RoE TIG Presentation, January 28, 2021
Sarah Mason
ORIGINS

**Founded and led by Dr. Michael Scriven**

- For purpose of accelerating (not merely advancing) the theory and practice of evaluation
- Personal funds
- Donor Advised Fund, under Marin Community Foundation
FUNDING AVENUES

- Small grants
- 3F Fellowship
- Critical Thinking Fellowship
Develop ideas that show promise for *accelerating evaluation* theory, practice & the profession
PURPOSE

1. Develop ideas that show promise for **accelerating evaluation** theory, practice & the profession

2. Support ‘**long shot**’ ideas that sit outside traditional research paradigms
Develop ideas that show promise for accelerating evaluation theory, practice & the profession

Support ‘long shot’ ideas that sit outside traditional research paradigms

Give weight to ideas that show signs of substantially benefiting people with serious unmet needs
PRIORITY: MAVERICK IDEAS
“The current weak spot is the place where fundamental assumptions are challenged. That’s not something that has much popular appeal.”

*Michael Scriven—yesterday*
PRIORITY TOPIC—EXAMPLE

- Strategies for encouraging meta-evaluation
- General positive bias in evaluations
- Especially interested in critiques of evaluation look at ways to handle positive bias

*Michael Scriven—yesterday
EXAMPLE: POST PROJECT EVALUATION

Building the Evidence Base for Post-Project Evaluation
Fewer than 1% of international development projects are evaluated after they end. This project explored the potential value-add of post-project evaluation through a review of eight projects with end of project and post-project evaluations. It found that post-project evaluations can contribute to better understanding of sustainability, but can also identify unexpected outcomes years after projects close. Checklists to (1) help prepare for post-project evaluation, and (2) measure sustainability throughout the project cycle were also developed.
EXAMPLE: CHALLENGING ASSUMPTIONS

Guiding Principles for HIV Advocacy in Evaluation
This project challenges the assumption that advocacy evaluation methods can be universally applied.

It pursued this goal through a series of research studies exploring the ways in which Buddhist and Confucian worldviews can inform (and perhaps offer modifications to) a range of evaluation methods. Studies led to a number of academic publications.
PRACTICALITIES

- Small grants
- 501 (c) 3
- Max. 10% indirect
- Rolling submission
PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

Submit via email to fasterforwardfund@gmail.com

- Title
- Contact details
- Proposed project
- Timeline
- Indicators
- Rationale
- Feasibility & importance
- Budget
- Bios

More details: www.fasterforwardfund.org
PROCESS

1. Submit
2. Review (3 external reviewers)
3. Possible Revisions
4. Second review
5. Decision
CRITERIA

- Fit 3F target area
- Originality
- Intellectual importance
- Social importance
- Value for needy people
BECOME A REVIEWER!

We’d like to expand our network of reviewers!

Fill out this EoI if you’re interested:
https://forms.gle/fX6fRHdqLEHK6PBU9

*will provide link to RoE leaders
IDEAS ON WHAT TO FUND?

Michael is also interested in ideas about what should be funded—even if you don’t want to submit a proposal yourself.

Send ideas to fasterforwardfund@gmail.com
3F FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to evaluation students whose ideas offer potential to accelerate the theory and practice of evaluation. **Awarded on the basis of an essay.**
PRACTICALITIES

$2,000

2000-5000 words

Evaluation-related

Oct. 30th

FT student

1 eval class
CRITICAL THINKING FELLOWSHIP

Open to all; focus is on ideas that have potential to advance the discipline of critical thinking. **Awarded on the basis of an essay.**