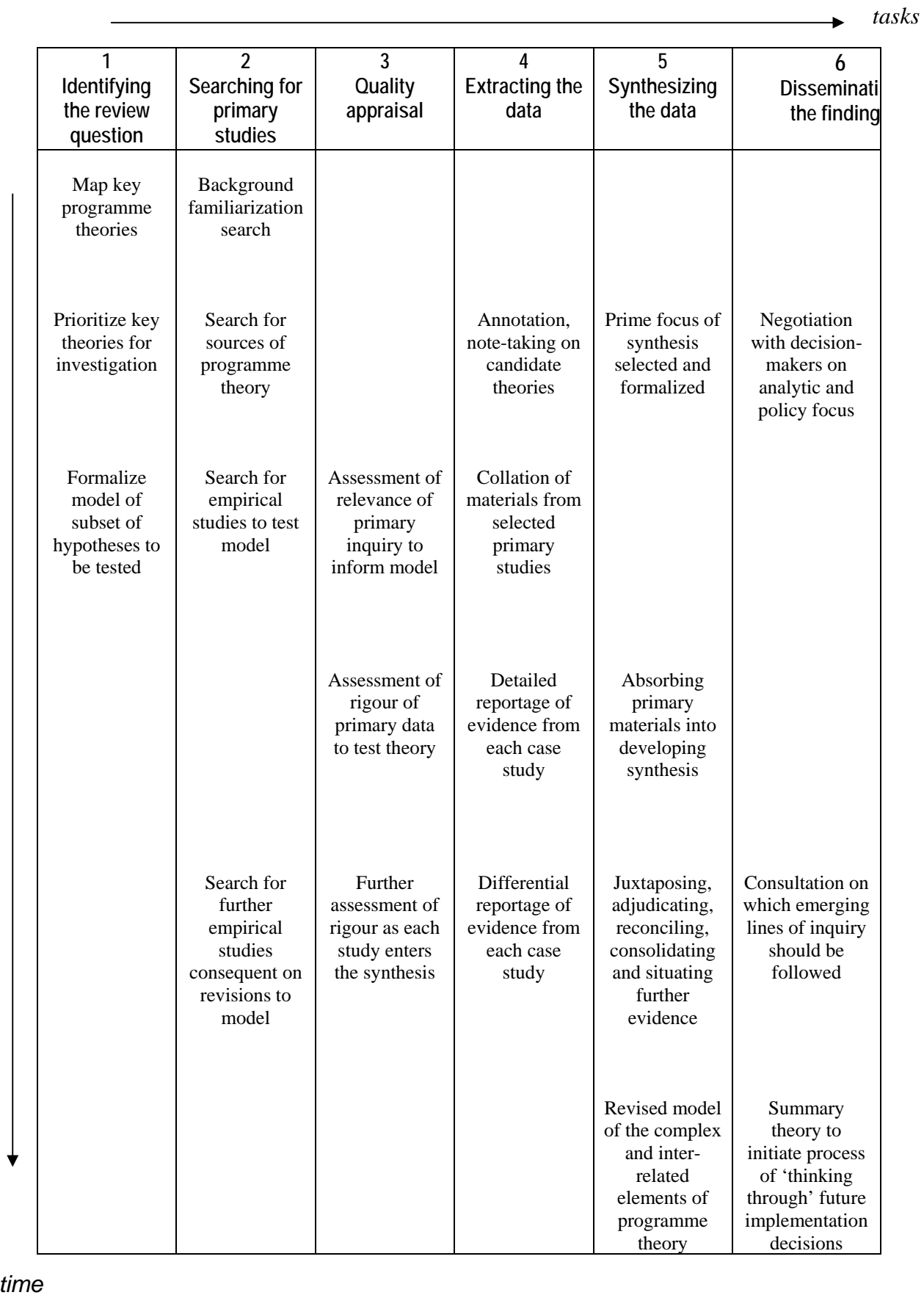
*Encounters with primary studies*



*Synthesis: revised explanation*



**Figure 4.3: A task-and-time template for realist synthesis**



time

**Figure 5.1: Reviewing the implementation process**

