

IPE TIG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Message from IPE TIG Leadership Team

BY JANUARY O'CONNOR

I am honored to be elected as the IPE TIG Chair position and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Chair. A little bit about me. I currently reside in Palmer, Alaska on Ahtna and Dena'ina Lands. I come from the Southeast Alaska Tlingit People and am Alaska born and raised in the Tlingit Community of Kake. I have a Masters in the Arts of Teaching from the University of Southeast and a Bachelor's in Psychology from Reed College in Portland, Oregon and is a current PhD student in University of Alaska Fairbank's Indigenous Studies program. I previously served as the IPE TIG's Communications Co-Chair for the past two years. As an independent consultant and business owner for six years, I am dedicated to the role of forwarding evaluation work in Alaska on the behalf of Alaska Native tribes, communities, and youth, with an eye for indigenizing the evaluation process to reflect local priorities and perspectives. I also serve as the President of the Alaska Evaluation Network (outgoing).

My priorities for my term as Chair of the IPE TIG are the following: 1) provide opportunities for Indigenous evaluators to make stronger connections with other Indigenous professionals and networks, 2) bringing more Indigenous evaluation concerns and perspectives within the larger AEA, 3) growing our membership, and 4) providing resources that evaluators can use to inform themselves about what Indigenous evaluation is, how it is used, and who it can be used with. I look forward to serving the TIG for the next three years and raising Indigenous voices through our work together.

Gunalchéesh!

January O'Connor

IPE TIG Updates

Thank you to former TIG Chair and Programs Chair

We would like to thank the outgoing Chair, Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro, and our outgoing Program Chair, Aneta Cram, for their service and dedication to work in the field of Indigenous Evaluation and beyond. The TIG leadership and membership are grateful for your perspectives and voices these past years. All the best in your future leadership roles and work!

Introducing New IPE TIG Officers

We would like to welcome our new IPE TIG Leadership Team members!

Program Co-Chair - Dr. Melanie Nadeau is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in Belcourt, North Dakota. She completed both her Master's in Public Health in community health education with a concentration in health disparities and her PhD in social/behavioral epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Dr. Nadeau is a community engaged scholar and has worked more than 19 years on various research and evaluation projects within the American Indian community. She has successfully engaged a multitude of tribal health stakeholders from across the nation and is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Native communities.

Communications Co-Chair - Jeremy is the co-owner and co-founder of EvaluACT, a small research and evaluation consulting business in the greater Los Angeles area that is committed to serving Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations across Turtle Island and beyond. Their primary mission is to be a humble and responsible ally to Indigenous partners and relatives through responsive, collaborative, and decolonized scholarship and capacity-building. Jeremy has also been employed for the past five years as a Tribal Research Specialist at the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, where he served as a Principal Investigator on multiple National Institute of Justice (NIJ) research grants with the Hoopa Valley Tribe of Northern California and the Northwest Indian Community Development Center in Bemidji, MN.

IPE TIG Updates

Updates to IPE TIG Website - Resources page

The IPE TIG's Communication team updated the IPE TIG's website Resources page with a list of resources for Indigenous Evaluation. Content will be updated by the IPE TIG Leadership Team after review. If Members would like to add additional resources that can be shared more broadly with the evaluation field, please contact the Communications Chair at nate@ravensgroupak.com with resources to bring to the Leadership Team. Resources page link:

<https://comm.eval.org/aeaipetig/tigresources>

Fall 2022 IPE TIG Paper Bag Sessions

The AEA conference proposal review process limits the number of presentations accepted by each TIG. In response, the IPE TIG leadership created Paper Bag sessions to provide presenters that were not selected (or asked to submit a poster) an opportunity to share their work. These sessions were held August – October and gave presenters a platform to share their knowledge with fellow IPE TIG members and community members. The IPE TIG leadership facilitated five paper bag sessions and were granted permission from the presenters to record and share the sessions. The paper bag sessions will return this year, providing IPE TIG members an opportunity to showcase their work in the field of evaluation.

Recordings of presenter approved presentations can be accessed on the IPE TIG's Youtube Channel: [LINK](#)

Updated TIG Bylaws Amendments

In the past year, IPE TIG Membership passed two IPE TIG Bylaw amendments. The general amendment read as follows: the first amendment requires a minimum of 75% (6/8) TIG Officers who self-identify as Indigenous and are accepted by their Indigenous community as a member. The Chair and Program Chair must self-identify as Indigenous and are accepted by their Indigenous community as a member. The second amendment is to ensure that IPE TIG Leadership roles are filled in order to be a fully operational TIG. If any of the seven officer positions of the IPE TIG Leadership Team become vacant, acting IPE TIG officers will appoint and vote an AEA member into that vacant officer position. Election to the vacant officer position must be unanimous amongst current IPE TIG officers. Current Bylaws can be read here:

<https://comm.eval.org/aeaipetig/aboutus/bylaws>

In Memory of Dr. Stafford Hood (1952 - 2023)

By Nicky Bowman (Lunaape/Mohican), PhD

Our IPE TIG sends condolences to the family and community that have been forever impacted by the good medicine work of Dr. Stafford Hood. His leadership, mentorship, and kinship with the IPE TIG community is strong and spans the global north and south of our Mother Earth. As the [Founder of the Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign](#), he ensured that the voice,



visibility, and equitable resources were always there to support Indigenous peoples. After meeting Dr. Hood in 2005, on a flight to Ontario for a joint conference between the American Evaluation Association and the Canadian Evaluation Association, what seemed to be a coincidental seating next to him turned out to be the foundation to a lifelong conversation about his Indigenous roots. He heard in the oral stories carried down from generations of his family member that they may have had [Mississippi Choctaw](#) roots. Unknown to him and to many African Americans, the [hidden heritage challenges](#) (NPR, 2010) of being bi-racial were things we enjoyed discussing and uncovering together. I gifted him many things, including a book on "[Black Indians](#)" (Katz, 2012), which was part of a [teaching the people's history project](#) that I came upon in my time as an educator and evaluator. The photo above shows the first ribbon shirt, a common men's regalia piece, that I gifted to him in 2014 and regularly I brought him our traditional food (venison, maple syrup, wild rice, and fish) when coming to CREA. From our first visit in

In Memory of Dr. Stafford Hood (1952 - 2023)

2005 and onward, we held wonderful conversations about his bi-racial heritage, CRE, fishing, family, good food, and sharing jokes were commonplace. Always the humble warrior, he continued to be culturally curious, responsive, and reciprocating in his relationship with people and communities he gave a life of service to. And because of our brother Stafford, CREA has Indigenous research affiliates, have been keynoters, session and training leaders, and were part of the opening and closing of each CREA conference since it began. Collectively, we held him in high respect and regard while he was here on Mother Earth. Through his transition to the spirit world, we now hold him in the highest way as our Ancestor. May we remember him and keep him alive through our service, scholarship, and sustainable commitment to things greater than ourselves. More information about Dr. Hood's memorialization is below.



In Memory of Dr. Stafford Hood (1952 - 2023)

More information about Dr. Hood's memorialization is below.

- CREA's Joint Statement of gratitude for Dr. Stafford Hood:
<https://crea.education.illinois.edu/media/a-joint-statement-of-gratitude>
- Stafford Hood obituary:
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/stafford-hood-obituary?id=38753421>
- AEA 365 Blog by Nicky Bowman, "Death as Ceremony Because the Spirit Lives On: Honoring the Medicine of Dr. Stafford Hood":
<https://aea365.org/blog/death-as-ceremony-because-the-spirit-lives-on-honoring-the-medicine-of-dr-stafford-hood-by-nicole-bowman/>
- Dr. Michael Quinn Patton's You Tube video on the history and legacy of Dr. Hood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwRGgruosFc>
- In his own words:
 - Dr. Hood at the 2017 Carl A. Grant Lecture Series at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: <https://vimeo.com/215903030>
 - Dr. Hood at the 2016 Eastern Evaluation and Research Society's Conference (Keynote): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptAvl6nGxp8>

IPE TIG MEMBER Spotlight

Karen Alexander, PhD.

Biography:

Dr. Karen Alexander is Ojibwe from the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She is the proud mother of four and grandmother of five. Karen's culture as an Indigenous person is most important to her and she passes down her knowledge about how to live life 'in a good way' to her children and grandchildren. She has always strived to help other Indigenous people to heal and has been an addictions counselor and clinical social worker, as well as an evaluator and a researcher. Karen is most interested in making sure that Native people have programs, services, and evaluation that is appropriate to their culture. Karen's dissertation examines the values that make us who we are as Indigenous people and the benefit of the inclusion of those values in evaluation. Most of all, Karen hopes that her research will help others to know 'who we are' on a deeper level.



When asked, “what words of guidance do you have for others who might be considering this path?” Dr. Alexander provided the wisdom to “pray and just keep going forward”. At closing she added, “...just keep on learning and keep following your heart, following what feels best for you.”

Karen Alexander Spotlight

INTERVIEW WITH ALEX JAUREGUI-DUSSEAU

Summary of Interview with Dr. Karen Alexander

I had the privilege of interviewing Dr. Karen Alexander (Ojibwe), the first Indigenous person to have a PhD in evaluation. We discussed her journey to obtain her doctorate, how she chose her dissertation topic, findings of her dissertation, and guidance for future generations of evaluators. A summary of our discussion and a link to the full interview are included below.

Dr. Alexander began her doctorate journey at Western Michigan University shortly after completing her master's degree in Social Work. The topic of her dissertation was inspired by previous experiences working as a program planner and prevention specialist for her tribe. She realized that programs she was implementing for Native youth were not Native specific and lacked any cultural relevance. Her dissertation, *Exploring the Use of Cultural Values in the Evaluation of Programs for Native American Tribes*, reflects that experience as she sought to understand the importance of values to the Ojibwe people, if current evaluations include Native American values, and the perception of tribal members in incorporating values into tribal evaluations. To answer these questions, Dr. Alexander utilized culturally appropriate methods such as talking circles and conducted a metaevaluation of published literature to determine if Native American values were included in evaluation. Dr. Alexander found that values are highly regarded and are followed by tribal members, and their incorporation into Indigenous evaluations would positively affect utilization of evaluation results.

Regarding the future, Dr. Alexander would like to see more research on cultural metaevaluation and more Indigenous research so that people who are not Native, especially scholars, have a better understanding of Native people and ways of being. She emphasizes that when others learn about Native culture and have an open heart, it can lead to healing.

For full interview transcript, please read [HERE](#)

Indigenous Insights: An Evaluation Podcast

Podcast Link:

<https://indigenousinsights.podbean.com/>

Gladys Rowe is a Muskego Inniniw Iskewew (Swampy Cree woman) person who also holds relations with ancestors from Ireland, England, Norway, and Ukraine. She is a member of Fox Lake Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba. She currently resides in Washington State with her family on the occupied lands of the Duwamish and Suquamish peoples. Gladys has been enamored by the power of stories to connect and create spaces to build relationships with self and with the animate and inanimate world. You can read more about her reflections on story as a necessary engagement for transformed decolonial futures in her blog post, *The Stories We Tell Matter*.



She successfully defended her dissertation on November 30, 2020 titled *Resurgence of Indigenous Nationhood: Centering the stories of Indigenous full spectrum doulas*. This work was completed for her PhD in interdisciplinary studies through the University of Manitoba. Gladys also has many years of experience teaching undergraduate students, supporting the development of programs in a university setting, designing and implementing community driven research and evaluation projects, and in the use of social innovation in community based organizations.

Gladys started the Indigenous Insights podcast to further explore Indigenous evaluation and inquiry through conversations with Indigenous evaluation practitioners, leaders, researchers, and scholars and to discuss the questions: What is Indigenous evaluation? Who is doing this work? How are we doing this work and what have we learned so far? Podcast conversations

Indigenous Insights: An Evaluation Podcast, cont.

further expand on these ideas and witness the actions of Indigenous evaluators who are working in, thinking about, and supporting Indigenous evaluation. The conversations ask guests to reflect on the challenges and insights they've experienced in their time working with communities. Join Gladys and her guests as they open up their evaluation bundles – to share the gifts, knowledges, and hopes gathered in their journeys in this relational podcast space that they hope feels like you are sitting with them at a kitchen table sharing a pot of tea.

Gladys would also like to extend an invitation to join her podcast. If you are someone who has an interest in Indigenous evaluation and would like to have a conversation on the Indigenous Insights podcast, Gladys would love to hear from you. Please send her a note and she can connect with you about your work, what you are learning, and the questions you are thinking about.

If you are interested in being a guest on Gladys' podcast, please inquire here: <https://gladysrowe.com/category/indigenouinsights/>

Reflections on AEA 2022 Annual Conference: Indigenous from Start to Finish (Literally!)

BY NICKY BOWMAN (LUNAAPE/MOHICAN), PHD

So, the AEA 2022 conference kicked off with [Mr. Edgar Villanueva \(Latinx/Lumbee\)](#), award winning author, activist and expert on race, wealth and philanthropy and concluded with [Andrealisa Belzier \(Canadian of Evaluation Society's President\)](#) and [Corrie Whitmore \(American Evaluation Association's 37th President\)](#), all speaking about the relevance of Indigenous peoples, Indigenous governments, and Indigenous ethics, traditional knowledge, and cultural practices. These messages brought visibility and voice to many topics that are important to our communities and gave more momentum to the movements we are engaged in for humanity and the planet. So in between the first day and the last day, there were many sessions that were Indigenous led and co-led as our Program Chair Alex highlights in this month's IPE TIG newsletter. Andrealisa Belzier will be sharing in a future article her insights from 2022 AEA as well as her hopes for continuing the work in the future through CES and other initiatives she's involved in locally and globally. That being said, AEA 2022 literally started off with Indigenous speakers and concluded with non-Indigenous speakers (our Allies!) discussing topics about decolonization, land back, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the rights of nature. This article touches upon a few wonderful highlights from our AEA 2022 conference. More information can also be found on Twitter under the hashtag #AEA2022.



Closing Keynote/Remarks at AEA 2022.

L to R: 2022 AEA President Veronica Olazabal and
2023 CES President Andrealisa Belzier

Reflections on AEA 2022 Annual Conference: Indigenous from Start to Finish (Literally!)

BY NICKY BOWMAN (LUNAPE/MOHICAN), PHD



L to R: Dr. Nicole Bowman (Lunaape/Mohican) and AEA 2022 Opening Keynoter Mr. Edgar Villanueva (Latinx / Lumbee)

The AEA 2022 conference was our first in person gathering since the pandemic hit. AEA 2022 was held in New Orleans, LA, USA in November 2022. This was a packed conference and far exceeded participation and experience expectations. AEA hoped for 1,500 to attend. The last count showed that our AEA conference hosted over 2,500 participants during this four-day event. I've been attending AEA for over 20 years so as a seasoned participant, I enjoy the relationships and socialization as much as the sessions, keynotes, and trainings. In fact, I went into the conference 2 days early in order to settle in and catch up with colleagues who have become friends that I had not seen in person for years (suck it COVID-19). Highlights besides being able to safely hug and be in community spaces with colleagues were the keynotes. The [Decolonizing Wealth](#) fireside chat with Edgar Villanueva really challenged the audience. Not only was it not your traditional opening keynote done as a sit-down conversation with audience participation, but the [Indigenous ways of framing, operationalizing, and re-distribution of wealth](#) was a way that the keynoter called out and called in an new way of equitable funding to support evaluation policy, evidence making, and community-driven practices. For more information on the Decolonizing Wealth movement or to become more active, read about it and sign up here: <https://decolonizingwealth.com/about/>.

Reflections on AEA 2022 Annual Conference: Indigenous from Start to Finish (Literally!)

BY NICKY BOWMAN (LUNAAPPE/MOHICAN), PHD

Other highlights include (pictures on next page):

- Dr. Karen Alexander (Sault Ste. Marie Ojibwe), became the first Indigenous person with a PhD in evaluation. She graduates in April 2023 from Western Michigan University. Her advisor was Dr. Michael Harner and one of her dissertation committee members was Dr. Nicole Bowman (Lunaape/Mohican)
- Celebrating the continued commitment in the global north with our Turtle Island connections to the Canadian Evaluation Society via President Andrealisa Belzier and Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation past Editor Dr. Isabelle Bourgeois. Both are huge allies to Indigenous peoples and First Nations governments. Under Dr. Bourgeois' leadership, the Indigenous permanent section called "Roots and Relations" is now forever part of CJPE, including the Indigenous scholars keeping their community cultural and intellectual property rights as CJPE's standard policy and practice for Indigenous authors contributing to R&R.



*L to R: Dr. Karen Alexander (Ojibwe),
Dr. Nicole Bowman (Lunaape/Mohican), and
Dr. Carolee Dodge Francis (Oneida)*



*L to R: Dr. Nicole Bowman (Lunaape/Mohican),
Dr. Isabelle Bourgeois, and CES President Ms.
Andrealisa Belzier*

AEA 2022 IPE TIG Sponsored Presentations

BY ALEX JAUREGUI-DUSSEAU

The Indigenous Peoples in Evaluation (IPE) TIG had the privilege of reviewing fifteen proposals for the 2022 Annual AEA Conference. Three proposals were selected for panel discussions and four proposals were grouped into a multi-paper session. Each session reflected the conference theme, (re)shaping evaluation together, and centered Indigenous evaluations and movements in the field.

The presidential session, Te Koha - the gift: An Indigenous Approach to Scaling and Its Implications for Evaluation, was a panel discussion led by Nan Wehipeihana. Panelists discussed how three tribes from New Zealand reevaluated the concept of scaling through an Indigenous lens and created Te Koha, an approach to scaling based in traditional Māori knowledge. Koha means gifting and is considered sacred among the Māori people. The discussion provided listeners with a background of scaling and how this approach was made more meaningful and reflective of Indigenous ways of being.

The panel, Reshaping Evaluation Through Community Engagement Within a Federally Funded Multi-site Tribal Context, was led by Teresa Abrahamson-Richards. The panelists discussed how a federally funded multi-site evaluation in tribal communities is leading the evaluation field in understanding how community engagement has been incorporated and implemented in diverse communities. Presenters described the Multi-site Implementation Evaluation of Tribal Home Visiting (MUSE), a multi-site evaluation and how they have worked to maintain community engagement among diverse communities. Additionally, the presenters provided examples of how this attention to intentional engagement resulted in a more robust evaluation, and discussed limitations they encountered with implementing a community engaged evaluation within a multi-site evaluation.

AEA 2022 IPE TIG Sponsored Presentations. cont.

BY ALEX JAUREGUI-DUSSEAU

Indigenous Appreciations of Evaluation Influence: Two Examples and a Conversation, was a discussion panel led by Kathy Tibbetts and Karen Kirkhart. The presenters discussed how perspectives of use/influence in the evaluation profession are based on Western ways of understanding. The presenters then shifted the conversation to focus on how two Indigenous frameworks, Evaluation with Aloha and the Indigenous Evaluation Framework, conceptualized and implemented use/influence in evaluations. The audience was invited to participate in a conversation about use/influence in evaluation and the Indigenous perspectives that offer an alternative way to consider use/influence.

The multi-paper session, (Re)Shaping Evaluations using Indigenous Frameworks and Principles, featured four papers about Indigenous influences and frameworks from different regions. Titles of these papers are listed below:

- Reflections from Value for Investment-informed evaluation of Indigenous program
- The Evaluation Landscape in Africa: Made in Africa Evaluation
- Evalindigenous African Voices From Kenya Project: In Conversation with the Indigenous Mijikenda of Kwale County in Kenya
- Indigenous Critical Discourse Framework(s)

Upcoming Events

Canadian Evaluation Society

2023 Annual Conference: Evaluation in a changing world

Dates: June 19 to 21, 2023; workshops on June 17 and 18; international sharing on June 22

Location: In-person workshops and conference activities will be held at the Quebec Hilton

Registration Link: <https://c2023en.evaluationcanada.ca/registration>

Conference Theme: Change is the only constant in our lives. Some changes come from macro transformations, such as the pandemic, social, technological, and climatic developments. Other micro-dimensional changes also influence our day-to-day evaluation practice, such as working remotely. In this context, evaluation values diversity and inclusiveness for sustainable and equitable development. So how do we make use of the innovation and lessons learned from the experience of the international evaluation community in order to benefit local interventions? The objective of the 2023 conference, organized by the Canadian Evaluation Society in collaboration with the Société québécoise d'évaluation de programme, is to provide an opportunity to reflect on the state of the evaluation practice: where we are and what directions we should take in the future.

The theme “Evaluation in a Changing World” has four sub-themes.

- Sub-theme 1: In the face of transformations, how should evaluation evolve?
- Sub-theme 2: What is the contribution of evaluation in dealing with the complexity of change?
- Sub-theme 3: How to respond to change by taking advantage of the plurality of evaluation practices?
- Sub-theme 4: How to address the challenges facing professionalization?

Parting Message

BY MELANIE NADEAU

In honor of Women's History month, we would like to highlight some amazing Indigenous women leading evaluation efforts across Turtle Island including: Dr. Joan LaFrance, Ojibwe, co-creator of the [American Indian Higher Education Consortium's Indigenous Evaluation Framework](#); [Dr. Carolee Dodge-Francis](#), Oneida, the first Native woman to chair a department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Karen L. Alexander, Ojibwe, who will be the first Native woman to graduate with a PhD in Evaluation; and Renee Goldtooth, Diné, one of the lead authors of [Keeping Track – A Toolkit for Indigenous Youth Program Evaluation](#).

I would also like to encourage you to check out the incredible Indigenous women in evaluation featured by Gladys Rowe in her [Indigenous Insights: An Evaluation Podcast](#) series which include Tammy Mudge [L'nu (Illnew)], JoLee Sasakamoose [Anishinaabe (Ojibwe)], Dr. Nicole Bowman (Lunaape/Mohican), and Terrellyn Fearn (Mi'kmaq, Snake clan & Celtic). Each episode is packed with powerful teachings and a sense of place, belonging and understanding. So, grab a cozy beverage, settle in and join Gladys Rowe and her guests as they open up their evaluation bundles to give you a glimpse of their world and what it looks like to breathe life into the practice of Indigenous evaluation.

In closing and in honor of Women's History Month we encourage each of you to learn more about these amazing women and their work in Indigenous evaluation.

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For more information, follow us on our social media and webpage!

