



## Our Story

The Systems in Evaluation TIG formed as a result of a series of sessions on systems thinking in evaluation offered during AEA's 2002 annual meeting in Washington, DC. Created to provide a forum for ongoing conversation about the use of systems thinking and systems theory in evaluation, the TIG has greatly expanded in size and scope, with membership exceeding 450. This year's program includes 20 sessions sponsored by the TIG and several systems-related professional development workshops.

The TIG focuses on the use of systems thinking and systems theory as a framework for evaluation planning, design, implementation, analysis, and reporting, across a wide range of content areas, using a diverse array of evaluation approaches, research methods, and data collection and analysis tools. Areas of interest to TIG members include:

- Evaluation approaches that use systems theory to plan, design, and implement evaluations
- Discussion about how to ground evaluation methods and approaches in systems thinking and theory
- The contributions of diverse perspectives in understanding issues related to the use of systems thinking and theory in evaluation

## Systems in Evaluation TIG Business Meeting

Thursday, October 25th

4:30-6:00 PM

Room 102D

*featuring...*

*An interactive Think Tank conducted by Upstream Arts, a Minneapolis-based organization that will use improvisation and play to help us explore systems-based ways of responding to evaluation dilemmas*

*Plus*

*(an annual tradition)*

*The Big TIG Question and Prizes!*

### Contact Us



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Visit our Website: [http://comm.eval.org/systems\\_in\\_evaluation/home/](http://comm.eval.org/systems_in_evaluation/home/)

Evaluation 2012

## Systems in Evaluation TIG



# MINNEAPOLIS

Oct. 24-27, 2012

# AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION



# Sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by the Systems in Evaluation TIG

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24



**Real World Applications of Systems Thinking: Three Cases**  
Multipaper Session 113, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM  
Symphony Section II, Minneapolis Hilton



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

**Evaluation as Systems Change: A Case Study**  
Panel Session 155, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM  
Room 102 D, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the Health Evaluation TIG

**The Complex Ecology of Developmental Evaluation**  
Expert Lecture Session 205, 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM  
101 A-D/G-J, Convention Center

**Adaptive Study Designs and Strategies Used in Evaluating Large-scale Complex Interventions**  
Panel Session 260, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM  
101 A-D/G-J, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the Evaluation Use TIG

**Complex Ecology in Action: Field Trip to the Outdoor StreamLab and Mississippi River Stone Arch Bridge**  
Demonstration Session 263, 11:45 AM to 2:30 PM  
Board bus in front of Convention Center  
Co-Sponsored by the Environmental Evaluation TIG  
Contact: Mary McEathron (mceat001@umn.edu) to attend

**The Nature and Implications of Divergent and Shifting Evaluation System Boundary Perspectives Among Evaluators, Clients, and Beneficiaries**  
Multipaper Session 308, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM  
Room 212 A, Convention Center

**Simple Rules: A Demonstration of the Systems Evaluation Protocol for Evaluation Planning**  
Demonstration Session 315, 2:40 PM to 4:10 PM  
Room 101 A-D/G-J, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the Organizational Learning and Evaluation Capacity Building TIG

**System Filters: Boundaries, Contexts, and the Undiscussable**  
Think Tank Session 363, 2:40 PM to 4:10 PM  
Room 212 A, Convention Center

**Systems in Evaluation Topical Interest Group Business Meeting Business Meeting Session 375**  
4:30 PM to 6:00 PM, Room 102 D, Convention Center

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26



**So You Want to Be a Systems Thinker? Introducing Systems Thinking Into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Learning Evaluations**  
Panel Session 502, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM  
Room 212A, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the PK-12 Educational Evaluation TIG

**Evaluation Design, Implementation, and Learning Strategies for Attending to the Ecological Complexities in Place-Based Evaluations**  
Multipaper Session 515, 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM  
Room 102 D, Convention Center

**Developmental Evaluation for Strategic Learning: Lessons From the Field**  
Think Tank Session 615, 2:40 PM to 4:10 PM  
Room 102 D, Convention Center

**Roundtable Presentation 639, 2:40 PM to 4:10 PM**  
Room 206 A, Convention Center  
Rotation 1: iPlant as Example: Promoting Discussion of the Relationship Between Systems and Strategy Evaluation  
Rotation 2: Changing Views and Viewing Change: A Proposal to Use Soft Systems Methodology in Evaluation Settings

**System Thinking in Mid-course Analysis of a Complex Cross-site Evaluation**  
Panel Session 665, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM  
Room 102 D, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the Human Services Evaluation TIG

**System Thinking in Mid-course Analysis of a Complex Cross-site Evaluation**  
Panel Session 665, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM  
Room 102 D, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the Human Services Evaluation TIG

**How Can Community Psychology Inform Evaluation in Complex Ecologies?**  
Panel Session 673, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM  
Room 200 G, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the Community Psychology TIG

**Systems Approaches to Policy Analysis: Equity, Access, and Postsecondary Educational Attainment**  
Multipaper Session 676, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM  
Room 200 J, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the Government Evaluation TIG

**Outcome Mapping: Embedding Complexity Theory in Evaluation Practice**  
Panel Session 702, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM  
Room 212 A, Convention Center



## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27



**Combining Traditional Methods and Computer Simulation Over the Evaluation Life Cycle: Implications for Models, Metrics, and Methodology**  
Think Tank Session 722, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM  
Room 102 D, Convention Center

**A Process for Modeling Complex Systems to Inform Evaluation and Program Design**  
Demonstration Session 758, 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM  
Room 212 A, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the PK-12 Educational Evaluation TIG

**Teaching Systems Evaluation**  
Think Tank Session 767, 9:50 AM to 10:35 AM  
Room 102 D, Convention Center  
Co-sponsored by the Teaching of Evaluation TIG

**Systems in Evaluation: Discovering the Practical and Useful in a Complex World**  
Panel Session 930, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM  
Room 208 C/D, Convention Center  
**Presidential Strand Session**

**Engaging the Ecology: Questions for Relevance, Relationship, and Responsibility in Human Systems**  
Demonstration Session 947, 2:40 PM to 4:10 PM  
Room 102 D, Convention Center

**Using Systems Thinking to Inform Measurement**  
Multipaper Session 983, 2:40 PM to 4:10 PM  
Room 212 A, Convention Center

