Construct a venn diagram of the different areas of scholarship you're drawing on.

What are the main debates or competing approaches?

Who are the key people in your field and what are their contributions?

What we know for sure  
What we are uncertain about

Current state of knowledge

What's dated or superseded  
What's new and untested

Create a timeline of the key developments in the literature.
Mapping the Literature

Imagine all the scholars you’re reading at the post-conference party. Draw the dynamics in the room:

- Who is central, who is peripheral?
- Who is new, who is more established?
- Where are cliques forming?
- Who’s having a disagreement?
- Who might you introduce to a new contact?
- Who has little in common with anyone?
- Where do you fit?

What’s missing from the literature?

What findings or approaches will become the foundation blocks of your own work?

What are the main themes which have emerged from the literature?