

**Research, Technology and Development Evaluation Topical Interest Group
of the American Evaluation Association**

AEA Evaluation 2012: Evaluation in Complex Ecologies: Relationships, Responsibilities, Relevance

Call for presentations – Deadline March 16, 2012
Please post and pass on to colleagues and students

The RT&D TIG invites you to submit a proposal to the AEA **Annual Conference** this year. To submit or to get more information, go to the Conference website at <http://www.eval.org/eval2012/default.asp>. Select the RT&D TIG for review of your proposal as part of the submission process.

This year the American Evaluation Association Conference will be held in **Minneapolis, Minnesota**. The Conference will be held from **Wednesday, October 24th to Saturday, October 27th, 2012**. Half-, one-, and two-day professional development workshops will precede and follow.

Evaluation has taken on new prominence, as there has been increased awareness both within the United States and internationally of the contribution of RT&D evaluation to RT&D/S&T and innovation policy, programs, resource allocation and accountability. We expect that Minneapolis will attract a wide range of participants from a number of countries and that we can all share experiences and learn from one another. Last year there were more than 20 sessions sponsored by the TIG, and we intend to provide opportunities for exchange throughout the conference and afterward. ***So mark the dates on your calendar. If you do not wish to submit a proposal, please plan to attend!***

Presentations on all topics will be welcome, but our TIG this year is focusing on presentations that test theories with data-driven models. In keeping with the theme of the conference, the RT&D TIG is particularly asking for presentations within the following general themes related to evaluation in complex ecosystems.

Complex Research Networks – tools and methods to assess research collaboration, interdisciplinarity, or large-scale (e.g., center-based, research networks) team science.

Innovation Systems – Evaluations that involve the complex ecologies of stakeholders involved in moving research forward towards practice – at a program, portfolio, or system level.

STEM Workforce and Training – Evaluation of formal and informal efforts to train STEM workers or to change approaches to training college, graduate, and postdoctoral students in STEM fields and disciplines

Proposals are accepted for a variety of formats: Debates, Demonstrations, Panels, Papers, Posters, Roundtables, Think Tanks, and Skill-building Workshops. Details are on the AEA conference website.

There will be a best paper award again this year. The winner is announced and presented a certificate at our TIG reception Thursday evening and the paper will be considered for the TIG's special issue of Research Evaluation, now published by Oxford University Press. Papers are submitted to the TIG co chairs in late August.. Also this year the TIG is soliciting poster proposals for the main poster session on the first night of the conference. Poster proposals from students and new R, T&D evaluation professionals are especially welcome.

For questions or to discuss possible topics before submitting, contact the TIG program co-chairs:

- Laurel Haak, 301 545 4093, laurel.haak@thomsonreuters.com
- Juan Rogers, jdrogers@gatech.edu

Looking forward to seeing you in Minneapolis!

- Brian Zuckerman and Gretchen Jordan, TIG Co-Chairs, bzuckerm@ida.org, gretchen.jordan@comcast.net
- John Araujo, TIG Communications, fos4@cdc.gov