

The Being and Doing of Generalism: A scoping review of how generalism is described in physician clinical practice

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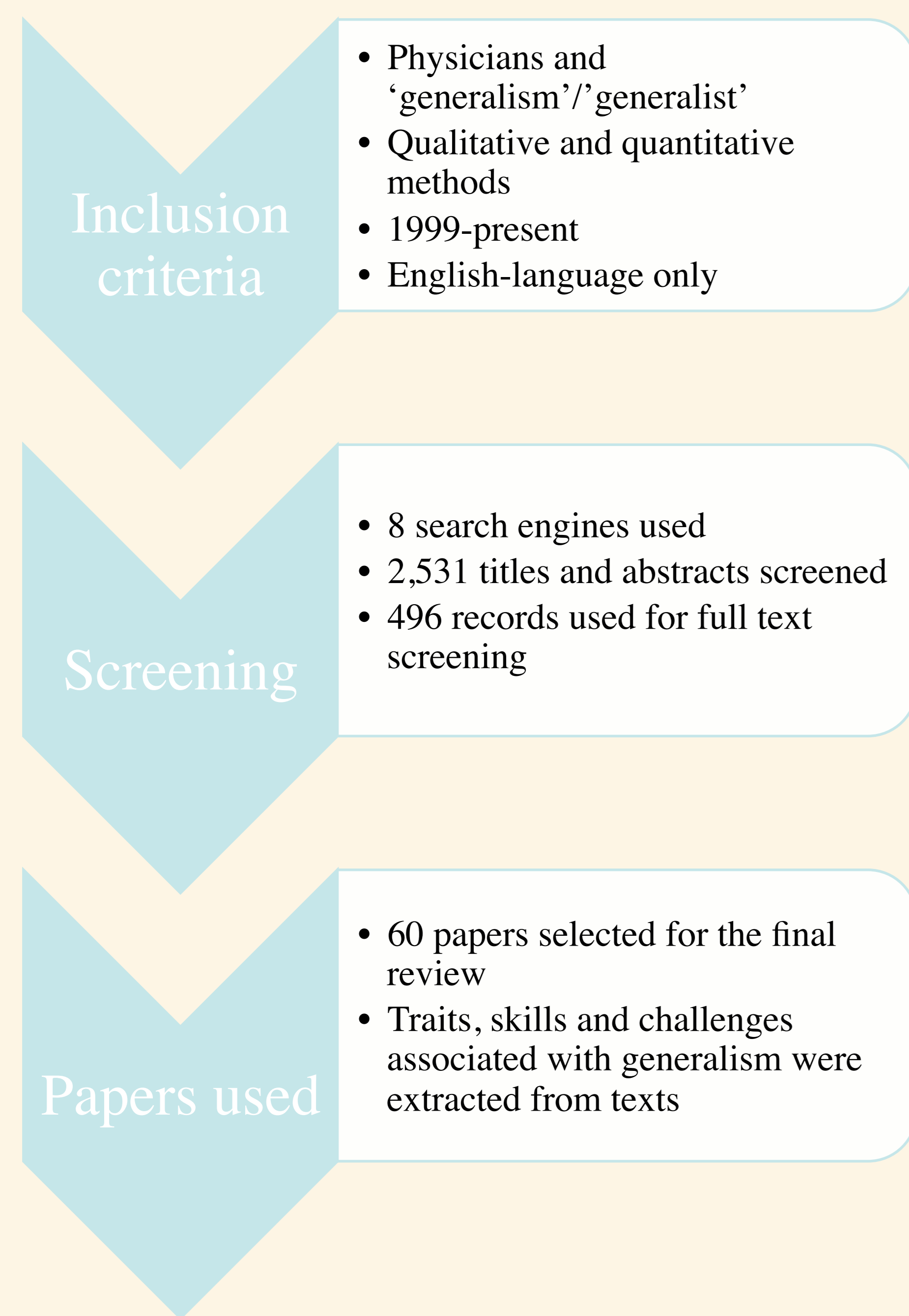
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1. Background

The need for generalist clinicians is well endorsed by professional bodies across the specialties^{1,2,3,4} and educating graduates with a generalist skill base is a key outcome at an undergraduate level.^{5,6} Despite the large number of position statements on the importance of generalism, the pragmatics of educating for generalism remains unclear.
Aim: to gain a better understanding of the operationalisation of generalism in clinical practice in order to structure and develop curricula for physicians to be.

2. Method



3. Results

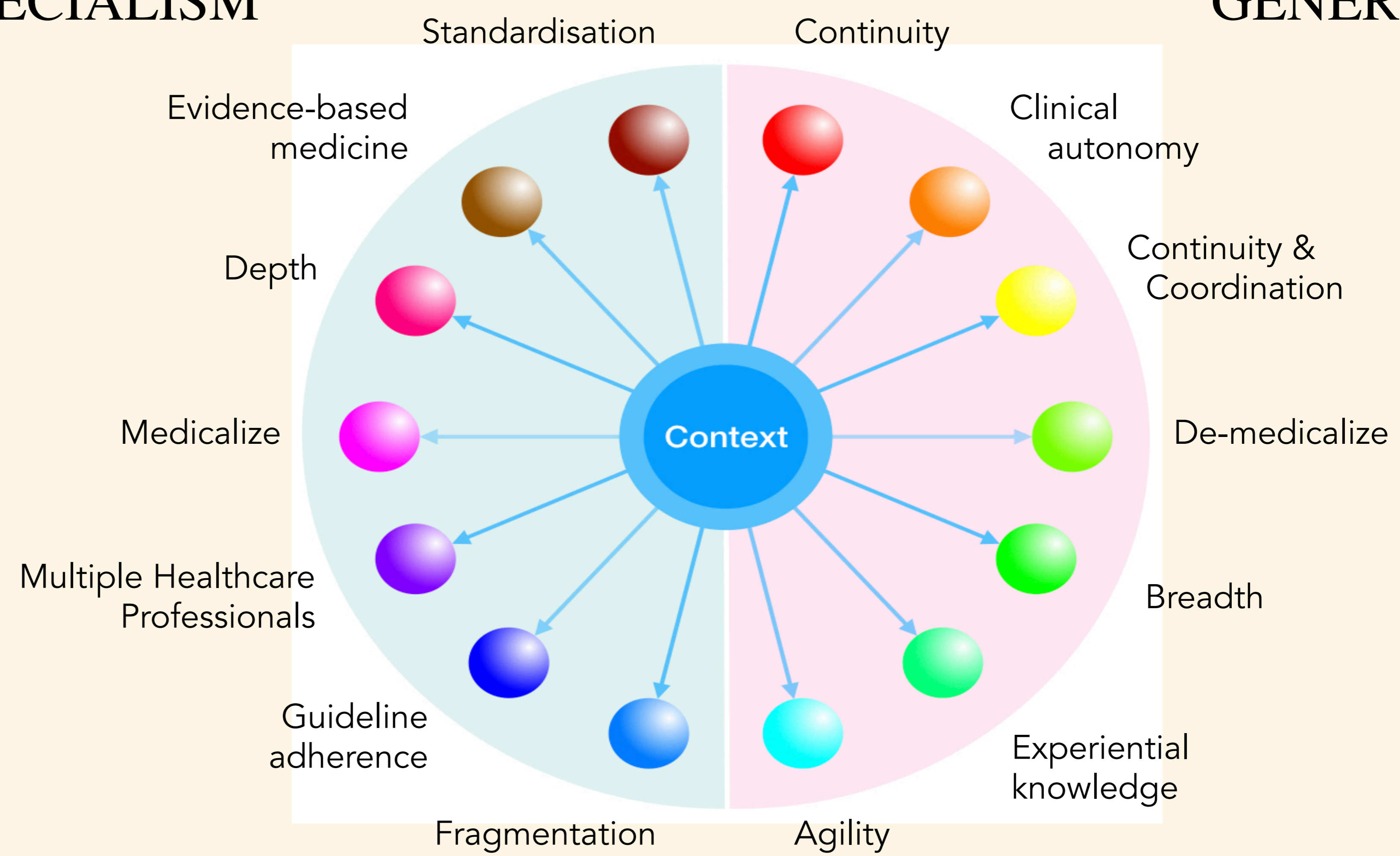
A total of 60 papers were screened as relevant. The two most common groups identified as 'generalists' were general practitioners/family doctors and general internal medicine practitioners. When analyzed for concepts of generalist practice, 4 key traits emerged.



Key themes in the literature	Number of papers referring to this theme (out of 60)
Breadth of knowledge/capacity to deal with a wide variety of conditions	14
'Patient/person-centred'/'whole-patient care'	9
Continuity of care	8
Generalists needing to be able to respond to the needs of the community	8
A call for a clearer definition of being a generalist	6
The challenge of needing a breadth of knowledge	6

SPECIALISM

GENERALISM



5. Conclusions

This review has identified a set of core traits and challenges associated with generalism, as described in the literature.

Next steps:

- Use these findings to highlight and better define in curriculums and specialist training how to teach these core traits
- Look for ways to tackle the challenges associated with generalism

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