Message from the Leadership Team

Koolamalsi (Hello) Colleagues and Friends of IPE TIG!

Since our last newsletter, relatives and colleagues, a lot has changed. We were hit with one pandemic, COVID-19, that has changed the way we carry out our daily practices and relationships; and another pandemic of racialized violence within the systems that are supposed to be our protectors and healers. These events, hopefully, have forever changed the lens through which we view our world. We urge you to pay attention, but also to make space for healing and rest.

Our responses to these pandemics have been varied, but our teachings and values as Indigenous people have deep roots that give us strength, hope, and clarity. From using prayer, herbs, and natural living off the land, water, and woods, to making sure to offer love and check in on each other, we are finding ways to take care of ourselves, our families, and our responsibilities. You are in our hearts, minds, and prayers always; so stay strong and know we are here for you and will continue to be here for each other.

As always, thank you for your continued membership!
Aho, Nicky and Elizabeth, IPE TIG Chairs

Focus of this newsletter

The East Stanza from a Cherokee prayer
-Shared by Mark Parman

From the appearing way Merciful Creator, thank you for the Sun which purifies. It brings light into the world, enlightenment into the darkness, and understanding to the ignorant. Help us to be the bearers of your light.

We recognize, and know firsthand, that the multiple worlds we, as Indigenous people, attempt to walk in every day are not easily aligned with one another. It can be difficult to balance our material needs with our emotional and spiritual needs; but we encourage you to strive for a sustainable balance by reaching into the depths of traditional wisdom that is within you and our relatives. You are not meant to journey through this life alone, and now more than ever our thriving as Indigenous peoples depends on the support we can create for one another through the sharing of our collective wisdom and leaning into our traditional practices.
The focus for this newsletter is to inform about things of interest in our world and the field of evaluation and also to provide a grounding by way of resource sharing, traditional knowledge, and recipes offered by your IPE TIG leadership.

AEA 2020

One large change brought about due to the escalation of COVID-19 is the shifting of many professional conferences from in-person to virtual. Others have been pushed back tentatively into 2021. While it is disheartening to know that we will not have the same experience of seeing one another in person and partaking in the array of events typically hosted by AEA and other partner organizations, we are comforted to know that these professional organizations value the health and safety of our evaluation community.

This year’s AEA 2020 conference will be virtual. In order to make this manageable for AEA and accessible to members, this has meant that AEA has had to drastically reduce their proposal acceptance numbers. The program schedule is available and registration is now open (details provided below).

AEA’s 2020 Convening: Eval2020 Reimagined - How Will You Shine Your Light?

Registration is now open. To register follow this link:
https://www.evaluationconference.org/p/cm/ld/fid=341
The conference will be held on October 27 – 30, 2020.
Check out this year’s program structure and scheduled presentations:
https://www.evaluationconference.org/p/cm/ld/fid=779

Eval20 Reimagined will feature 120 concurrent sessions available for live and on-demand viewing for up to three months, opportunities to connect with other attendees through one-on-one meetings and group discussions, and an interactive Connection Center where you can visit virtual booths of publishers, organizations, and more.

Our annual IPE TIG Business Meeting will also be held virtually (date TBA)
This time online will be used as a space to gather together, rest together, and dream together as we hold space for reflection of 2020 and look ahead together toward 2021.
More details and a Zoom registration link will be emailed to you prior to the event.
AEA Leadership Update
- By Mark Parman

In AEA, Working Groups (WGs) are used to accomplish most of the heavy lifting of the organization. This year I have been honored to represent IPE on two AEA Working Groups: Nominations and Elections, as well as the Member Survey.

The Nominations and Elections WG began its work just as we entered into the pandemic lockdown. This WG is charged with selecting a slate of candidates for the Board, the President Elect and any other offices that are open. This year we had an outstanding group from which to choose possible candidates. I cannot stress enough the importance of voting in our organization’s elections. It is your responsibility to our community that you exercise your vote. Also, now is the time to start thinking about who in our TIG we would like to see on the Board. We will need to be ready to nominate folks shortly after the start of the new year.

The Member Survey Working Group began working as the new year started. However, in the middle of the work, the AEA Board decided to take a deeper look at who AEA is today and who we want to be tomorrow. That focus changed the direction of the survey. We have expanded the options for Indigenous people to be more representative of the diversity of peoples who sit under this umbrella term. The survey will be out this fall. So please take some time and give us your best thoughts. GY, WaDo

Change in IPE TIG Leadership
Due to personal and professional commitments, as well as the general impact of Covid-19, both of our Communications Chairs have had to take a step back from their positions. We were sad to see them go, but we are excited to welcome January O’Connor and Nate O’Connor to fill these positions, after a virtual call for submissions, and join the IPE TIG leadership team. Read more about them below.

Introducing January O’Connor
January O’Connor currently lives in Anchorage, Alaska. She is a Founding Director of Raven’s Group LLC, a consulting group that provides services in program planning and design, grant writing, education and youth programming, and evaluation for educational programs that focus on Rural and Alaska Native youth and students. January is Tlingit and is Alaskan born and was raised in Kake, Alaska. She possesses an MA in the Arts of Teaching from the University of Southeast and a BA in Psychology from Reed College in Portland, Oregon.

January has 15 years’ experience leading and developing youth programming that is culturally responsive and based on positive youth development guided by research. In her previous positions, she has worked with a wide-cross section of rural and Alaska Native people and has traveled extensively across rural Alaska. In her previous positions she assisted in directing programs which served to address educational and cultural issues specific to rural and Alaska Native high school students graduating school on time and their subsequent matriculation into vocational, educational, or employment pursuits. January is currently studying for her PhD in Indigenous Studies. The focus of January’s studies is on Indigenous evaluation. Her secondary research passion and interest is indigenized education in secondary and post-secondary environments.
You can also view January’s EvalIndigenous Indigenous Voices Project interview here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1FQAO9Nuy-Q

Introducing Nate O’Connor

Nathanael (Nate) O’Connor lives in Alaska and is a Founding Director of Raven’s Group LLC, a consulting group that provides services in program planning and design, grant writing, education and youth programming, and evaluation for educational programs that focus on rural and Alaska Native youth and students. In 2012, Nate completed his BA in Philosophy with a minor in Linguistics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), building on his personal interest in how culture and language influence one’s experiences and understanding of the world. In addition to studying at UAF, Nate studied Irish language and traditional Irish culture at Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh (National University of Ireland Galway) in Carna and An Cheathrú Rua, ultimately culminating in an honors thesis on Irish language shift in the Galway Gaeltacht. As a result of his experience in Ireland and working in Alaska, his evaluation interests focus on language programming and the intentional use of culture as a framework for learning language. Nate is currently an MA student in Program Evaluation at Michigan State University and an MA student in the Indigenous Studies program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Beyond evaluation

Reflections from attending ceremony and a recipe for cucumber salad

- By White Bear Woman (Karen Alexander)

Waabshka Mukwa Kwe ndizhnikaaaz, mukwa ndodem, Baaweting ndonjibaa, Ojibwe ndaa. Aapji gitchi nendam maapii yaa’aa. My spirit name is White Bear Woman. I am bear clan from Baaweting (Sault Ste Marie, Michigan) and I am Ojibwe. I am very happy to be here. It feels so good to introduce myself in the language and I am grateful that I was able to attend Midewiwin ceremonies this August in Minnesota. This was my second time attending and I knew what to expect as far as the length of time of ceremonies (sometimes lasting a whole month), camping in a tent, and being in a remote location.

Although I won’t go into detail about the specific ceremonies, I will say that there was a lot of prayer, feasts, and some hard work preparing the longhouses. The main thing that I learned is that being a part of this way of life means to be committed to living my life “in a good way” or by good values; and that is what I strive to do. The teachings that I received are personal and the things that stand out for me most are: having the experience of being okay with just “being” and not having to be hooked into some electronic device; learning to be patient as I waited for things to happen; and learning to be accepting of not knowing exactly what would happen next. I didn’t realize how accustomed I was to a fast-paced modern life until I had to just slow down and be present. I don’t need to have each moment planned out; it is okay to just let things unfold. At one point, after a few days, I remember sitting quietly gazing at a swarm of around 30 dragonflies swirling and flying circles in the air like they were dancing and playing. It was breathtaking. Since returning, every day I’m noticing the

Prayer

- Shared by Karen Alexander

Serenity Prayer

Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.
beauty around me more, like the ways the trees, grasses, and water move in the wind. I’m feeling more connected to everything and all of Creation is truly magnificent when I just relax, take a deep breath, and notice.

**Cucumbers**

This year I decided to try my hand at growing cucumbers. I was planning on growing small cucumbers to make pickles for the first time. My grandma made the most delicious pickles; some were sweet and some were spicy. I ended up with the large kind of cucumbers by mistake, so I’m using them for salads. I’ll try pickles next year. My granddaughters love the cucumbers and prefer to eat them freshly picked (see picture below).

Please enjoy this recipe for a delicious cucumber salad.

**Creamy Cucumber Salad**

Combine 1/2 c. sour cream, 1 Tbsp. white vinegar, 1 Tbsp. minced fresh dill, 1 tsp. sugar, 1/2 tsp. salt, and 1/4 tsp. garlic powder.

Stir until combined.

Add 3 c. thinly sliced peeled cucumbers and 1 c. thinly sliced red onion.

Stir to combine; cover and chill at least 2 hours.

(www.lemontreedwelling.com/creamy-cucumber-salad)

**Take Note**

Here is a list of recent publications from around the globe that our IPE membership may be interested in: a curation of resources related to Indigenous Evaluation, Culturally Responsive Evaluation, and other related topics. You can access a few of them by following the link provided; otherwise please email one of the team and we would be happy to send you a copy.


July 2020, Dr. Nicole Bowman (Lunaape/Mohican) published the evaluation field’s first ever tribal critical systems evaluation theory and indigenous systems evaluation model in the July 2020 New Directions for Evaluation Issue. You can review the “Nation to Nation in Evaluation: Utilizing an Indigenous Evaluation Model to Frame Systems and Government Evaluations” article here: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/ev.20411. A full decolonized article may be obtained by e-mailing Dr. Bowman at: nicky@bpcwi.com.


Request for AEA 365 Blog Contributions
To forward our mission and vision (check out our website), the IPE TIG Leadership Team confirmed two weeks in 2021 to sponsor the AEA 365’s website (https://aea365.org/blog/) which shares evaluators’ Hot Tips, Rad Resources, and Lessons Learned to the broader evaluation community. We are requesting contributions from IPE TIG members to highlight and share the work of Indigenous evaluators and others working in Indigenous contexts. Submission deadlines for blog posts are:

- February 20th, 2021 (published from March 21st – March 26th, 2021)
- October 20th, 2021 (published from November 28th – December 3rd, 2021)

If you would like to submit a blog post, please contact IPE TIG Communications Chair, Nate O’Connor, at nate@ravensgroupak.com.

Looking Ahead

CREA Conference
This year, the Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) conference will be held virtually with paper presentations postponed until the in-person conference in March 2021.

The virtual conference is being held from September 30th until October 2nd. Virtual workshops will be available for $50 and the keynote presentations available to the first 150 attendees free of charge.

The theme is: “Interrogating Cultural Responsiveness Against the Backdrop of Racism and Colonialism.”
Click on this link to read more about the conference and register: https://crea.education.illinois.edu/home/conferences/sixth-international-conference

The Canadian Evaluation Society Conference
The Canadian Evaluation Society will be virtual in part or whole for May 2021. Given the pandemic, CES is still hoping some of the offerings could be in person in Ottawa (the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation). Stay tuned and stay updated by subscribing for CES 2021 updates here: https://c2020.evaluationcanada.ca/.
General Updates

**EvalIndigenous**

Since April 2020, EvalIndigenous has met monthly to continue implementing their 2020 agenda. Many of our EvalIndigenous global members continue to make breakthroughs in having Indigenous voices represented on global evaluation and evaluation parliamentarian advisory and work groups. Within North America, the work continues through Canadian Evaluation Society (Larry Bremner and Serge Eric) and through the American Evaluation Association (Nicole Bowman, Carolee Dodge Francis, and Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro). The origin story of EvalIndigenous was written by Mr. Larry Bremner and Dr. Nicole Bowman and published by the Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation in February 2020. This free access article can be read here: [https://journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/index.php/cjpe/issue/view/5191](https://journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/index.php/cjpe/issue/view/5191). All updates and opportunities continued to be uploaded to the EvalIndigenous Facebook page. See also the amazing work of the Indigenous Voices project posted there where you can learn even more about the evaluators from the Indigenous global north and south. As changes happen during this pandemic context we are working in, we will continue to provide updates via the Facebook page. Contact Nicky Bowman if you have things to share or any questions: nicky@bpcwi.com.

**September 11, 2020:** EvalIndigenous Call for Book Chapter Proposal. EvalIndigenous has up to six $500 grants to contribute to knowledge transfer activities (workshops, zoom meetings, etc.) in 2020 that promote the agenda of EvalIndigenous. Click on the following link to learn more: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GSqE8KxNyLc6aGvCbg9Ppnf1UV5x6hpq8g1Enx_NKLI/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GSqE8KxNyLc6aGvCbg9Ppnf1UV5x6hpq8g1Enx_NKLI/edit?usp=sharing)

For more information please contact Dr. Fiona Cram at fionac@katoa.net.az.

**September 15, 2020:** Provide feedback on draft Indigenous African Ethical Protocol for EvalIndigenous. Check out the African Ethical Protocol here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Uyl-ol4zBto7n8zVF2y5jQdsg6Z2M5nMVUZrjZzWYA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Uyl-ol4zBto7n8zVF2y5jQdsg6Z2M5nMVUZrjZzWYA/edit?usp=sharing)

For more information see: Mr. Awuor Ponge at awuorponge@gmail.com or Dr. Fiona Cram at fionac@katoa.net.az.

**Indigenous Voices project**

The Indigenous Voices project looks to highlight the voices of Indigenous evaluators globally through inviting and video/audio recording interviews with practitioners. A focus is to showcase different journeys, experiences and quality evaluation practices of Indigenous practitioners of evaluation within and beyond their respective communities.

In June 2020, we saw the first of seven interview clips showcasing five Indigenous evaluators, from five different countries in Africa. Including:

Ahmed Ag Aboubacrine from Mali: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHO7CB09KQA&t=4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHO7CB09KQA&t=4s)
Pily Said Mtuka from Tanzania: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXjXaQ-IL6Q&t=36s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXjXaQ-IL6Q&t=36s)

Idrissa Kabore from Burkina Faso: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ij33UJVwo&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ij33UJVwo&t=1s)

Dr Roselynn Musa from Nigeria: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydzzv0Gx0CM&t=8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydzzv0Gx0CM&t=8s)

Nurudeen Mohammed Aliu from Ghana: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlpaRmmjOvY&t=10s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlpaRmmjOvY&t=10s)

And, an introduction from the Voices project interviewer and organizer for this cohort of interviewees, Awuor Ponge from Kenya: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plkrPp7SqaU&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plkrPp7SqaU&t=1s)

You can find interview clips on the EvalIndigenous Youtube Channel for Indigenous evaluators from all over the world, including North America, Africa and New Zealand, amongst others. To learn more about the project visit the EvalIndigenous Youtube Channel or email evalindigenous@evalpartners.org.

### Parting Message

Nau te raurau, nāku te raurau, ka ora ai te iwi (Te Reo Māori of Aotearoa New Zealand).
With your basket and my basket, the people will thrive.

Remember that we all have knowledge. We all have something to offer and in combining that knowledge and working together, we will thrive.

With kindest wishes, we hope that our IPE TIG community is doing well, and that even during these challenging times, we can come together and support each other as we continue on.

Stay safe and best wishes,
The IPE TIG Leadership Team

### IPE TIG Leadership Contact Information

Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro, Chair at tayl0564@umn.edu
Nicky Bowman, Co-Chair at nicky@bpcwi.com
Aneta Cram, Program Chair at anetacram@gmail.com
Karen Alexander, Program Co-Chair at karenalexander04@gmail.com
Mark Parman, Secretary at mark-parman@cherokee.org
Nate O’Connor, Communications Chair at nate@ravensgroupak.com
January O’Connor, Communications Co-Chair at january@ravensgroupak.com

### Connect with the IPE TIG’s Social Media

**Find us on** [IPE TIG on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AEAIPETIG)

**Twitter** @AEAIPETIG

[AEA IPE TIG Website](https://www.aea.org/IPE-TIG)