Dear Feminist Issues TIG Members,

We are gearing up for an exciting 2011 American Evaluation Association Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, Nov 2-5. We have several exciting sessions planned and look forward to taking the TIG’s work forward with some thought-provoking, critical conversations and engaging cross-TIG fertilization during our sessions and our second annual TIG Reception Dinner—. Read on for all the details!

2011 Feminist TIG Sponsored Sessions

Tuesday, Nov 1: 9.00 am to 4.00pm: Workshop: Tools and Techniques of Feminist and Gender Responsive Evaluation: Venue TBA. In this workshop you will learn the similarities and differences between Feminist Evaluation and gender analysis in the US and international program contexts. Real-world cases that highlight the importance of gender responsive approaches in program evaluation will showcase the policy and operational consequences and impacts of ignoring gender. The tools and techniques, and value characteristics to design, implement and use gender responsive and feminist evaluation will be shared.

Thursday, Nov 3: 11.40 am to 12.25pm: Think-Tank: Exploring How Values, Identity and Gender Influence Evaluator Approach and Role: In Huntington A, this session will explore how identity affects values and work, as both process and product, based on the reflection of feminist evaluators who share their own experiences on how they are affected and perceived.

Thursday, Nov 3: 6.10 pm to 7.00 pm: Business Meeting: In Huntington A, this session will discuss our progress on last year’s listed goals, and nominate new leadership for the TIG. We will also set the goals and plans for the year ahead and seek to increase overall participation in the TIG by setting the direction for 2012 activities. Please see next page of newsletter for social get-together & networking after TIG business meeting.

Friday, Nov 4: 10.45 am to 11.30 am: Round-Table Valuing Human Rights and Gender in Evaluation: In Santa Barbara, this session will focus on paying attention to human rights and gender responsiveness in evaluation work.

Friday, Nov 4: 1.35 pm to 2.20 pm: Expert Lecture: En”gendering” Evaluation: Gaining a Deeper Understanding of Feminist Evaluation from Feminist Evaluators: In Coronado, specific methods and processes that result in making gender invisible will be discussed, defining feminist evaluation and the resistance it faces in the evaluation field (based on reflections shared by Feminist Evaluators).

Friday, Nov 4: 2.50 pm to 4.20 pm: Multi-Paper Feminist Evaluation and Research: A Preview of Good Things to Come: Huntington A. This session will present a Pecha Kucha format to offer a glimpse into the different chapters and concepts being covered in the first book on Feminist Evaluation!

Friday, Nov 4: 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm: Think-Tank Comparing Feminist, Human Rights and Gender Perspectives for Evaluating the Impacts of Programs and Policies on Women: Huntington A. This session is a follow-up discussion to the Gender Responsive Evaluation workshop and will be facilitated with participants from international contexts sharing their experiences on the importance of Gender policy and values.

Saturday, Nov 5: 8.00 am to 9.30 am: Multi-Paper Methodological Issues in Feminist Evaluation: Huntington A. This session will promote three different papers that focus on how one can design and conduct gender-responsive evaluations. It draws from three differential health and ability programs focused on women. It offers ideas and templates demonstrating how once can measure the elusive outcomes that reflect women’s empowerment.
This is the second year we are organizing a Feminist TIG Dinner (back by popular demand because of its success last year!). Come be part of a unique opportunity to meet fellow feminist evaluators interested in examining the formal and informal practices, policies, and activities that result in inequities embedded in many program contexts, that significantly impact how girls and women experience the world as well as the overall quality potential of their lives. This dinner offers a space to socialize, network and establish/maintain relationships with people engaged in conducting Feminist Evaluations. These alliances go a long way in supporting your scholarship and practice, as well as building life-long friendships and relationships with people who are committed to examine every evaluation opportunity to help reverse gender inequities. We hope that you take advantage of the opportunity to toss out new ideas and engage in critical discussions as you get to know each other on a more personal level. Come reconnect, revisit and co-create as you enjoy good food and great conversation. Who knows… there may be some fun karaoke and dancing after, feel free to participate or be a cheering spectator! We will also be joined by members of the Mixed-Methods TIG.

Comments from the TIG Chairs-
Dear Phenomenal Feminist Issues TIG Members,

I trust that everyone is making final preparations to attend AEA 2011, “Values & Valuing in Evaluation”? We are in for a fantastic conference with multiple opportunities to learn, think critically, brainstorm and talk about Values and Valuing as they relate specifically to Feminist Evaluation. The conference theme provides the perfect spring board to focus on the ideas central to feminist evaluation and the significant value of this focus. Take a minute to think about how we can continue to diversify our TIG, strengthen our presence at AEA, raise awareness, increase the number and quality of our presentation proposals and fundamentally unify Feminist TIG members to fully embrace our purpose: to help improve the lives of women throughout the world by challenging the status quo, listening to the voices of women (both loud and soft), using mixed methods to understand multiple perspectives, recognizing that evaluation is political and that inequity based on gender is structural and systemic…..by conducting Feminist Evaluation.

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
Updated by Elizabeth Bamberger, 2011 & Inputs from Donna Mertens, 2011

In 1992, at AEA in Dallas, a group of feminist evaluators, after a session that involved all the past presidents of AEA, pondered over how they were all (white) men! From 1993-1997, feminist evaluators collaborated together to offer AEA sessions and presentations that addressed gender inequities, the lack of gender representations within evaluation, and centered the need for gender-responsive evaluation. Also, in sheer numbers the field increasingly had more women than men as evaluators and evaluation professionals. In 1997, at AEA in San Diego, the Feminist Issues in Evaluation TIG was formally approved by AEA. From 1997 to 2011, we have conducted surveys on Feminist Evaluation, written letters to AEA regarding gender-balanced representation on expert panels and discussions, and have focused increasingly on the learning gained within international gender and feminist contexts.

In 2003, we published the only New Directions in Evaluation Volume on Feminist Evaluation: Explorations and Experiences- No. 96. As we continue with our activism & scholarship through collaboration, we have now begun a blog & have our own TIG website. We are also working on the first book on Feminist Evaluation. As our work continues... Our diverse voices are important.

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

“Judgments rest on criteria, which in turn reflect priorities and beliefs about what is most important. At Evaluation 2011, I would like us to take up the challenges of values and valuing in evaluation, particularly the plurality of values represented by different evaluation purposes and audiences, key evaluation questions, and quality criteria”.

(Jennifer, Greene, 2011)

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again, and hope we make many new friends as well. There are several Feminist TIG sessions planned for this conference that I think you will be interested in, be sure to check them out! The Think Tank, Gender Workshop, and session utilizing Pecha Kucha format are but a few of the interesting offerings this fall! Please be sure to attend the Feminist TIG business meeting, and the dinner (where we will rub elbows with the Mixed-Methods TIG members as well)! Kathryn and I have been working with several others on a new book to come out next year (via Guilford Press) regarding Feminist Evaluation, and I can tell you from early reads that the chapters are thought provoking and instructional!

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

Divya Bheda: dbheda@uoregon.edu