

**AEA 2011
Systems Thinking in Evaluation TIG
Preconference Letter**

Hey there, Systems Thinking in Evaluation TIG members!

Well, Anaheim is almost upon us. We've got an exciting and diverse schedule of sessions planned for this year plus a social outing. Read on to learn more.

TIG-SPONSORED CONFERENCE SESSIONS

We're sponsoring or co-sponsoring 14 sessions, including the business meeting. We hope you'll enjoy the program we've put together from the submissions we received this year. Scroll down to the end of this email to find a complete schedule of TIG-sponsored sessions.

SYSTEMS-RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This year, there are several professional development sessions being offered by TIG members that you may find useful for informing your work in systems and systems thinking. Sessions of interest include:

Developmental Evaluation: Michael Patton
Monday and Tuesday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Systems Thinking for Evaluation Practice: Jan Noga and Meg Hargreaves
Tuesday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Using Concept Mapping for Evaluation in Organizations and Communities: Mary Kane, Scott Rosas, and Katy Hall
Wednesday, November 10: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Social Network Analysis: Theories, Methods, and Applications: Kim Fredericks
Wednesday, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Integrating Systems Concepts with Mixed Methods Research to Evaluate Systems Change: Meg Hargreaves, Heather Koball, Todd Honeycutt
Sunday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Purposeful Program Theory: Patricia Rogers
Sunday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Scroll down to the end of this email to find more details and links to each session.

TIG BUSINESS MEETING

This year's business meeting will be held Friday afternoon, November 4, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in Avila B. This is a day later than we usually have it – don't forget to mark your calendars. After a short business meeting, members will be treated to a World Café discussion featuring systems thinkers from around the world. And, of course, our business meeting wouldn't be complete without the annual Big TIG Question and Prizes. Hope to see you there!

TIG-SPONSORED SOCIAL EVENT

Last year, the TIG branched out into the social realm by hosting one of the AEA Night Out events. It was very successful and completely booked. Since then, we've heard requests to do this again but without the limit of 15-20 people. Well, we heard you! The TIG is sponsoring its own Mexican buffet dinner event at Café Hidalgo (<http://www.cafehidalgofullerton.com>) on Thursday, November 3rd from 7 until 10 pm.

Café Hidalgo is a local Mexican restaurant located in Fullerton – 5 miles north on Harbor Boulevard from the conference hotel. Transportation is on your own, but we should be able to grab enough cabs to share to get everyone up there. If you will have transportation and can take people, let us know on the reservation form.

Dinner will be served buffet style and will include salad, several main dishes, rice, beans, chips and salsa, and non-alcoholic beverages. Price is \$35 per person (the first 10 graduate students to register will be discounted \$10). Payment should be made by cash or check to Jan Noga – you will get details for making your payment when you book your reservation. Receipts will be provided to those needing them for expense purposes.

We currently have a reservation booked for 35 people but can take up to 45. For details and to reserve your spot, go to [AEA2011 SETIG Dinner Reservation](#).

TIG WEBSITE

This email, the conference schedule, and details for the TIG Dinner will be posted to the TIG's website (http://comm.eval.org/EVAL/Systems_in_Evaluation/Home/Default.aspx). You can also get to the web page by going to the list of TIGs on the main AEA site. There is a link to our website included in our contact listing.

We hope you'll be able to join us in Anaheim – home of the original Magic Kingdom. If not, we'll look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis for AEA 2012.

Jan, Meg, Mary, and Deb

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SYSTEMS THINKING IN EVALUATION TIG: LIST OF SPONSORED CONFERENCE SESSIONS

[South Carolina Access Health, Access Health in the Low Country, and Trident United Way: A Multi-level Health Access Systems Evaluation](#)

Wednesday, Nov 2, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Avila B

[System Boundaries: Separators and Filters](#)

Thursday, Nov 3, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM
Avila B

[Whose Evaluations Count? Lessons Learned From Process Facilitation Applied in Evaluation](#)

Thursday, Nov 3, 1:35 PM to 2:20 PM
Balboa A/B

[Valuing Systems Thinking in Designing an Evaluation of a Complex System Intervention](#)

Thursday, Nov 3, 2:50 PM to 4:20 PM
California A

[Evaluation in the Face of Uncertainty: Resolving the Tension Between Need for Design Integrity and Need to Adopt Evaluation to Shifting Outcomes](#)

Thursday, Nov 3, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Avila B

[Values and Valuing: The Core of Professional Practice](#)

Friday, Nov 4, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM
Avila B

[Developmental Evaluation on the 'Red Carpet': Nominated in the 'Best Method' Category for its Contribution to the Inclusion of Multiple Voices and Perspectives in the Determination of Judgments of Goodness](#)

Friday, Nov 4, 10:45 AM to 11:30 AM
California A

[Using Concepts From Complex Adaptive Systems and Agent-based Modeling to Understanding the Role of Federal Programs in Improving College Access and Completion](#)

Friday, Nov 4, 10:45 AM to 11:30 AM
Balboa C

[Causal Loop Diagrams: Design and Applications](#)

Friday, Nov 4, 1:35 PM to 2:20 PM
California A

[Integrated Monitoring, Evaluation, and Planning \(IMEP\): An Approach to Evaluating International Research and Systems Change](#)

Friday, Nov 4, 2:50 PM to 4:20 PM
California A

[Systems in Evaluation TIG Business Meeting and Think Tank: International Perspectives on Systems Evaluation](#)

Friday, Nov 4, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Avila B

[Building an Effective Early Childhood System: Factors Facilitating and Inhibiting Systems Change Strategies](#)

Saturday, Nov 5, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM
Avila B

[Isn't Just Talk Talk Talk: How Systems Approaches Can Work in the Real World of Boundaries and Power](#)

Saturday, Nov 5, 9:50 AM to 11:20 AM

Avila B

[Systems Thinking Evaluation Tools and Approaches for Measuring System Change](#)

Saturday, Nov 5, 12:35 PM to 2:05 PM

Avila B

PRE AND POST CONFERENCE PD SESSIONS TIG MEMBERS MIGHT FIND INTERESTING

[Session 6: Developmental Evaluation: Applying Complexity Concepts to Enhance Innovation and Use](#)

Instructor: Michael Quinn Patton

Scheduled: Monday and Tuesday, October 31 and November 1, 9 AM to 4 PM

Level: Beginner, no prerequisites

[Session 15: Systems Thinking](#)

Instructors: Jan Noga and Meg Hargreaves

Scheduled: Tuesday, November 1, 9 AM to 4 PM

Level: Intermediate

Prerequisites: Experience designing and implementing evaluation project but may be new to systems thinking

[Session 35: Using Concept Mapping for Evaluation in Organizations and Communities: A Participatory Mixed Methods Approach](#)

Instructors: **Mary Kane, Scott Rosas, and Katy Hall**

Scheduled: Wednesday, November 2, 8 AM to 3 PM

Level: Beginner

[Session 51: Integrating Systems Concepts with Mixed Research Methods to Evaluate Systems Change](#)

Instructors: Meg Hargreaves, Heather Koball, Todd Honeycutt

Prerequisites: Basic knowledge of core system concepts, core evaluation concepts and mixed research methods

Scheduled: Sunday, November 6, 9 AM to 12 PM

Level: Advanced

[Session 52: Purposeful Program Theory](#)

Instructor: Patricia Rogers

Scheduled: Sunday, November 6, 9 AM to 12 PM

Level: Advanced

Prerequisites: Previous experience using program theory/logic models in evaluation; previous experience planning and undertaking evaluations