February, 2012

PREPARING FOR AEA 2012

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to 2012 and the opportunity to work more closely with you throughout the year. We have a couple of early opportunities we would like to invite you to be a part of. A time sensitive opportunity is responding to AEA’s President, Dr. Rodney Hopson’s request for proposals for the 2012 AEA Annual Conference to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 24th-27th. The theme for this year: “Evaluation in Complex Ecologies: Relationships, Responsibilities, Relevance.” As always, we would like a strong presence at AEA 2012. Please submit proposals for papers, panel, workshops and posters. We encourage you to partner with other Feminist TIG members as well as other TIGs. The deadline for the proposals is:

Midnight, EST on March 16, 2012

Additional information for the conference and instructions for proposal submissions can be found at:

AEA 365 & OTHER 2012 GOALS

An equally time sensitive opportunity is contributing to AEA 365 Tips during the month of May. Please contact Kathryn, Linda, or Divya at kathryn.bowen@centerstone.org, lit@ksu.edu, or dbheda@uoregon.edu with your ideas by March 15. As you consider the other TIG Goals identified in the next column, please feel free to voice an interest if you would like to work on helping achieve them.

2012 FEMINIST ISSUES TIG GOALS

1. Establish a Feminist TIG Website
2. Maintain a Quarterly Newsletter
3. Coordinate AEA 365 Tips in March
4. Update Feminist TIG History
5. Publish Book Chapters (Feminist Evaluation)
6. Partner with other AEA TIGS (i.e., Mixed Methods, International & Cross-Cultural, Diversity, LGBT, etc.) in submitting proposals.
7. Proactively invite new members; support TIG members’ networking, mentoring, conversation and connection at 2012 AEA conference and beyond to innovate, share, collaborate, learn from each other, and grow together as a community.
8. Another NDE Publication: on Feminist or Gender Responsive Evaluation

MENTORING SESSION

We have recently discussed the possibility of scheduling a mentorship session with our feminist evaluators. Would you be interested in attending? In speaking as a mentor? Please give us feedback! Possible topics we could cover:

- What does it take to survive in evaluation?
- What troubles have you faced? How have you handled them?
- How does gender come up in the evaluations that you do?
- How does gender play a role in how you approach evaluation?

If you have any interest in being a part of this session as a mentor or an attendee, please email Katie and Divya at gregor22@msu.edu or dbheda@uoregon.edu.
“Be the change you wish to see in the world”  
- Mahatma Gandhi

Dearest Feminist TIG Colleagues,

The new millennium has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's perceptions about women's equality and emancipation. Some even believe that ‘all the battles have been won for women.’ With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, it is easy to see that a casual glance might mislead one to think that women have gained true equality.

Feminists know only too well how ingrained patriarchal structures are, however (speaking of complex ecologies!). The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts, women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than that of men. As feminist evaluators we play a significant role in unveiling inherent inequities and exploring paths for deeper social change.

By embracing multiple perspectives and embedding feminist principles throughout the evaluation process we can understand gender inequities, connect those identified to other forms of social injustice and help mobilize stakeholders in making the required changes. We need your voice, insight, knowledge, experience & time. Please maintain or renew your involvement in the Feminist Issues TIG.

Together we can make a difference.

Warmly, Kathryn

PROPOSAL TIPS & POSSIBLE TOPICS

As you consider what you are going to present for the Annual Conference this year, please begin to think about how it will fit with the mission of the Feminist TIG. There are many social problems that disproportionately impact women. Have you been an evaluator of any programs that work within these topics? Here are a few to consider:

- Issue of Abuse and Violence
- Unemployment
- Promotion Opportunities/Gaining Tenure
- Health Reform Implications
- Services offered by Non-profits & other Human Services Agencies
- Education

The list is endless, isn’t it? As our Chair, Kathryn Bowen, has suggested to us, there is “an opportunity to have our AEA colleagues walk away with a better understanding of the role evaluation can play in navigating complex ecologies in ways sensitive to oppressive social structures while proactively challenging and changing the status quo.”

Remember! When submitting your proposal, focus your statements regarding the significance of your proposal and how your presentation speaks to one or all of the issues mentioned below. Highlight the nuances and navigation of the evaluation, including the context and interactions—i.e., complex ecology/ies:

(a) The relevance of your evaluation & how it is feminist, given the context it is set in;
(b) The importance of the ethical responsibilities (or lack thereof) that you faced and possibly addressed as an evaluator by living feminist principles in your evaluation (Ex: inequities, participation, voice, etc.);
(c) The significance of relationships with different stakeholders including those often marginalized within, or because of the evaluation contexts they exist in; and
(d) How you faced/overcame any challenges related to any of the above listed ideas, others, and/or as a feminist evaluator.

Best wishes for your submissions! We are excited to see, hear and learn from you and your work! – Divya & Linda

2012 FEMINIST ISSUES TIG LEADERSHIP:

Chair: Dr. Kathryn Bowen
Co-Program Chairs: Dr. Linda Thurston & Divya Bheda
Web Designer: Dr. Saumitra SenGupta
Newsletter Editor: Katie Gregory