

November 6, 2009

Greetings AEA TIG-Use members:

On behalf of the Executive Team I am pleased to welcome those of you attending the Evaluation 2009 Conference in Orlando, November 11 to 14 (and workshops Nov. 9-11, 15). Under the leadership of Susan Tucker, Program Co-Chair, TIG-Use is once again exceptionally well represented on the Conference Program. Thank you to Susan for her hard work and also to all of us who contributed to the peer review process.

Attached to this letter is Table 1 with a complete listing of TIG-Use sponsored sessions and presentations. You can click on the hyperlinks for more details or, of course, peruse the complete AEA Conference Program at www.eval.org.

Conference Highlights

[TIG-Use Table](#) (Wednesday Nov 11, 6:30-8:00, Opening Reception and Poster Session, Sebastian Section J): If you are attending the conference, please swing by our table at the opening reception. Our goal is to share with conference delegates the mission and interests of TIG-Use and to entice new members to join. Please bring along any colleagues who are not already members.

[TIG-Use Business Meeting](#) (Friday Nov 13, 7:00-7:50 am, Panzacola, Section G1): As last year's 'experiment' turned out to be quite an enormous success, we plan to repeat the format again this year. Please join us for continental breakfast on Friday morning. In addition to TIG-Use updates and regular business we are planning a discussion forum on 'process use' (see the attached flyer). Following a brief introduction by Michael Harner, Michael Patton and I will present preliminary thoughts about the construct and where it may take us and/or where we may take it. Our goal for the session, first and foremost, is to involve in the dialogue those able to attend the session. So, you might want to refresh your memory in advance by revisiting at least chapters 1 and 7 in:

Cousins, J.B. (2007) (Ed.). *Process use: theory, research and practice. New Directions in Evaluation*. No. 116, San Francisco, Jossey Bass.

[TIG-Use Sponsored Expert Lecture](#) (Session 582: Friday Nov 13, 3:35-4:20, Panzacola Section G1): Michael Patton (Utilization Focused Evaluation) will share his wisdom and insights about 'Developmental Evaluation as a Special Utilization-Focused Purpose and Niche'. Michael continues to move us in new and exciting directions; this one appears to be quite intimately linked to the Conference theme 'Context and Evaluation'

[TIG-Use Conference Theme-Related Sessions](#) Check out these alluring session titles:

'The Complicated Relationship between Context and Use: Lessons across Five Countries' (Session 210, Thursday Nov. 12, 9:15-10:45 am, Panzacola Section H3)

'Contexts Shaping Evaluation and Resultant Policy: Cross-National Perspectives' (Session 296, Thursday Nov. 12, 1:40-3:10 pm, Panzacola Section H3)

‘The Blurry Line between Internal Evaluation and Compliance: Why Context Matters’
(Roundtable Rotation I, Presentation 404, Thursday 4:30 – 6:00 pm, Swanee 21)

‘Contexts and Institutionalization of Collaborative Data Use: A Demonstration of and Iterative Process for Developing Evaluation Capacity in Nine School Districts’ (Demonstration Session 796, Saturday Nov 4, Panzacola Section H3).

TIG-Use Web Update

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Norma Martínez-Rubin for her leadership in designing, structuring, populating and generally shaping the TIG-Use website (<http://comm.eval.org/EVAL/EvaluationUse/Home/Default.aspx>). Of 46 TIGs only 16 have taken the step of developing and mounting a website. Without having done a thorough analysis, I would have to say that our website ranks among the best of them. And thank you to Erin Burr for her role in managing the TIG-Use e-library, located on the website. Norma and Erin will encourage us at the Business Meeting to contribute to the website by posting items of interest to the membership and, following the conference, we’ll launch an official appeal for input.

TIG-Use Member Survey 2009

Located in the TIG-Use e-library is Susan Tucker’s summary of the 2009 TIG-Use Membership Survey which she ran last March. Susan will take a few moments at the Business meeting to report on the survey results. Thank you Susan for your hard work on that project.

Well, that is it for now. Hope to see you in Orlando!

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