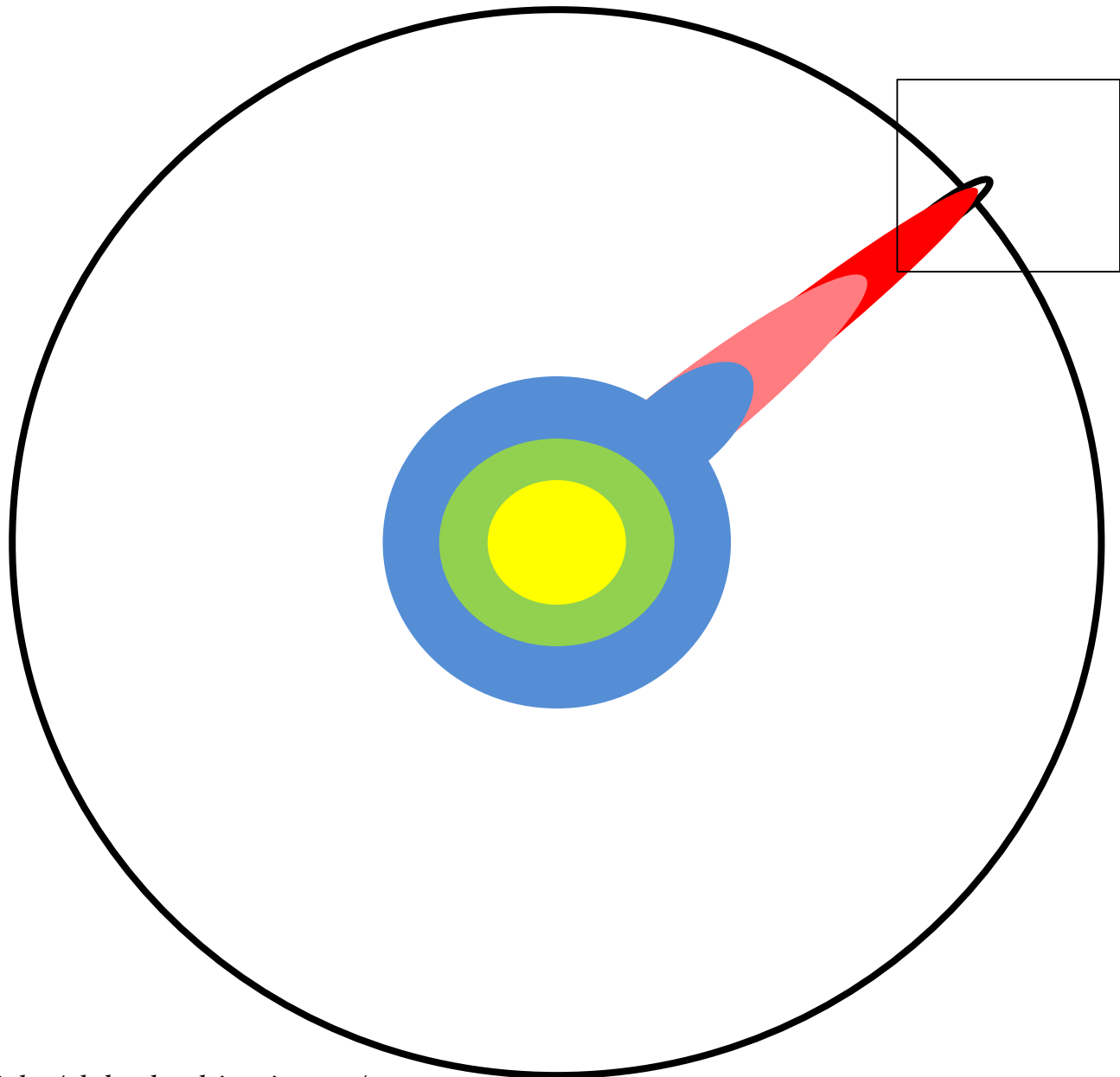


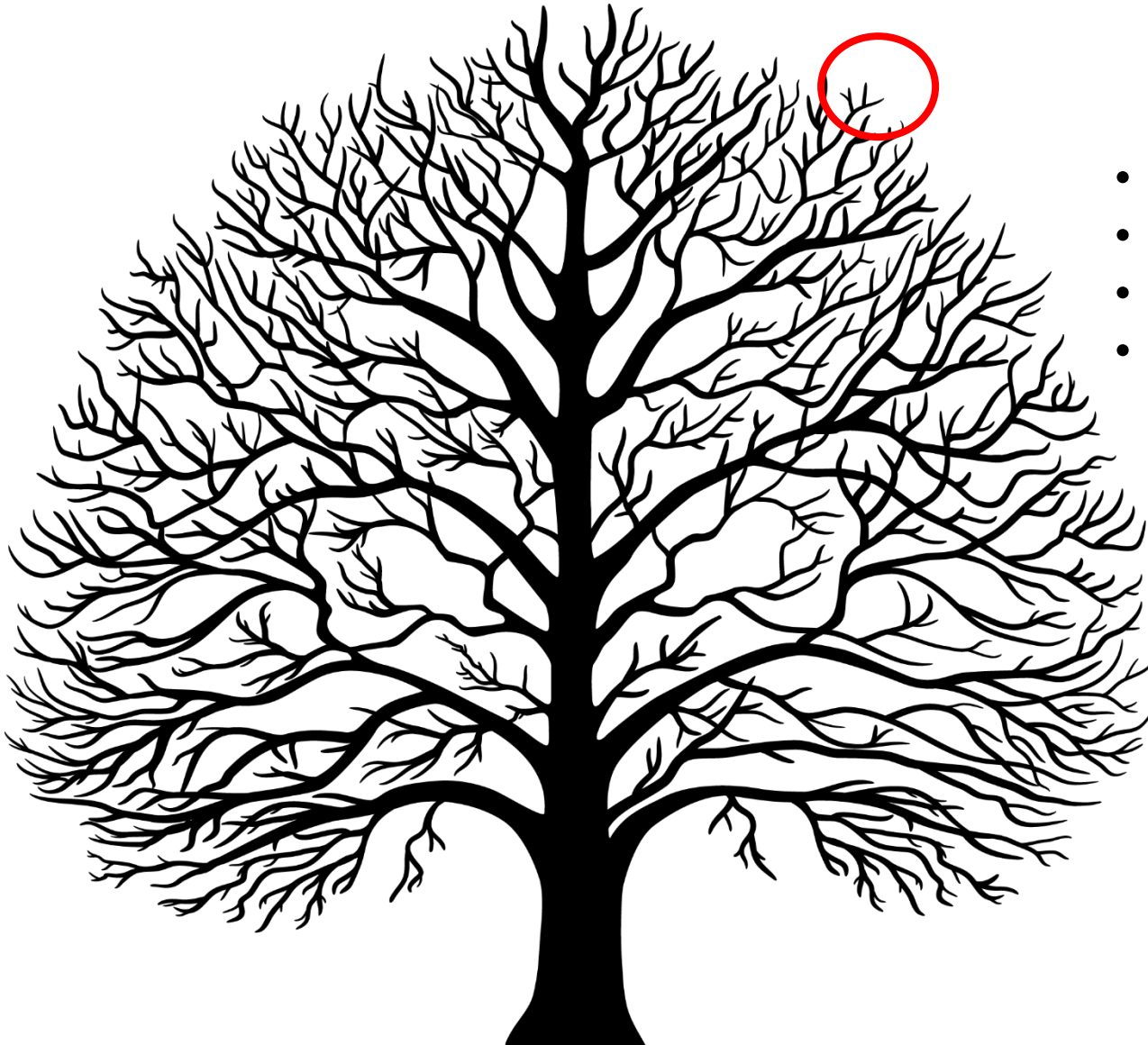
**BAE 815**  
**Graduate Seminar**  
**(Fall 2016)**  
**Literature Review**

Dr. Zifei Liu

# Out of comfort zone



# Relevance



- Abstract
- Introduction (literature review)
  - Establishing a research territory
  - Establishing a niche
  - Occupying the niche.
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusion
- References

$n \rightarrow n+1$

# Significance

Identify a “critical need”

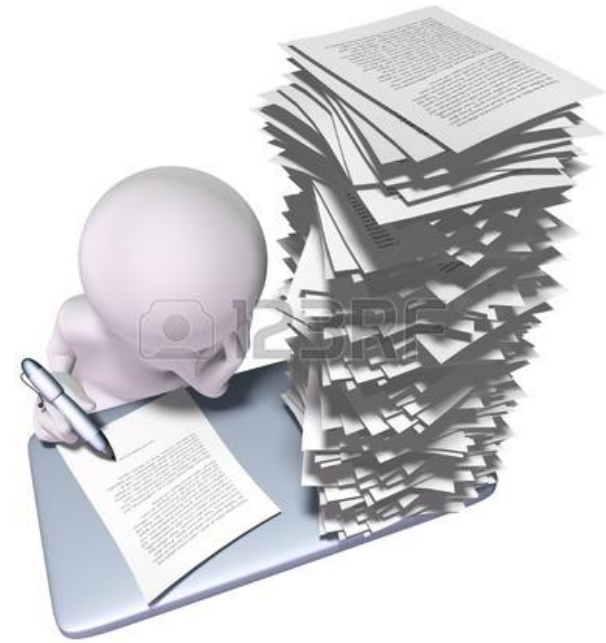
# Cycles of review

DEFINE your research question

SCAN and evaluate

READ and take notes

WRITE and synthesize



## Traps to Avoid

- Trying to read everything
- Reading but not writing
- Not keeping bibliographic information

## Significance and relevance

Is the study significant?  
Who is the target reader?  
Public, academic peers, policy makers  
What theories or methods are used?  
Is it relevant to my research?  
Interesting, but does it help?

An attitude of skepticism  
Distinguish between fact and opinion  
Document assumptions  
Reading between lines  
Being open-minded  
Being constructive

# Critical thinking

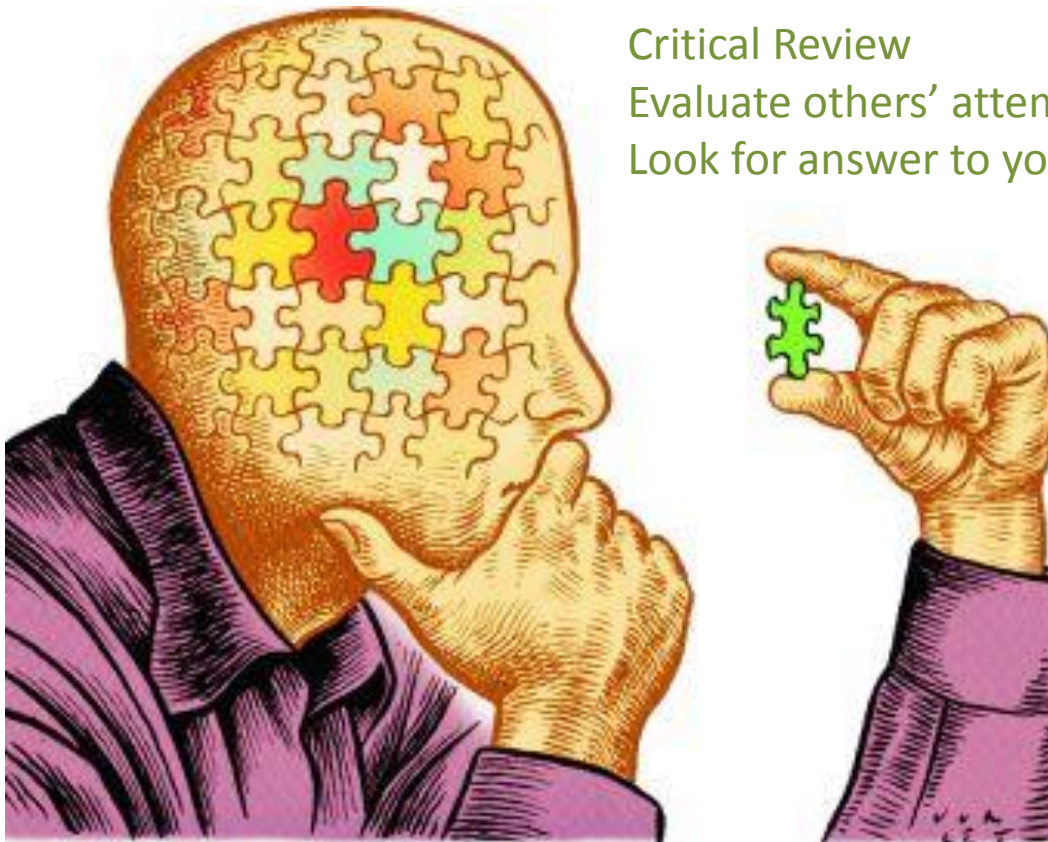
Critical Review  
Evaluate others' attempts  
Look for answer to your own questions

No study is perfect  
Strengths and weaknesses

Falsifiability?

## Reliability and validity

Peer-reviewed?  
Does the researcher have the  
knowledge to work in this area?  
Documentation and assumptions  
Reliable data collection?  
Conflict of interest  
Is the research biased?



- Out of comfort zone
- Relevance
- Significance
- Cycle of reviews
- Critical thinking