



The system you see is bigger than it appears....

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SETIG Newsletter

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by Meg Hargreaves

This is an exciting time for the Systems in Evaluation TIG, as we prepare for four major events: (1) the Systems in Evaluation Survey, (2) the Systems in Evaluation Unconference, (3) the Systems in Evaluation TIG elections, and (4) the AEA 2015 Conference in Chicago.

- **Systems in Evaluation Survey:** Based on a questionnaire that we piloted earlier in the summer, we have a developed a brief survey about the systems/complexity concepts, approaches, and tools that you are currently using in your evaluation work. This is an important step in the identification of the core elements and principles of systems practice in evaluation. Please take a few minutes to participate in this survey, and pass along the link to your colleagues! See following link for survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/systems_concepts_survey
- **Systems in Evaluation Unconference:** Next week, the SETIG is hosting a virtual conference on October 13, 14, and 15. We are almost at the limit of 300 registrants per day, but there is still room, so please sign up and attend, if you are interested!
- **Systems in Evaluation TIG elections:** We have a very talented, experienced, and diverse set of candidates for the positions of SETIG Chair and Program Co-chair. After 9 years in the rotation of SETIG positions, I will be leaving the TIG in excellent hands, and look forward to working with the new leadership. Please vote!
- **AEA 2015.** Next month's conference will be packed with SETIG-related workshops, panel presentations, think tanks, and posters. We hope to see you in these sessions, at the SETIG business meeting, and at one or both of the two socials!

Please consider getting involved in any and all of these activities!

Meg Hargreaves, Ph.D., M.P.P.
SETIG Chair
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Reminder of First Systems in Evaluation Unconference

Save the Date!

The SETIG Leadership Team is pleased to announce the first *Systems in Evaluation (Un)Conference to be held Oct. 13 -15th.*



What is an Unconference?

An unconference is a loosely structured conference that emphasizes the informal, emergent exchange of ideas between participants, rather than following a conventionally structured program of speakers and presenters. Join us online daily on October 13, 14, and 15 from 3 – 4:30 pm ET to learn and share with your colleagues in an informal virtual environment. Build your knowledge and skills in systems evaluation without ever leaving the office!

How Will the Unconference Work?

Participants will log on at the indicated time each day and, following a short welcome and orientation, either join a specific discussion topic or create their own breakout group. Each breakout room is limited to 10 people total, including a facilitator, to enhance deep dives and engaged learning. Participants must have a reliable internet connection and microphone; a webcam is strongly suggested. ***The initial discussion topics will include:***

- Incorporating a Systems Approach into Evaluation: Challenges and Strategies
- Using a Soft Systems Approach in Systems Evaluation: Real-life Examples
- Using a Developmental Evaluation Approach in Systems Evaluation: Real-life Examples
- Using a Complex Adaptive Systems Approach in Systems Evaluation: Real-life Examples
- Support for a Systems Approach in Systems Evaluation: Strategies for Promoting Buy-in
- Defining and Distinguishing Systems Evaluation in Systems Evaluation: Where are the Boundaries?
- Visualizing Complex Systems: Tools and Strategies
- Approaches for Capturing High-level Systems Patterns and Outcomes
- Identifying System Leverage Points: Helpful Approaches
- Defining System Boundaries: Building Stakeholder Consensus
- Addressing Causation in Systems Evaluation
- The Role of Accountability in Systems Evaluation

Different sets of topics from the list above will be offered each day of the Unconference. Participants have the option of attending one, two, or all three days. Registration is free but space will be limited. More details including the schedule of session topics and registration process will be posted at <http://www.systemsinevaluation.com/systems-unconference/systems-unconference-details/> as they become available. For more information [contact us](#) at systemsunconference@gmail.com

Systems TIG Elections



The Systems in Evaluation TIG is holding elections for the positions of TIG Chair and TIG program co-chair for a term of three years.

- The **TIG Chair** is responsible for convening the TIG Business Meeting at the annual conference. This meeting will be scheduled in consultation with the TIG Program Chair as part of the conference program. The TIG Chair is also responsible for overseeing the planning and development of any TIG activities outside of the annual meeting.
- The **TIG Program Co-Chair** is responsible for working with the Lead Program Co-Chair to manage the submission and review process each spring and for working in consultation with the TIG leadership team to plan the TIG's business meeting during the annual conference.

Voting is open now and will close at 11:00 pm Eastern US Time on Friday, October 30th. Use the following link to cast your vote: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SETIG_election_ballot. Results will be announced at our business meeting during Evaluation 2015 in Chicago and in our post-conference newsletter.

AEA Conference Updates

Annual Social

There are two social event opportunities to connect with colleagues at this year's conference

Friday Gathering at Sweetwater Tavern and Grill

If you don't have plans after the Conference Auction on Friday, walk on over to Sweetwater Tavern and Grill (225 N Michigan Avenue) for some drinks and eats. The Systems in Evaluation TIG will buy the first round of appetizers for the group – no RSVP needed. We will be meeting at the check-out area at the end of the auction to walk over together. Hope to see you there!! <http://www.sweetwatertavernandgrille.com/>

Community Psychology TIG "No-Host" Dinner

The Community Psychology TIG has extended an invitation to our Systems in Evaluation TIG to join their "no-host dinner" at Blanco y Negro (4043 W 26 Street, Chicago, IL 60623) at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening. This is a great opportunity to network with like-minded systems thinkers and engage in some great conversation. See the following link for more information on the restaurant: <http://www.allmenus.com/il/chicago/360885-restaurant-blanco--negro/menu/>

List of SETIG Sponsored or Co-sponsored Sessions on the 2015 AEA Conference Program

Presidential Strand	
Friday, Nov 13th 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1676: Update on Exemplary Complexity-Aware Monitoring and Evaluation Trials in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Wednesday, November 11th	
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2465: Innovations in Impact Evaluation: Mixed Methods and Mixed Approaches in the Information Era 1228: Using Critical Systems Heuristics to reflect upon adaptive evaluation consulting process
6:15 PM – 7:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1506: Sentinel Indicators: A Systems-Based Approach to Monitoring and Evaluation
Thursday, November 12th	
7:00 AM – 7:45 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2169: Computer Systems Simulation Models to Anticipate Surprise SiE1: Using Evaluation to Understand Complex System Conditions Affecting Social Change
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1649: How does M&E of scaling up new interventions differ in complex health versus community systems' contexts? A comparative case study from Rwanda and Benin 1527: Keeping a Complex Systems-Oriented Evaluation on Course
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2103: Advancing the implementation science of evaluating community systems change: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Public Private Initiative (APPI) evaluation case study
2:00 PM – 2:45 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1183: Cross Boundary Insights: Plans, Real Timelines, Critical Incidents, and Outcomes
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3223: Systems in Evaluation Business Meeting
4:45 PM – 6:15 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2066: Coordinating and Evaluating Housing, Child Welfare, and Substance Abuse Treatment Systems 1258: Using Systems Mapping to Explore Perspectives on Change in Higher Education STEM Reform
Friday, November 13th	
7:00 AM – 7:45 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1901: What is a System Story? How do I create one? How do I use one?
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2412: A Journey of Discovery: Evolving Relationships in the Developmental Evaluation of the McKnight Foundation's Collaborative Crop Research Program
1:45 PM – 3:15 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1243: Principles of Developmental Evaluation Practice - deepening the evidence 2600: Undergraduate STEM Faculty Training Initiatives: Utilizing the Systems Evaluation Protocol (SEP) to Identify and Measure Student Outcomes
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1428: Let's Get Together: Brainstorming Opportunities for Cross-TIG Collaboration
5:30 PM – 6:15 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2186: Advancing the implementation science of evaluating community systems change: Health equity evaluation case studies 1444: Using Data Visualization to improve Systems Thinking tools
Saturday, November 14th	
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2560: Systems Mapping: New Approaches to Dealing With Complexity in Evaluation
9:45 AM – 10:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2133: The Art of Hosting: An underutilized methodology for developmental evaluation
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2861: Evaluation as Field Building: Real-World Examples

Workshops of Potential Interest to SETIG Members

Tuesday, November 10th, 2015, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Using Systems Thinking and Approaches in Evaluation; Presenters: Mary McEathron and Jan Noga

Wednesday, November 11th, 2015, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Addressing Complication and Complexity in Evaluation; Presenter: Patricia Rogers

Wednesday, November 11th, 2015, 12:00 – 3:00 PM

Advancing the Implementation Science of Community Systems Change: Complexity- and Community Capacity-Based Frameworks, Tools, and Techniques; Presenters: Margaret Hargreaves and David M Chavis