2011 FEMINIST ISSUES TIG LEADERSHIP:
Co-Chairs: Dr. Kathryn Bowen, &
           Dr. Denise Seigart
Co-Program Chairs: Dr. Linda Thurston, &
                   Dr. Denice Cassaro

2011 FEMINIST ISSUES TIG GOALS:
1. To establish a Feminist Issues TIG Website.
2. To publish a quarterly Newsletter.
3. To update Feminist TIG History
4. To coordinate AEA 365 Tips & disseminate.
5. To increase cross-collaboration with other TIGs in preparing panels during AEA 2011 (Mixed Methods, Cross Cultural, LGBT TIGs, etc).
7. To formalize a partnership with UN Women.
8. To seek opportunities to expand TIG membership through networking and outreach.

Dear Feminist Issues TIG members,

Hope this year, 2011 is off to a great start for each of you in your personal & professional lives! The Feminist Issues TIG is off to a buzzing start this year with many new and exciting endeavors being proposed and undertaken. We want to keep you abreast of all that is in the works and invite you to contribute to the same, and/or initiate ideas and projects of your own that we may support.

Dr. Jennifer Greene, our new AEA President, recently sent out a call for proposals for the 2011 AEA Annual Conference to be held from Nov 2-5, in Anaheim, California. The theme is “VALUES & VALUING”. With a theme such as this we can center our conversations on the values commonly held by evaluators conducting feminist evaluation and how these values impact the work that is done. For a stronger Feminist TIG presence during AEA 2011, we invite you to submit proposals for papers, panels, workshops and/or posters.

Proposals that explicitly link feminist evaluation to values in terms of the role that they play in influencing the evaluator, the client, stakeholders, and/or the community as well as decisions about the theoretical framework, design, analysis, reporting style, etc. will be most competitive. The deadline for submission is March 18th, 2011. We are also strongly interested in sponsoring a panel as part of the Presidential Strand, so please feel free to contact either Kathryn Bowen or Denise Seigart. All ideas are welcome!
YOUR PARTICIPATION  
YOUR VOICE IS INVALUABLE.

Your ongoing work and interest is necessary if we are to achieve our 2011 goals. We ask you to volunteer to work on a goal independently or head up a small team that collectively works toward achieving a goal. We need your knowledge, experience, voice and energy to strengthen and expand our TIG. Your contribution at any level is welcomed. Get Involved!

The opportunity to help achieve our goals promises to get you meaningfully involved in the TIG in a way that is collaborative, informative, friendly and exciting. At the same time you will increase your exposure to other evaluators conducting Feminist Evaluation, improve your understanding of what Feminist Evaluation is, and have opportunities to share the value that it brings to your work and how it is relevant to the evaluation community.

We are very interested in adding content that reflects the process and outcome of Feminist Evaluations currently being implemented in our quarterly newsletter. If you have questions, suggestions, case examples or general information that you would like to share, please feel free to e-mail our Newsletter Editor. Our next Newsletter goes out in April. In addition to sending the Newsletter out to our Feminist Issues TIG members, all Newsletters will be posted on our Feminist Issues TIG website.

Comments from the TIG Chairs-

Last year not only did we co-sponsor the Gender Responsive Evaluation Professional Development Workshop, we also had 8 papers and a round table accepted for presentation. Our Business Meeting resulted in the establishment of a concrete set of goals with the overall purpose of expanding and enhancing our TIG as well as sharing information more broadly about Feminist Evaluation and the value that it brings to evaluations of all types, in multiple contexts.

A highlight of the conference was an evening out with members of the International and Cross-Cultural TIG and the Feminist Issues TIG. This casual opportunity for networking was particularly enjoyable and helped to establish relationships that we anticipate will lead to future occasions to collaborate on projects, papers, publications, etc. We hope that the success experienced during AEA 2010 can be replicated in 2011. You involvement will help ensure that we do!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Bowen
kathryn.bowen@centerstone.org

Please send your volunteering interests, queries, comments and feedback to

Divya Bheda: dbheda@uoregon.edu
Reflecting on the Journey of the Feminist Issues TIG

Having served on the Feminist Issues TIG since around 1992, I am frequently struck at how often we continue to “spin our wheels” when it comes to engaging more individuals in exploring feminist theory, feminist evaluation approaches, gender response approaches, etc. I do believe, however, that progress has been made! We continue to have a small core group of active members (wouldn’t you like to be one of them?). We have had fairly regular newsletters, we have had multiple attempts to build a permanent web page, we’ve published a New Directions for Evaluation Journal Issue (2002), we’ve been involved in multiple presentations, panels, and workshops, and yet….I still want more.

We have discussed many times how we might engage those who haven’t heard of Feminist Evaluation, or those who think we are all about “fluff”. Some feel we should focus on those who are already sold, and help them to do this work better. There is merit in that, however, I want more. I’d love to have a Presidential Strand panel or presentation that has so many individuals trying to get in the room, we’d look like a Patton presentation! (Hmmm… Maybe we could advertise that Patton or Scriven will be there—and have them show up for just a few minutes—and then we take over?! ). Well, No—that wouldn’t be right. 😊

But I would love to have a conversation about this—and try some new strategies this coming fall!

Many evaluators remain steeped in misinformation regarding what feminist evaluation is. Even today, in the beginning of a new decade in the 21st Century, we still have colleagues challenging feminist approaches as if the methods are not valid, and as if feminist approaches are not based on decades of sound, strong, theory. We have only to look to the literature to see numerous social justice advancing projects across multiple disciplines (utilizing valid and truly objective methodologies derived from feminist epistemologies) to know the value of these approaches.

We want to work together to create awareness and excitement about feminist evaluation. We want to move forward as a field even as we are inviting those who still do not grasp what we are about to join us. So it behooves us to come together—to foster collaborations, old fashioned “feminist consciousness raising”, and other ways to share ideas, etc.

Shoot us an email! Your Voice Matters!

Best Always,

Denise Seigart dseigart@stevenson.edu

We would love for you to share your feminist evaluation stories with us. Please send your contributions/stories, volunteering interests, queries, comments and/or feedback to

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