

# Responsible Use of AI in Evidence Synthesis (RAISE)

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Evidence for  
Policy & Practice



# About me

- Worked in the EPPI-Centre, UCL for a long time
- Systematic reviews – mostly for Department of Health & Social Care / PHE
  - Addressing questions beyond effectiveness
  - Methodological development
- Evidence synthesis methods
- Long-standing area of work in making the review process more efficient using new technologies



# Acknowledgements and declaration of interests

- I am employed by University College London; receive funding from the funders below for this and related work; lead EPPI-Reviewer software development
- Cochrane roles: Review author; Co-convenor Joint Artificial Intelligence Methods Group<sup>NEW!</sup>; Co-Senior Scientific Editor Cochrane Handbook; was Co-lead on Project Transform: currently support Cochrane with information technologies
- Research projects on evidence synthesis and technology development for evidence synthesis
- Guidance for responsible use of AI in systematic reviews (RAISE)
- Parts of this work funded by: Wellcome Trust, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)



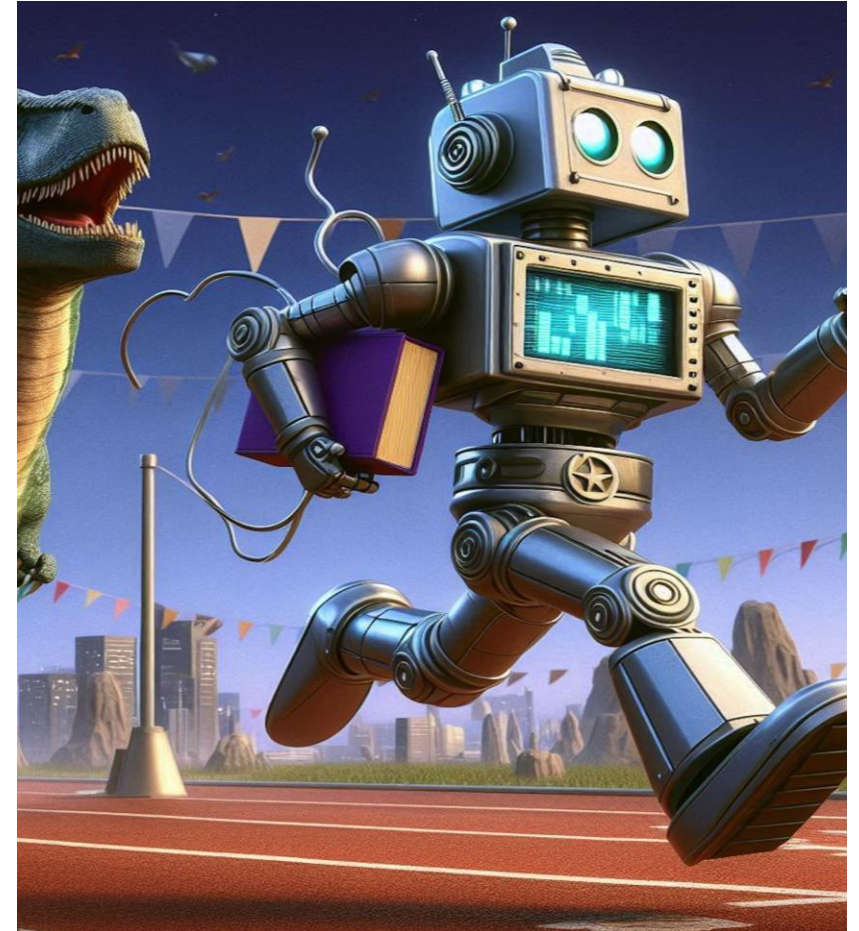
# Authors of RAISE

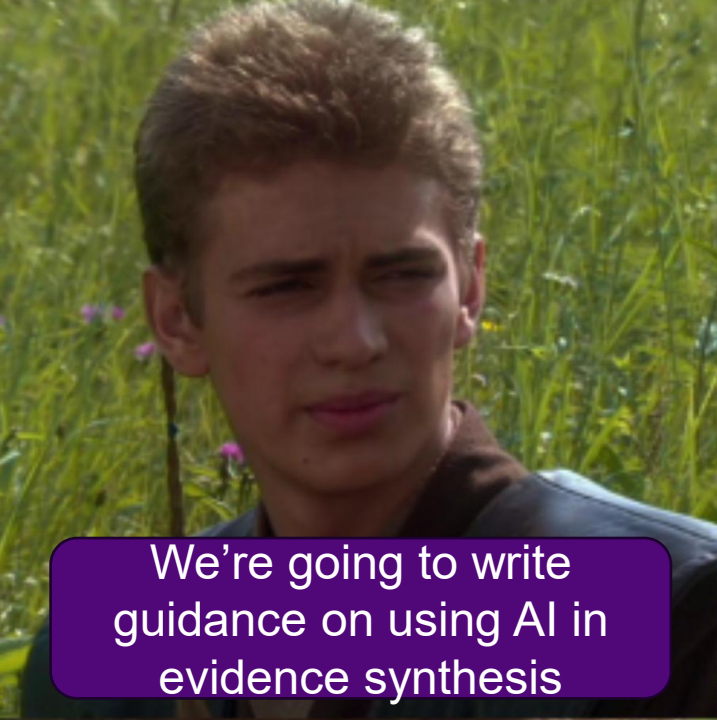
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# Outline

- Why RAISE is needed
- What RAISE is
- What's next?





That's great! There's an evidence base that can inform this, right?

We're going to write guidance on using AI in evidence synthesis



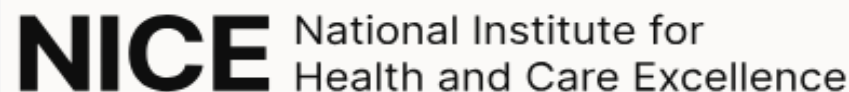
Right...?

## Where the work came from

- A number of us were asked repeatedly for guidance about which tool to use, and when
- But found we couldn't!
- The evidence base on which to base our advice was very limited
- AI tools were being developed that were not engineered to be fit-for-purpose

## Vision: RAISE guidance for the responsible use of AI in evidence synthesis

- A draft of the guidance and recommendations is now online for consultation
- Our vision is for it to be a 'living' set of guidelines, that is updated through community input and helps to define roles & responsibilities within the ecosystem
- Should the ecosystem develop in this well-organized way, we hope to see the development of AI tools that adhere to the principles of research integrity, and so enable evidence accessibility in equitable and rigorous ways





# Roles-based ecosystem

- We need to support the wider adoption of AI to overcome the increasing burden of doing timely and cost-effective evidence synthesis
- We need cross-field standards to support the development of appropriate and responsible AI
- We anticipate an ecosystem made up of individuals, collaborations, and organisations which each have a role to play in developing and using AI in a responsible way
- (one person / organisation may play multiple roles)





to help all  
time to  
and grow

## Evidence Synthesisists



Remain ultimately responsible  
for the evidence synthesis

Report AI use in your evidence  
synthesis manuscript  
transparently

Ensure ethical, legal, and  
regulatory standards are  
adhered to when using AI

Be transparent about when the AI works best, its limitations, and any interests.

Commit to continued learning, development, and monitoring.



**AI development teams**



**Methodologists**

Adhere to open science practice when researching and evaluating AI systems

Commit to independent evaluations and validation of AI systems



Adhere to responsible use of AI

Consider sustainability and generalisability of the products they support



Evidence synthesis

Adhere to open science practices when designing, building, testing, and validating tools.

Be transparent about when the AI works best, its limitations, and any interests.

Commit to continued learning, development, and monitoring.



AI development teams



Methodology

Adhere to open science practice when researching, evaluating AI systems

Commit to independent evaluations and validation of AI systems

Encourage the responsible use of  
AI

Consider sustainability and  
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Funders of evidence  
synthesis

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Commit to continued learning,  
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AI development teams



Ensure best practice standard for responsible AI use are clear and integrated into policies and guidelines

Promote, guide, and support responsible AI use in your evidence synthesis activities

Monitor the development and use of AI within your organisation



Organisations producing evidence synthesis

Functional synthesis

Training synthesis

Ecosystem to help  
roles continue to  
develop and grow

## Trainers of evidence synthesis methods



Ensure best practice standards for responsible AI are embedded within training materials

Equip trainees with the knowledge they need to determine if an AI tool is appropriate

Undertake continuous training and development to stay up-to-date with emerging AI tools

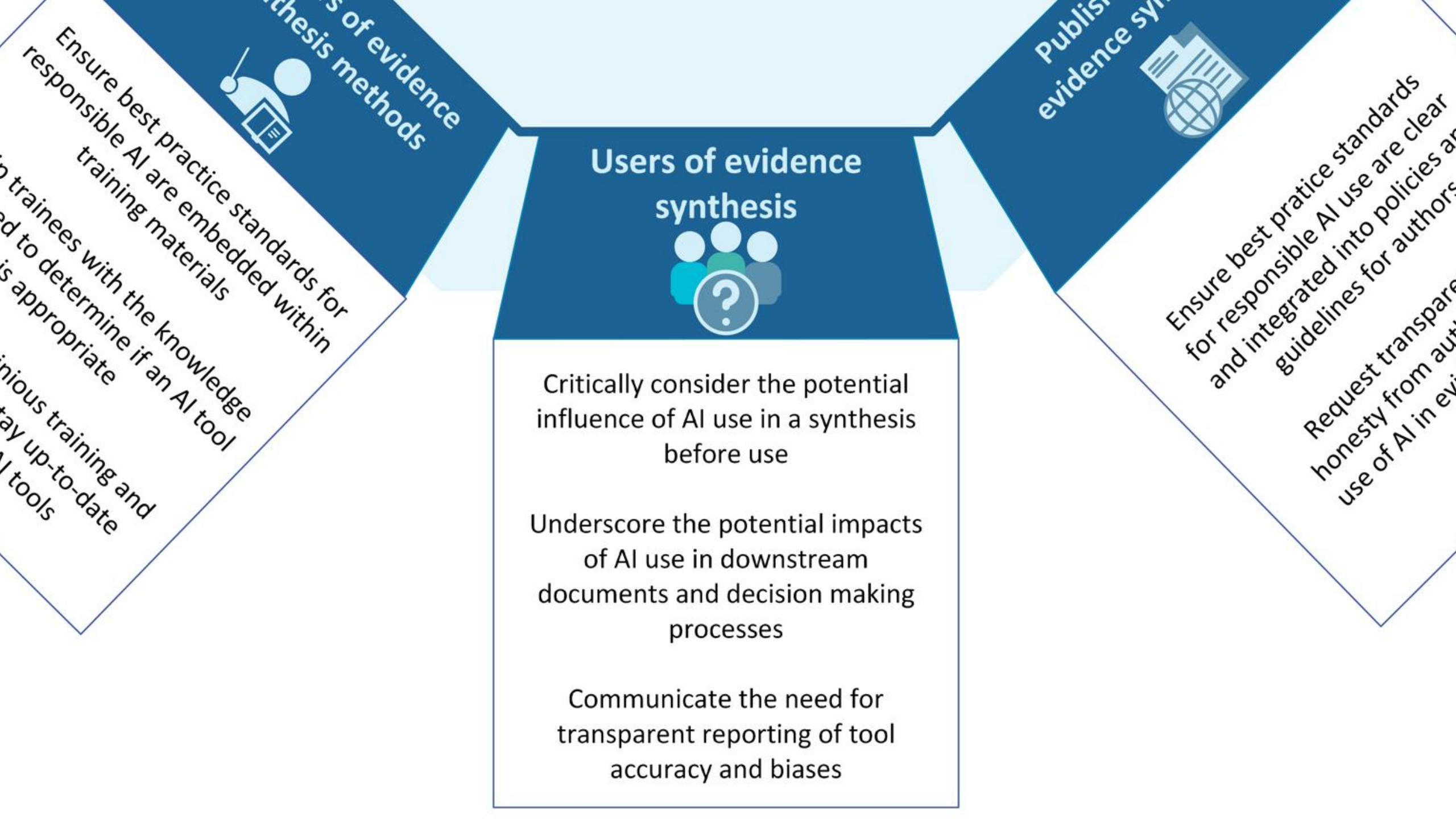
## Users of evidence synthesis



Critically consider the potential influence of AI use in a synthesis before use

Underscore the potential impacts of AI use in downstream documents and decision making processes





## Users of evidence synthesis



Critically consider the potential influence of AI use in a synthesis before use

Underscore the potential impacts of AI use in downstream documents and decision making processes

## Publishers of evidence synthesis



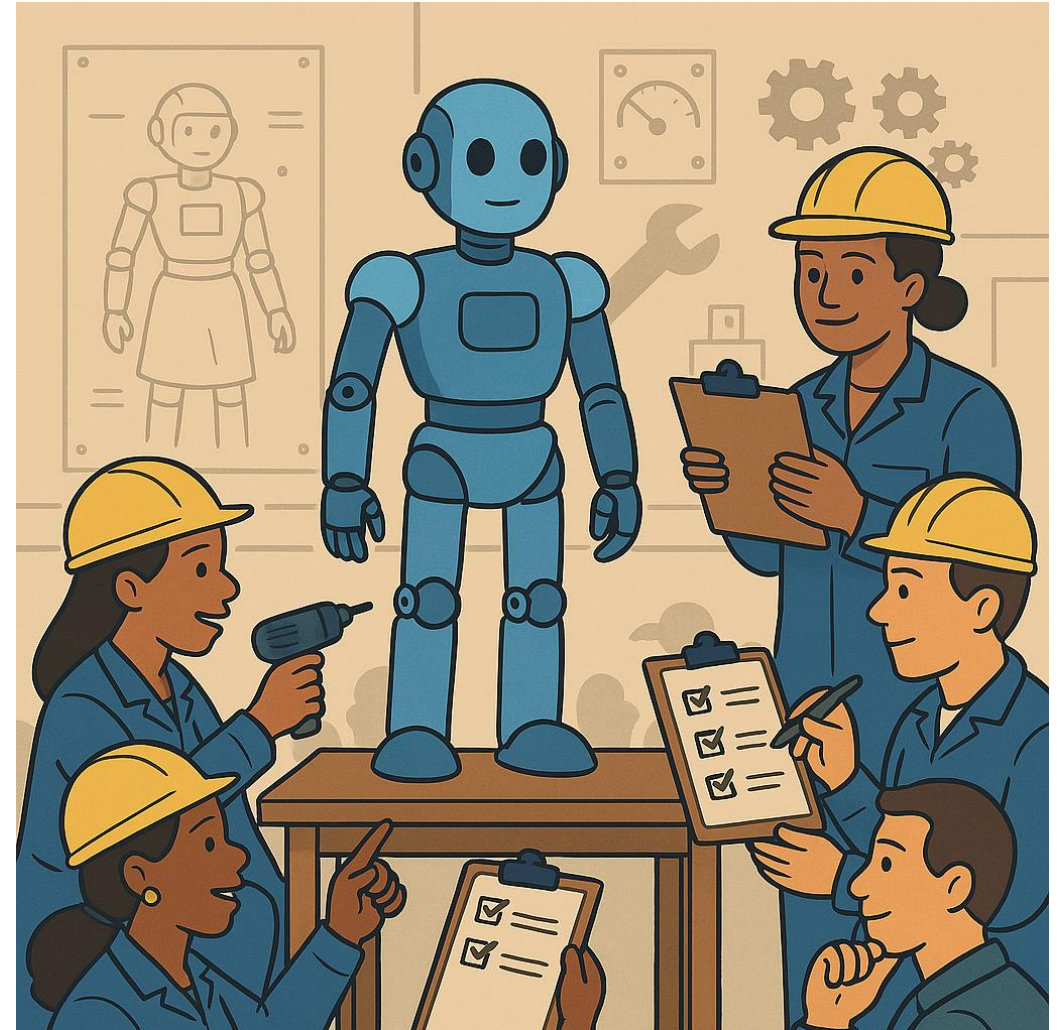
Ensure best practice standards for responsible AI use are clear and integrated into policies and guidelines for authors

Request transparency and honesty from authors on their use of AI in evidence synthesis



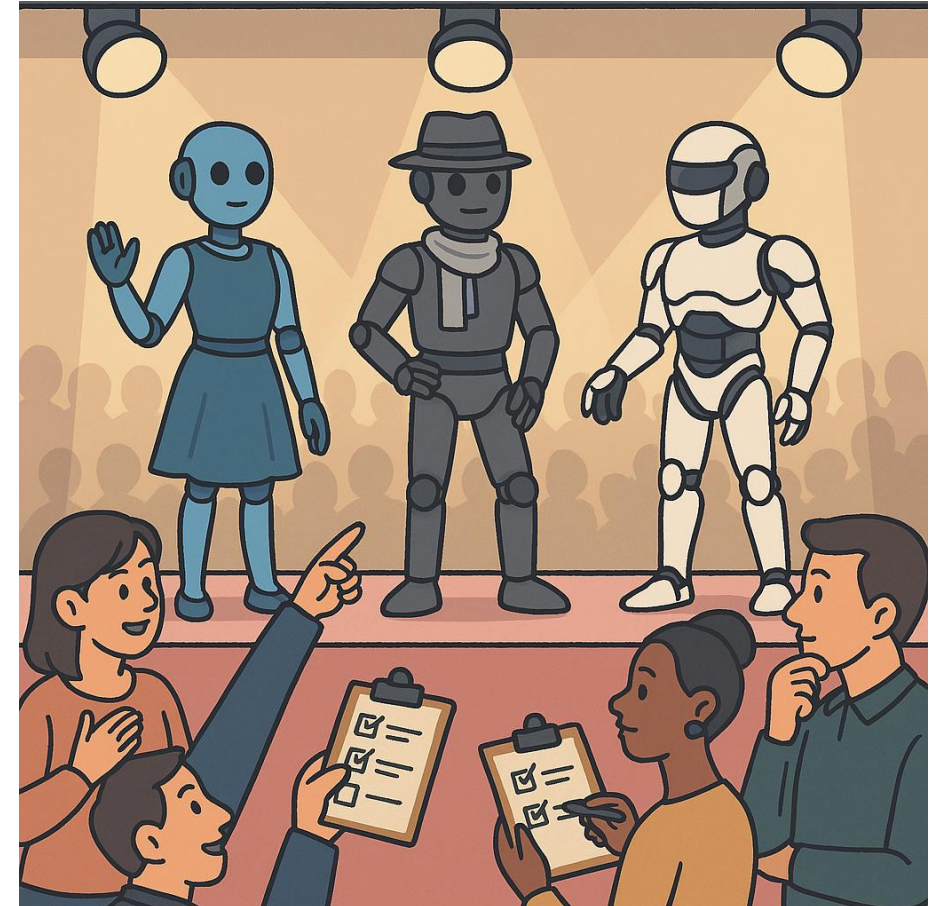
# RAISE II: building and evaluating

- Building an AI tool
  - The build phase
  - The validation phase
- Conducting an evaluation
  - Considerations for each phase of the review
- Performance and accuracy metrics
- How to report the building and/ or evaluation of an AI tool



# RAISE III: selecting & using AI evidence synthesis tools

- The current state of the art
- Selecting and using AI tools
  - Is there a tool to suit my current needs?
  - Does your team have the resources to use it?
  - Is it validated and appropriate?
  - Guidance for
    - Using an AI tool
    - After using the tool
- Ethical, legal and regulatory considerations when using an AI tool
- AI tool assessment considerations
  - How to make a decision about a tool post-assessment



# How you can get involved

- The link : <https://osf.io/fwaud/>
- Timetable for development
  - The latest version is now online
  - Will move to journal publication soon
- Three documents:
  - Roles-based recommendations for practice
  - Guidance on building and evaluating AI tools
  - Guidance on selecting and using AI tools
- Do take a look and let us know what you think!

