

Stewart Donaldson & Tarek Azzam

Bio



Dr. Stewart Donaldson is Professor and Chair of Psychology, Director of the Institute of Organizational and Program Evaluation Research (IOPER), and Dean of the School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences (SBOS), Claremont Graduate University. He has taught numerous courses and published widely on the topics of organizational psychology, organization and career development, health promotion and disease prevention, evaluation science, and applied research methods.



Dr. Tarek Azzam's work focuses on developing methods that enhance the likelihood of evaluation use. He conducts this work by studying the contextual factors that influence the evaluation process and by creating interactive systems that reduce information complexity. The interactive systems are capable of representing various data forms (quantitative and qualitative) and allow users to view data and information at a broad conceptual level and delve to deeper levels of analysis when they choose to do so. Dr. Azzam was involved in the design and creation of these systems for a number of organizations.

Workshop title

Target audience

Evaluators who want to integrate technology into their evaluations and professionals who interact with data and information.

Level: Beginner / Intermediate

Workshop content

This workshop will focus on how range of new technological tools can be used to improve applied research and program evaluations. Specifically, we will explore the application of free or inexpensive software to engage clients and a range of stakeholders, collect research and evaluation data, formulate and prioritize research and evaluation questions, express and assess logic models and theories of change, track program implementation, provide continuous improvement feedback, determine program outcomes/impact, and to present data and findings. Participants will be given information on how to access tools such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS), data collection software, and interactive conceptual framing software to improve the quality of their applied research and evaluation projects. Participants will be provided with information sheets on each technological tool along with details about attaining free trials.

Detailed workshop outline

After completing the workshop participants are expected to have an understanding of how technology can be used in evaluation practice, and some familiarity with some specific technological tools that can be used to collect data, interpret findings, and conceptually map programs in an interactive way. In addition, participants will be provided with a list of tools resources that can be used after the completion of the workshop.

The workshop is divided into the following components with estimated timing for each section:

1. Applied Research and Evaluation (20 min)
 - Presentation on the issues facing many applied researchers and evaluation when attempting to represent or capture complex information and data.
2. Roles for Technology (20 – 30 min)
 - Discussion of the role of technology and how it can be used to help represent and simplify complexity.
3. Interactive Conceptual Modeling (30-40 min)
 - A discussion of how interactive conceptual models can be used to create program theories and be used to embed data and information.
4. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) (30-40 min)
 - A discussion of how GIS can be used to display data, and how it can improve the researcher's ability in understanding a program or policy's impact.
5. On-line survey (10 min)
 - Use and creation of on-line surveys to collect data and information
6. Data display tools (30-40 min)
 - A demonstration of new on-line tools that can be used to display quantitative and qualitative data and allow users to interact with this information.
7. Discussion and questions