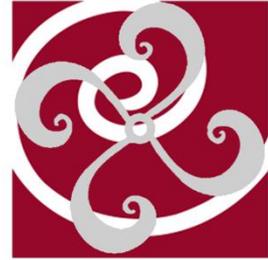

Indigenous Peoples in Evaluation Topical Interest Group (IPE TIG) July 2018 Newsletter Vol. 2, Issue 3



Message from the Leadership Team

Koolamalsi Njoos (Hello Colleagues/Friends)! Nii noonjiiyaayi, Kia ora tātou!

We have reached July 2018! It has been a busy year for us domestically and globally.

Our leadership team has experienced many life changes, including: parenthood, graduation, medical recovery, publications, and keynote presentations. Erica Roberts will be leaving the leadership team to focus on the arrival of her new child. We are sad to have her leave us but we are excited for her and her family and the adventure that awaits. We are also excited to welcome to the team, Scarlett Kingsley, who will be supporting us with the development of our social media pages and the background to the TIG website.

For the first time, Indigenous People and Tribal Nations will be represented at the Evaluation Policy Task Force (EPTF) sessions contributing to the discussion about their evaluation policy initiatives and accomplishments related to improving government through evaluation along with other state, federal, and international government parliamentarians and staff.

In April, the IPE TIG leadership team requested a modification to the American Evaluation Association (AEA) Member Survey to allow for more inclusive response options regarding employment. Specifically, the survey will include the option of 'Indigenous Nation Government' as a place of employment. We have been working with the new AEA Executive Director, Ms. Anisha Lewis, to confirm the member survey modification and to partner in decision-making related to Indigenous Peoples and AEA.

With these changes, we have tried to capture a few relevant key events that we thought our membership would enjoy. As always, we look forward to IPE TIG member's participation via social media, newsletter submissions, or just sharing your exciting work and adventures! Enjoy your Summer/Winter (depending on where you are in the world) and please keep in touch using the contact information at the end of our newsletter.

As always, thank you for your continued membership!
Aneta, Mark, Beth, Erica and Nicky

AEA Conference 2018: Update

The Evaluation 2018 [conference program](#) is now available. Congratulations to all who have been invited to present at this year's conference!

The leadership team would like to thank the proposal submitters and the IPE TIG volunteers that reviewed conference proposals! We continue to have high-quality submissions and a mix of new and returning proposal submitters. Our IPE TIG will have 9 concurrent sessions, the details and scheduling will be included in the October newsletter.

Conference registration is now available, please check out the AEA conference website for details and to take advantage of the [early bird](#) registration rates.

Cleveland and Social Action

An important effort we are working on is to develop a letter regarding the Cleveland MLB baseball team mascot. The Evaluation 2018 theme is *Speaking Truth to Power* and it is critical that AEA uses the organization's voice to convey to Cleveland's baseball team ([and Cleveland's Convention and Visitor's Bureau](#)) that their mascot is offensive and that we urge them to make changes.

Taking action falls well within our ethical mandates of cultural competency and respect for people. It is an important reminder about the importance of place and/or location. As evaluators we connect with the people and places at each AEA conference host site/city and we strongly encourage AEA to select a host city *without* teams/organizations using racist mascots.

If you are interested in tailoring your own letter, we are happy to share a template letter. Please feel free to use the letter as a template or guide. The template letter can be shared via email and if you would like to learn more about the letter, please contact the leadership team.

Leadership Positions and TIG Resources

Our 2018 IPE TIG business meeting, to be held at Evaluation 2018, will include important votes. We are asking IPE TIG members to vote on updates to our TIG handbook and establishing two new, permanent positions: Secretary and Communications Lead. Please expect the proposed updates to the handbook and the two positions in the upcoming newsletter.

Our leadership team has compiled a few resources related to Native Cleveland including sites to see and educational references. The resources will be posted on our social media and website. Watch these spaces!

Recent Events

Canadian Evaluation Society Conference, May 2018

Our IPE TIG Co-Chair, Nicole Bowman, PhD, and other AEA members attended the 2018 Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) Conference in Calgary and post CES conference in Yellowknife. Both events sold out and were very well received by the evaluation and Indigenous communities!



The conference theme *Co-creation* explored challenging power dynamics and working with evaluation recipients. To view more fun photos from Calgary or Yellowknife [view here!](#)

2018 Key Dates

[Australasian Evaluation Society \(AES\) Conference](#)

Date: September 19-21, 2018

Theme: Transformations

Location: Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

[US Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network Meeting](#)

Date: December 10-14, 2018

Theme: Indigenous Data Sovereignty: How Scientists and Researchers Can Empower Indigenous Data Governance

Location: Washington D.C.

Proposal Submission Deadline: 1st August 2018

[Culturally Responsive Evaluation Association \(CREA\) Conference](#)

Date: March 27-29, 2019

Theme: Intersectionality as Critical Inquiry, Method, and Practice: Beyond Categories and Dichotomies in Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment

Proposal Submission Deadline: 15th September 2018

Ma te Rae

The first ever Indigenous evaluation conference is scheduled for 2019 in New Zealand. More information coming soon!

The first conference plenary session included IPE TIG members Nicole Bowman, Larry Bremner, Nan Wehipeihana and Kate McKegg, speaking about ‘Reconciliation and Culturally Responsive Evaluation- Rhetoric or Reality?’ Their powerful panel discussion offered a strong reminder about evaluation practice and its ability to empower communities when it is properly used.

The plenary panel will be posted on the [Canadian Evaluation Society website](#) soon and it will be a published plenary speaker series paper in the Spring 2019 edition of the Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation.

Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (ANZEA) Conference, July 2018

The ANZEA conference is held every second year in New Zealand. This year’s conference theme *Evaluation for Change: Change for Evaluation* brought the evaluation community together in Auckland at the Waipuna hotel.

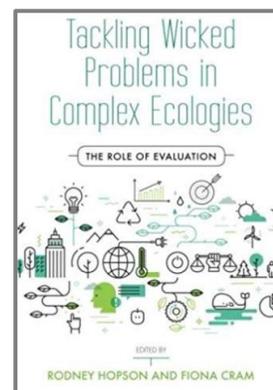
Dr. Katrina Bledsoe was the keynote speaker. Our IPE TIG members Dr. Fiona Cram, Kate McKegg, Aneta Cram and Nan Wehipeihana also presented at ANZEA. The conference proved to be a success and attendees parted Auckland feeling invigorated and ready for the next two years. For more information and to learn more about what your colleagues in New Zealand are doing, checkout the [ANZEA twitter feed](#).

Publications

Tackling Wicked Problems in Complex Ecologies

This year the co-edited book by Dr. Rodney Hopson and Dr. Fiona Cram was published. The book, *Tackling Wicked Problems in Complex Ecologies*, draws the experiences and expertise of evaluators who work with programs that are tackling complex social and economic problems. Contributing authors include Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Donna Mertens, Michael Quinn-Patton, Andy Rowe and others.

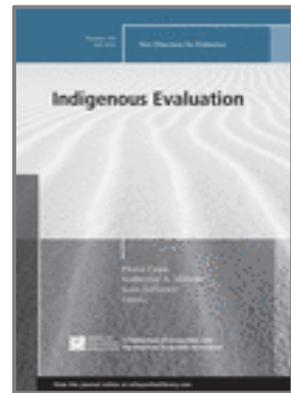
This book provides insight into social problems that we are currently facing globally and ways in which evaluation can tackle these issues and work towards providing solutions. The theme running through the book is of the importance of relationships, relevance and responsibilities when evaluators are working in complex ecologies. In the editors’ own words, this is a “call for evaluators to step-up and be part of the solution when it comes to the issues



the world is facing. The chapter authors demonstrate how they are doing this and put out a challenge to their evaluation colleagues that they can and must do the same.” Dr. Cram provides additional details about the book [here](#). Access a copy of the book, *Tackling Wicked Problems in Complex Ecologies* [here](#).

New Directions in Evaluation

It’s finally here! The Indigenous Evaluation (IE) volume for the New Directions in Evaluation Journal. This volume has been years in the making. Through the hard work of the editors Fiona Cram, Katherine Tibbetts and Joan LaFrance, as well as contributing authors. The introductory chapter canvases three questions that are often asked about Indigenous Evaluation (IE): who is Indigenous? why IE? and what is IE? Answers to these questions permeate the content throughout the entire volume.



This volume addresses the issue of the role and value of Indigenous evaluation in understanding the success (or otherwise) of programs and services for Indigenous peoples. It is also about the contribution Indigenous peoples can make, through the exercise of IE, to decolonization; that is, to the perpetuation of Indigenous cultures and languages, to the promotion of Indigenous sovereignty, and to the return of Indigenous lands. Access the journal online [here](#).

The Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation

The [Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation](#) (CJPE) recently became open access. If you are working on article submission you may consider CJPE as a way to reach a wide audience.

Getting Involved

AEA Guiding Principles for Evaluators

In the most recent edition of AEA’s newsletter, AEA members were informed that the Guiding Principles Task Force (GPTF) developed several proposed changes to the Guiding Principles. Members were invited to vote on July 5th. We encourage all IPE TIG members to participate in the vote to accept or reject the proposed changes by August 6, 2018. The voting ballot was sent to members with the subject line 2018 American Evaluation Association Elections from the email address elections@vote-now.com. You can learn more about the existing Guiding Principles and the proposed changes [here](#).

Welcoming Scarlett Kingsley!

Scarlett Kingsley joined AEA as a 2017-2018 GEDI scholar working with former AEA president Leslie Cooksy at the Sierra Health Foundation in Sacramento, California. In June 2018, Scarlett finished her master’s in community and regional development at the University of California, Davis. She is interested in the role of evaluation in socio-economic justice, non-profit, and community capacity development. She is passionate about international work having lived in Costa Rica and Cuba. For the 2018-2019 year she will be pursuing a Fulbright fellowship to the Czech Republic. Scarlett will support our IPE TIG communication efforts including social media and the TIG website.



Parting Message

Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou (warm wishes to you all)!

If you have any news that you wish to share with the rest of the IPE TIG membership please email Aneta Cram and she will make sure to include it in the next IPE TIG newsletter which will be in October.

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