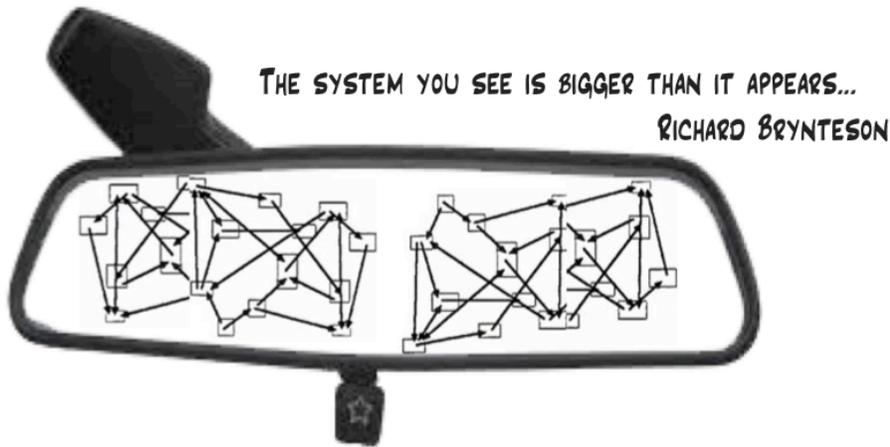


SETIG NEWSLETTER



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Leadership Team Notes

Hello, Systems in Evaluation TIG Members!

As we jump into the flurry of preparations for the AEA annual meeting in DC, we wanted to update you on SETIG activities over the past few months and invite you to participate in SETIG activities during AEA2017.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on the SETIG Principles Project and the AEA pilot TIG council, information about two TIG social events

and our SETIG business meeting, and a list of SETIG sponsored conference sessions.

Please mark your calendars for these various events. This has been an exciting time for our TIG, and we look forward to seeing many of you in DC!

Marah Moore and Heather Britt
SETIG Co-Chairs

SETIG BUSINESS MEETING AND MULTI-TIG RECEPTION

Our annual TIG Business Meeting will update members on TIG activities. Members will have the opportunity to learn more about the Principles Project and provide feedback - this will be fun and interactive! We'll also hear from our representative on the TIG Council about the results of this past year's council pilot. And, as always, we will compete to answer the annual Big TIG Question and win amazing prizes from around the world. Please join us!

The Business Meeting will be held **Thursday, November 9 from 7:00-8:30 pm in Thurgood Marshall West.**

NEW THIS YEAR! Come early to mix and mingle with colleagues from other TIGs at the **AEA-sponsored multi-TIG reception from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Southwest Foyer on the mezzanine level of the hotel.**

SETIG PRINCIPLES PROJECT UPDATE

During 2017, the SETIG launched the Principles Project to develop guiding principles for the use of systems concepts in evaluation. The primary aim is to develop principles that could help SETIG communicate to its members and others in AEA on what the use of systems concepts means for evaluation practice. These principles are intended to inform core SETIG activities such as proposal review, communications, and outreach.

The Principles Project builds on previous TIG initiatives exploring commonalities of theory and practice across the membership. In 2015, the SETIG polled 120 members and colleagues on their familiarity and use of systems and complexity concepts, methods, and tools in their evaluation work.

During the 2015 SETIG business meeting, members debated the advantages and disadvantages of developing a definition or core set of principles of good systems in evaluation practice. The group agreed to move forward with the development of a consensus document or “manifesto” outlining the core elements or boundaries of good practice.

In 2016, the Manifesto Action Team explored various ways to engage the membership in a principles development process. The SETIG Leadership Team reviewed and approved the proposal submitted by the action team in May. In June, the SETIG leadership convened a Coordination Team (Meg Hargreaves, Jan Noga, and Emily Gates) to help organize and support the new initiative.

The Principles Project in a nutshell:

- In July 2017, all SETIG members were invited to participate. Fourteen members responded and contributed to the development of the principles. A big “thank you” to all those who contributed!
- Michael Quinn Patton launched the group effort with a presentation on crafting useful, inspiring, and evaluable principles. Volunteers joined one of four small teams to

delve deeply into one of four core systems concepts. Each group shared their progress in a second webinar, and Bob Williams provided input on the interrelationships between the core concepts. Volunteers reviewed and commented on the drafts of each team. The group effort concluded with a webinar reflecting on progress, the process, and suggestions for next steps.

- Participants drafted principles for four core systems concepts: interrelationships, perspectives, boundaries, and dynamics.
- The principles are not perfect or final. In their current form, they represent one attempt to clarify the terrain of systems-evaluation. There are many systems concepts, many approaches, and many ways to apply them in evaluation.

We’re seeking your feedback! The draft principles will be shared at AEA 2017 and you will have at least two opportunities to provide feedback in person at:

- SETIG business meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2017, 7-8:30 PM (Session TIGBM52)
- Session 2204: Guiding Principles for the Effective Use of Systems Thinking and Complexity Science in Evaluation: Final Phase of Development. Sat, Nov 11, 2017 (10:15 -11 AM)

Following the annual conference, the Principles Project Coordinating team will incorporate feedback and share the principles on the TIG webpage.

Questions or suggestions? Contact the SETIG Leadership Team or Principles Project Coordinating Team using our TIG email address (systemsinevaluationtig@gmail.com) or reach out to SETIG Leadership Team members individually using the links on our [website](#).

JOINT TIG GATHERING

The Systems in Evaluation TIG is convening an informal social event with the Independent Consulting TIG, the Community Psychology TIG, and the Nonprofits and Foundations TIG. Please drop by on Wednesday evening between 6 and 8 pm to catch up with old friends and colleagues and meet some new ones. You are on your own to order and pay for food and drinks.

We look forward to seeing you there!

WHEN: Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 6-8 pm

WHERE: Duke's Counter, 3000 Connecticut Ave, NW (directly across from the National Zoo)



UPDATE ON THE TIG COUNCIL PILOT



AEA currently has over 50 Topical Interest Groups established within AEA's governance approval process and organized and led by AEA members. AEA members can join up to five TIGs and can change their membership

in a TIG at any point. Within the AEA structure, each TIG has its own leadership, website, email list, business meetings, and session proposal review responsibilities.

During 2016 AEA management organized a group to test the concept of TIG Council, a representative body that would consider strategic ideas and solutions to challenges that all TIGs encounter. The core goals of this TIG Council Pilot group are:

- Determine if a TIG Council approach is a viable option for organizing and seeking solutions and resources for all AEA TIGs;
- Provide input into the development of a TIG Council whose purpose would be to provide all AEA TIGs with common and relevant resources for offering valuable member programming and leadership development to all AEA TIGs (if a TIG Council is recommended);

- Analyze meaningful ways to organize a TIG Council for future development including, but not limited to, input on how to develop the following:
 - Appropriate and meaningful categorization methods for divisions (if divisions are determined to be a viable and culturally acceptable approach)
 - Equitable and manageable representation structure
 - Appropriate and responsive policy development on questions that impact all TIGs (i.e. social media policy, etc.)
 - Communication channels/platforms that encourage cross-TIG collaboration and feedback to management

Since Evaluation 2016, the TIG Council Pilot group has been exploring the need for a TIG Council and options for its establishment, representation, and related processes. During October, the group will solicit input on possible structures and core activities from TIG leaders and the results will be reviewed at the TIG leaders' breakfast meeting during Evaluation 2017.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

We are excited about seeing you all in Washington, DC at Evaluation 2017. This year's conference theme, *From Learning to Action*, provides abundant opportunities to explore ways that evaluation can catalyze learning and contribute to better practice and better outcomes.

Many thanks as well to the 25 TIG members who took time out of their busy schedules to serve as volunteer reviewers. We received 29 exciting submissions to the TIG this year. The SETIG's program includes a variety of opportunities to explore systems thinking in evaluation, ranging from multi-paper sessions and panels to Ignite presentation and posters. See you in DC!

Brandon Coffee-Borden and Pablo Vidueiro
SETIG Program Co-Chairs

LISTING OF TIG-SPONSORED CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Wednesday, November 8

4:30pm-6:00pm

[2973: The Versatility of a Principles-Focused Approach: The who, what, where, why and how of principles-focused evaluations](#)

Posters

[1864: Comparing use of Developmental Evaluation in Supportive Housing Projects](#)

[2805: Integrating an Individual-level and Systems-level Evaluation: Evaluating the St. Louis Re-Entry Community Linkages Program](#)

[1912: Study on characteristics and evaluation method of convergent science](#)

[3097: Using Developmental Evaluation to Enhance the Effectiveness of the Los Angeles Veteran's Collaborative](#)

Thursday, November 9

8:00am-9:00am

[2423: Conducting Evaluation System Diagnostics - Tools and Experience from INGOs and Governments](#)

10:30am-11:15am

[SiE1: Measuring Progress in Complex Environments](#)

1:15pm-2:00pm

[1611: Thinking Innovatively about M&E: Timebound Systemigrams](#)

4:30pm-5:15pm

[SiE2: Systems Approaches to Evaluation in International and Cross-Cultural Settings](#)

Business Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm

[TIGBM52: Systems in Evaluation TIG Business Meeting](#)

Friday, November 10**8:00am-9:30am**[1136: Does Language Matter for Systems-informed Evaluation? Balancing Plurality with Clarity](#)[1830: Evaluating and advancing equity within the context of a systems change strategy](#)[2563: Hidden Systems: Conducting Political Economy Analysis in Difficult Data Contexts](#)[2961: Putting the Fun and Useful into Using Systems Approaches in Evaluation Practice](#)**11:00am-11:45am**[2324: Mapping for closing the gap between learning and doing](#)**1:45pm-3:15pm**[1294: Outcome Harvesting with a twist of Systems Thinking. Yes please!](#)**Ignite (1:45-3:15)**[1096: SPACES-part 3](#)[2840: Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Building a Learning and Social Impact Framework in Complex Systems](#)**3:30pm-4:15pm**[1738: CREATIVE COUNTERFACTUALS: Alternatives to "what would have happened" in a complex world](#)**4:30pm-5:15pm**[2373: Developing, Sustaining, and Evaluating Health Equity Coalitions as Systems Interventions](#)**Saturday, November 11****9:15am-10:00am**[2742: Evaluation of a large-scale longitudinal college science \(STEM\) education reform effort using systematic pathway modeling approach](#)**10:15am-1:00pm**[2204: Guiding Principles for the Effective Use of Systems Thinking and Complexity Science in Evaluation](#)

DON'T FORGET TO DOWNLOAD THE CONFERENCE APP

As always, the searchable online conference program is available through the [AEA conference website](#). Anyone can access the program to learn more about what's happening this year.

To make it even easier to plan your conference experience, download the mobile app. You can build a personalized schedule, search for sessions, and manage your experience through the app. If you've already registered for the conference, you should have already received an invitation link.

For more information and a link to the app, see the [Mobile App](#) page on the conference website.

