


History. The Topical Interest Group on Evaluation Use is one of the original TIGs of AEA. It was born of the interest in evaluation utilization in the 1970s, extending into both theoretical and empirical work on use in the 1980s and 1990s, and to a broader conceptualization of use and influence in the 2000s.

Activities. The Use TIG is in the process of developing a website, linked to the AEA TIG homepage and providing more details about the history and leadership of our TIG as well as seminal documents and current resources. We sponsor a session on current theory, research or practice to enhance use at our annual AEA business meeting.

EVALUATION USE TIG

OUR MISSION

The Use TIG is committed to understanding and enhancing the use of evaluation in a variety of contexts and to maximizing the positive influence of evaluation through both the evaluation process and the results produced.



Topics of interest to our members include:

- 👁️ The influence of evaluation on systems.
- 👁️ The social change role of evaluation.
- 👁️ Research on evaluation use/influence.
- 👁️ Strategies for enhancing the use/impact of evaluation.
- 👁️ Critical reflection on intended and unintended influences of evaluation—both positive and negative.
- 👁️ Research on effective communication strategies.
- 👁️ Theories of use.
- 👁️ Metaevaluation of evaluation impact.
- 👁️ Issues of validity as a property of use.
- 👁️ Effective communication of evaluation results.
- 👁️ Organizational change/organizational learning.
- 👁️ Use-enhancing evaluation methods.
- 👁️ Evaluation as a tool for social justice.
- 👁️ Process use.
- 👁️ Barriers to the use of evaluation.

2006 Executive Committee

Karen E. Kirkhart, Chair

Valerie J. Caracelli, Past Chair

Susan A. Tucker, Program Co-Chair

Emma Norland, Program Co-Chair

Sandy Taut, Member-at-Large



Sessions Sponsored by the Evaluation Use TIG
Thursday, November 2, 2006

Session 242. 11:05 AM to 12:35 AM. Pavilion East

Title: **Building and Evaluating Knowledge: Wicked Evaluation Thinking and Practice**

Type: Panel

Chair: Michael Patton, Utilization-Focused Evaluation

Developing an Evaluation Framework for Knowledge Management: A Case Study

Gail Barrington, Barrington Research Group, Inc.

Evaluation for Knowledge Building

Lyn Shulha, Queen's University at Kingston

Wicked Environments Call for Wicked Evaluation Thinking and Practice

Kate McKegg, Independent Consultant

Session 274. 1:40 PM to 3:10 PM. Pavilion East

Title: **Integrity Without Compromising Findings: An Exploration of Reporting Principles and Standards in Research and Evaluation**

Type: Think Tank

Chair: Sue Henderson, WestEd

Presenters: Nancy Hurley, WestEd

Ann Brackett, WestEd

Anthony Petrosino, WestEd

Session 304. 3:20 PM to 4:50 PM. Galleria II

Title: **Closing the Loop from Data to Action: How Evaluation Feeds Program Improvement**

Type: Panel

Co-sponsors: Presidential Strand; Health Evaluation TIG

Chair: Thomas Chapel, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Improving the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Through Evaluation

Mary M. Rogers, Centers for Disease Control

Claire Moore, Centers for Disease Control

Norma Harris, Centers for Disease Control

Using Outcome Indicators to Inform Practice and Measure Performance

Sheila Porter, Centers for Disease Control

Gabrielle Starr, Centers for Disease Control

Natasha Jamison, Centers for Disease Control

The Evolution of Evaluation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Division of Adolescent and School Health

Karen F. Debrot, Centers for Disease Control

Sonal R. Doshi, Centers for Disease Control

Session 338. 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Galleria II

Title: **TIG Business Meeting and Invited Panel**

TIG Chair: Karen E. Kirkhart, Syracuse University

TIG Program Co-Chair: Susan A. Tucker, Evaluation & Development Associates

TIG Program Co-Chair: Emma Norland, e-Norland Group

Invited Presentation

Title: **Taking the Pulse: A Descriptive Study of Evaluation Use**

Presenter: Dreolin Fleischer, Claremont Graduate University

Sessions Sponsored by the Evaluation Use TIG
Friday, November 3, 2006

Session 515. 1:55 PM to 3:25 PM. Studio Suite

Title: **Factors Effecting Evaluation Use in the Public Sector: Reporting Strategies, Performance Measurement Requirements and Data Collection Strategies**

Type: Multipaper Session

Chair: Emma Norland, e-Norland Group

Formative Evaluation at its Finest: An Historical Analysis of Evaluation Reports

Lisa Raphael Bogaert, University of Illinois at Chicago

Miriam Mazboudi, University of Illinois at Chicago

Stacy Wenzel, University of Illinois at Chicago

Carol Fendt, University of Illinois at Chicago

Kelci Price, Chicago Public Schools

Bret Feranchak, Chicago Public Schools

Consequences of Performance Measurement Requirements on a Local Head Start Program

Leanne Kallemeyn, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Consequences of Building Evaluation Capacity in School: A Six District Case Study of Developing Data Teams in Alaska's United States Department of Education (USDE) Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant

Susan Tucker, Evaluation and Development Associates

Diane Hirshberg, University of Alaska-Anchorage

Alexandra Hill, University of Alaska-Anchorage

Edward McLain, University of Alaska-Anchorage

Jackie Stillisano, Evaluation and Development Associates

Elected Officials' Uses of Public Performance Reports: Findings From the Legislator Use of Performance Reports Project in British Columbia, Canada

James McDavid, University of Victoria

Irene Huse, University of Victoria

Session 550. 3:35 PM to 4:20 PM. Studio Suite

Title: **Improving Evaluation Reporting Methods to Facilitate Informed Decision-Making**

Type: Panel

Chair: Ralph Renger, University of Arizona

Presenters:

Improving Accessibility of Evaluation

Erin Peacock, University of Arizona

Improving Evaluation Report

Emily Kidd, University of Arizona

Session 583. 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Studio Suite

Title: **Getting at the Consequences in Evaluation Use and Influence: Knowledge Translation, Concept Mapping, Evaluator as Educator, Validation Process**

Type: Multipaper Session

Chair: Susan Tucker, Evaluation and Development Associates

What Makes Evaluation Useful in Government: A Concept Mapping Study

J. Bradley Cousins, University of Ottawa

Swee Goh, University of Ottawa

Tim Aubry, University of Ottawa

Robert Lahey, REL Solutions, Inc.

Steve Montague, Performance Measurement Network, Inc.

Catherine Elliott, University of Ottawa

Designing Evaluation Units to Maximize Uptake and Utilization

Paula Goering, Centre For Addiction and Mental Health

Promoting Evaluation Use by Exploring Evaluation as an Educative Process of Teaching and Learning

Krystin Martens, Western Michigan University

Consequences, Validity and Evaluation Influence

Karen E. Kirkhart, Syracuse University

Sessions Sponsored by the Evaluation Use TIG
Saturday, November 4, 2006

Session 703. 9:35 AM to 10:20 AM. Grand Ballroom-Ballroom II

Title: **Data Use Leads to Data Valuing: An Evaluation Capacity Building Thesis**

Type: Expert Lecture

Sponsor: Presidential Strand

Chair: Karen E. Kirkhart, Syracuse University

Presenter: J. Bradley Cousins

Session 753. 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Studio Suite

Title: **Planning for Meaningful and Useful Evaluations: Avoiding Glowing Reports and Travel Brochures by Matching the Evaluation Method to the Program Staff**

Type: Panel

Chair and Discussant: Curtis Mearns, Albuquerque Public Schools

Evaluation Capacity Building: Promoting Accountability or Public Relations

Carolyn Sullins, Western Michigan University

Travel Brochure Angst: Using Methods to Make Meaningful Results

Curtis Mearns, Albuquerque Public Schools

Tensions in Evaluation: Program Improvement and Marketing Purposes

Tracy Patterson, Center for Creative Leadership

Jennifer Martineau, Center for Creative Leadership

Session 777. 12:10 PM to 1:40 PM. Grand Ballroom-Ballroom II

Title: **Process Use: Towards a Fuller Definition of the Consequences of Evaluation**

Type: Panel

Co-sponsor: Presidential Strand

Chair: Hallie Preskill, Claremont Graduate University

Discussant: Michael Patton, Utilization-Focused Evaluation

Questioning the Validity of the Term Process Use

Michael Harnar, Claremont Graduate University

Empirical Considerations and Implications of Process Use

Courtney, Amo, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

J. Bradley Cousins, University of Ottawa

Free Range Evaluations: Developing Evaluation Capacity Through Process Use in the Wild World of Organizations

Jean King, University of Minnesota

Session 814. 1:50 PM to 3:20 PM. Grand Ballroom-Ballroom II

Title: **Researching Evaluation Use and Influence: Past, Present and Future**

Type: Panel

Chair: Frances Lawrenz

Discussants: Marvin Alkin, University of California at Los Angeles

Karen E. Kirkhart, Syracuse University

Melvin Mark, Pennsylvania State University

Michael Patton, Utilization-Focused Evaluation

Researching Evaluation Use and Influence: Twenty Years of Empirical Study

Stacie Toal, University of Minnesota

Lija Greenseid, University of Minnesota

Frances Lawrenz, University of Minnesota

Jean King, University of Minnesota

Kelli Johnson, University of Minnesota

Changes in Tracking and Measuring Evaluation Use and Influence

Jean King, University of Minnesota

Frances Lawrenz, University of Minnesota

Ann Ooms, University of Minnesota

Kelli Johnson, University of Minnesota

Lija Greenseid, University of Minnesota

Stacie Toal, University of Minnesota

Session 858. 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Pavilion East

Title: **Utilization-Focused Evaluation: Emergent Issues and New Directions**

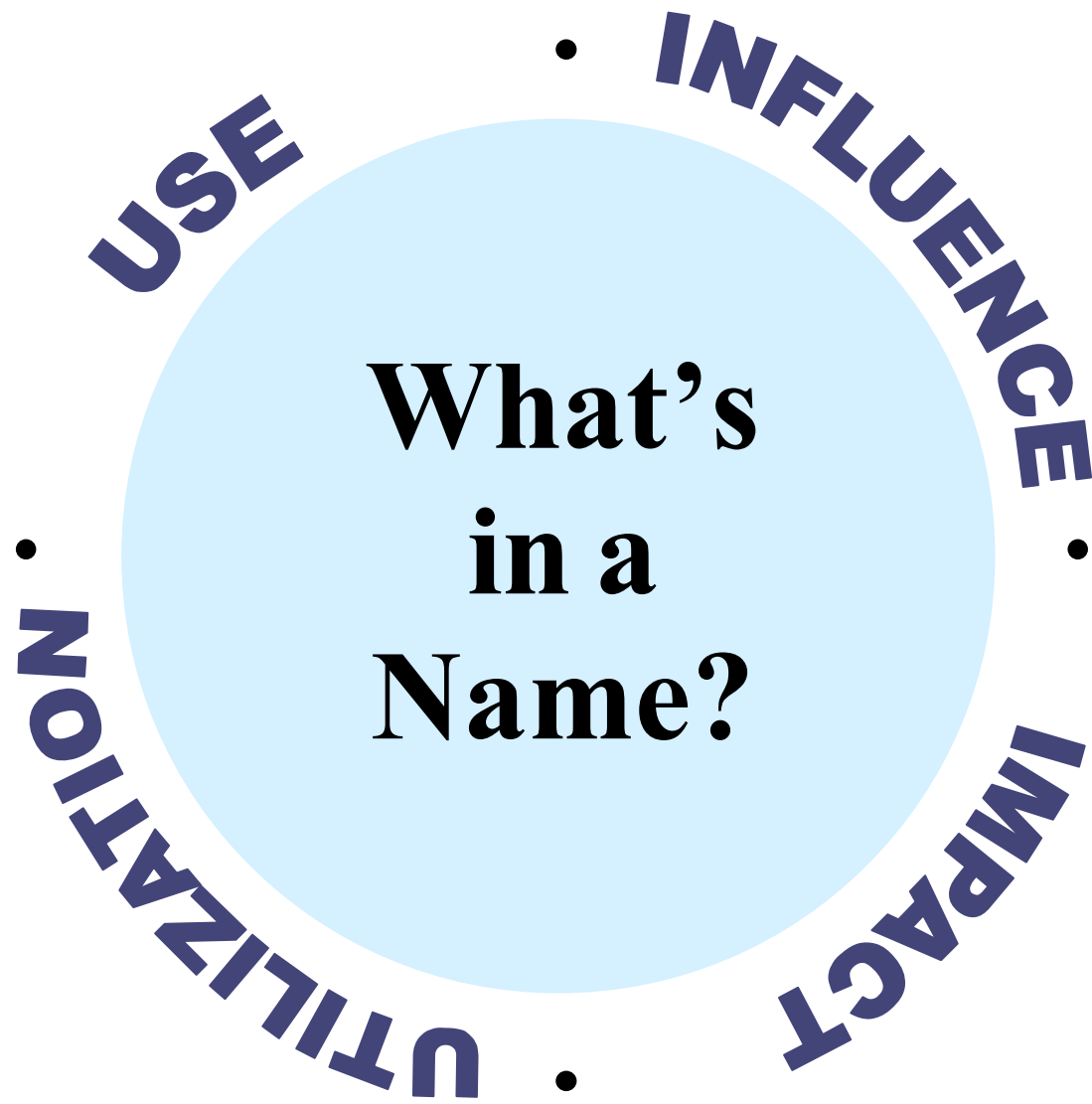
Type: Think Tank

Chair: Michael Patton, Utilization-Focused Evaluation

Fundamental Issues in Evaluation Use

The Evaluation Use TIG takes the following issues as fundamental to the evaluation profession:

-  **Theory of Use/Influence.** What is the nature of “use” itself? Theories of influence or use (language varies) focus on the nature of influence/use as a construct, on types of use/misuse, and on causal pathways of influence.
-  **Use and the Public Good.** What is evaluation’s impact on social justice and other expressions of social betterment? This question merges into ethics and values discussions and the examination of whose interests are addressed in different models of use.
-  **Evaluator Role in Facilitating Use.** What is the necessary and appropriate role of the evaluator in facilitating use? What is the nature of influence that is appropriate to that role? The answers to these questions differ across evaluation models.
-  **Validity and Use.** How can the consequences of evaluative understandings and actions offer evidence of an evaluation’s validity? Since validity has long been understood to reside in the *use* of an instrument or method, the focus on use merges into fundamental discussions of validity in evaluation.
-  **Metaevaluation.** Is the empirical study of use essentially evaluating the evaluation(s)? Whether use/influence is an intended or unintended outcome of evaluation, studying the scope of influence of a given evaluation and factors facilitating use moves into metaevaluation.



**What's
in a
Name?**

USE

INFLUENCE

IMPACT

UTILIZATION