

# **EVALUATION (IN COMPLEX) ECOLOGIES RELATIONSHIPS RESPONSIBILITIES RELEVANCE**

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Duquesne University

AEA Presidential Address  
Minneapolis, MN  
October 24, 2012



**WELCOME**



**1 IN 10**



**WELCOME**



**WELCOME**

**FIRST TIME ATTENDEE**

**WELCOME**

**STUDENT**

**1 IN 6**

**STUDENT**

Minnesota affiliate

local arrangements

program reviewers

volunteers **THANK YOU**

presidential strand task force



# AEA REGISTRATION





**THANK YOU**

# LAYOUT OF PLENARY TALK



# CONFERENCE THEME & PLANNING

delphi focus group  
June

2011



# CONFERENCE THEME & PLANNING

WMU Visiting Scholar

delphi

September

2011



# CONFERENCE THEME & PLANNING



# CONFERENCE THEME & PLANNING



**EERS**  
2012 April-May



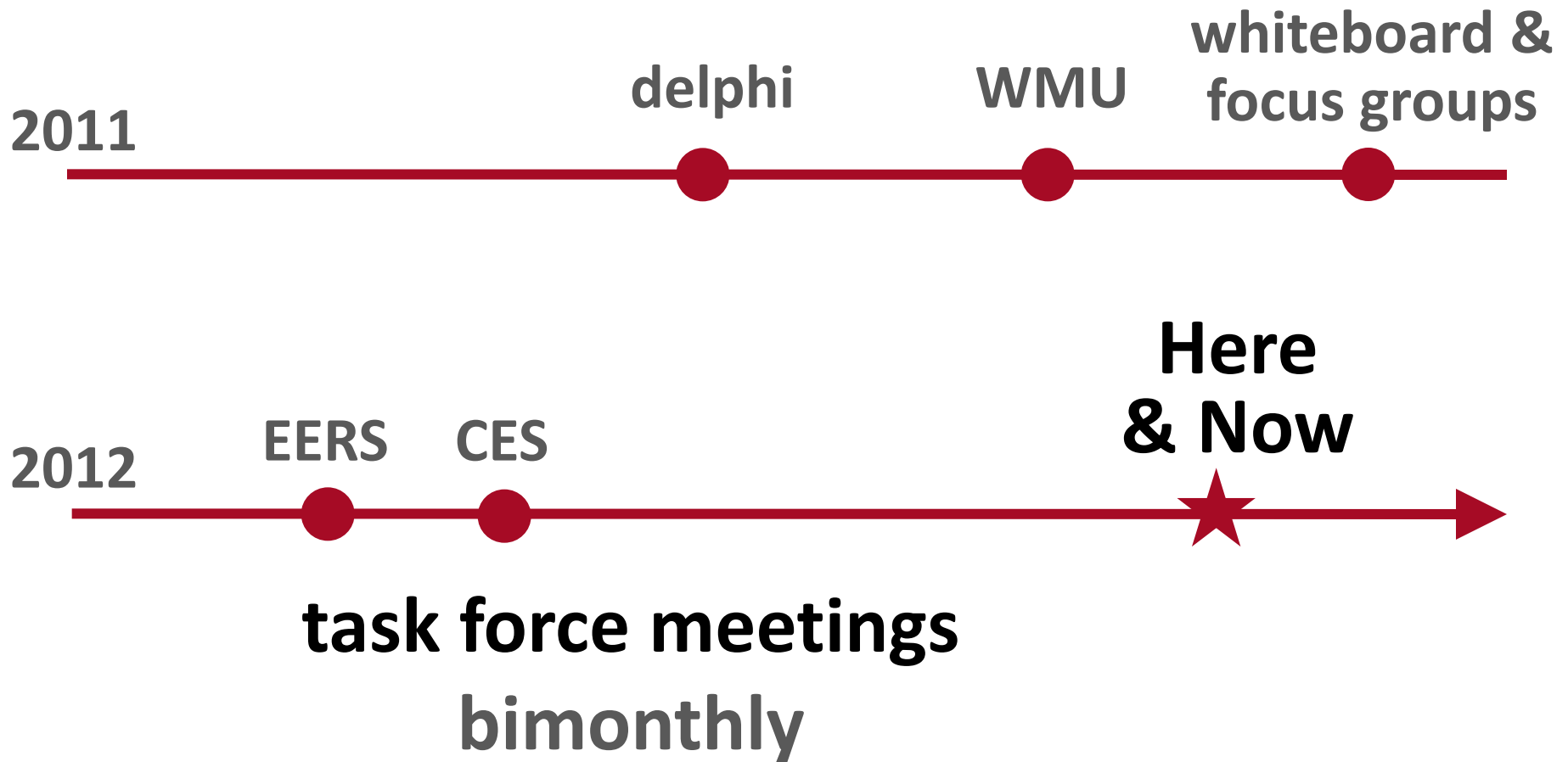
April 29 - May 1, 2012  
Seaview Resort  
Absecon, NJ

# CONFERENCE THEME & PLANNING





# CONFERENCE THEME & PLANNING



# LAYOUT OF PLENARY TALK





AMERICAN  
EVALUATION  
ASSOCIATION

EVALUATION 2012

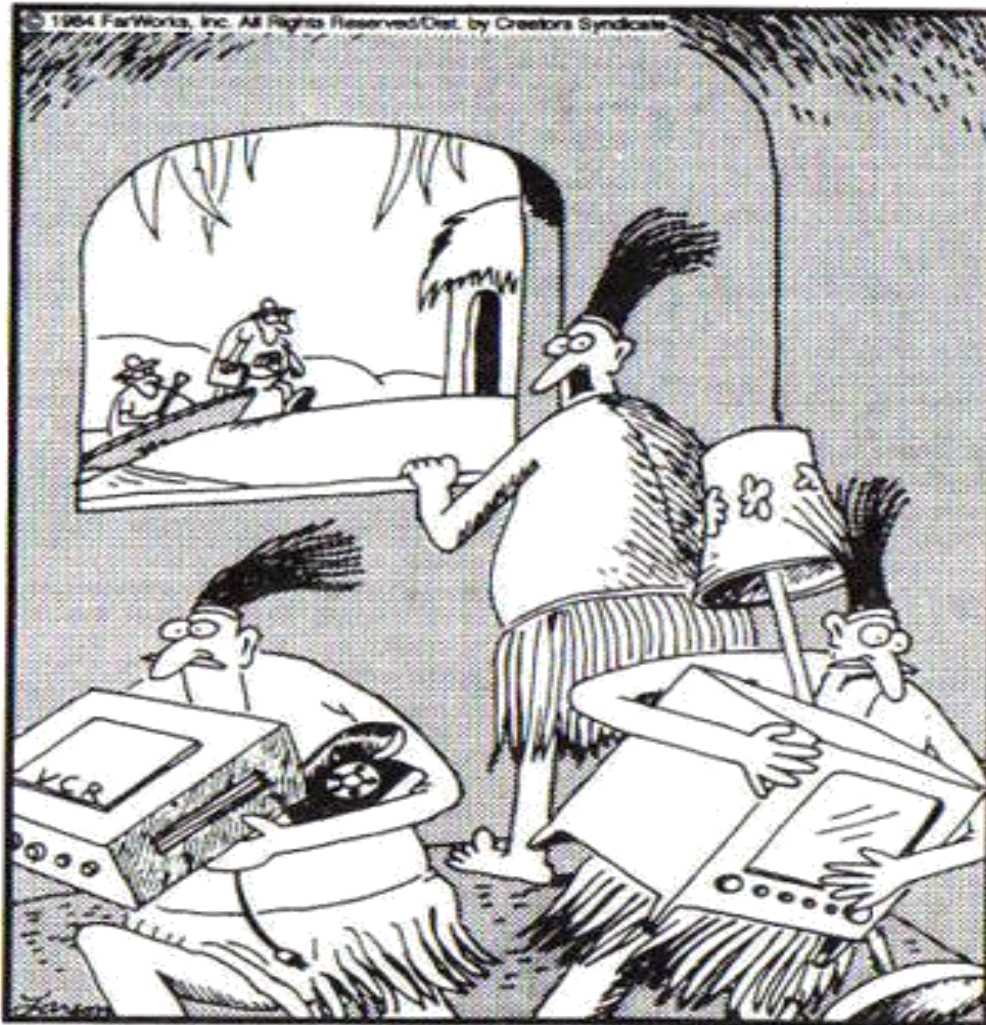
# EVALUATION IN COMPLEX ECOLOGIES

RELATIONSHIPS  
RESPONSIBILITIES  
RELEVANCE



# CONCEPTUALIZING COMPLEXITY

THE FAR SIDE® BY GARY LARSON



The Far Side® by Gary Larson © 1984 FarWorks, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

“Ethnography as a nonlinear dynamic system”

“Anthropologists! Anthropologists!”

# CONCEPTUALIZING ECOLOGIES

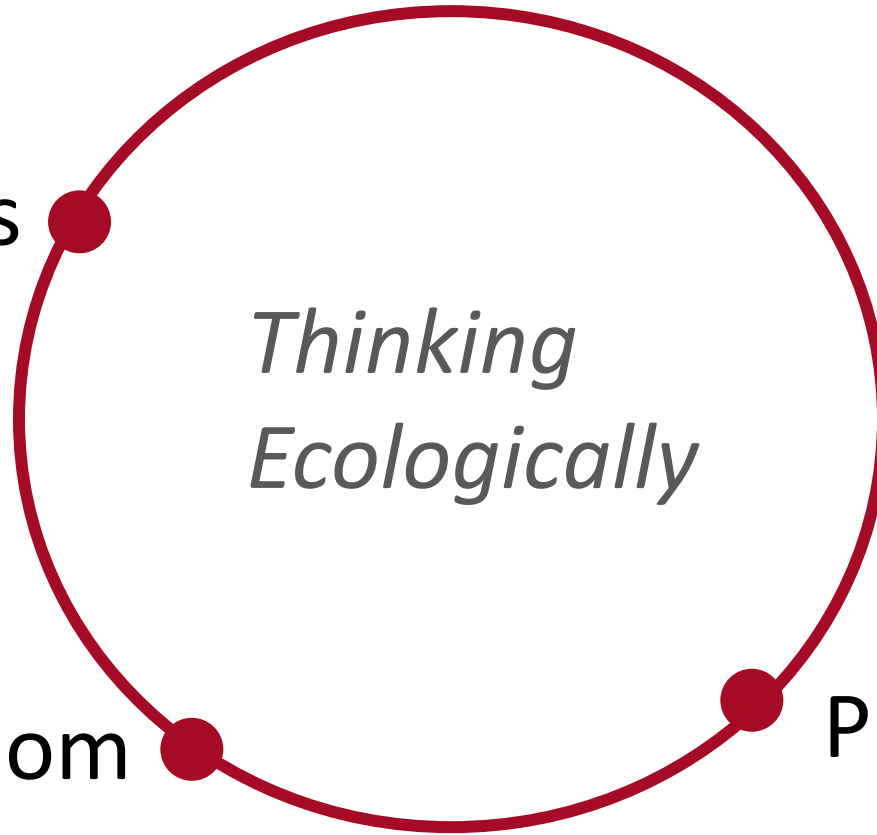
Evaluation

Linguistics

*Thinking  
Ecologically*

Freedom

Place





# ECOLOGY OF PLACE

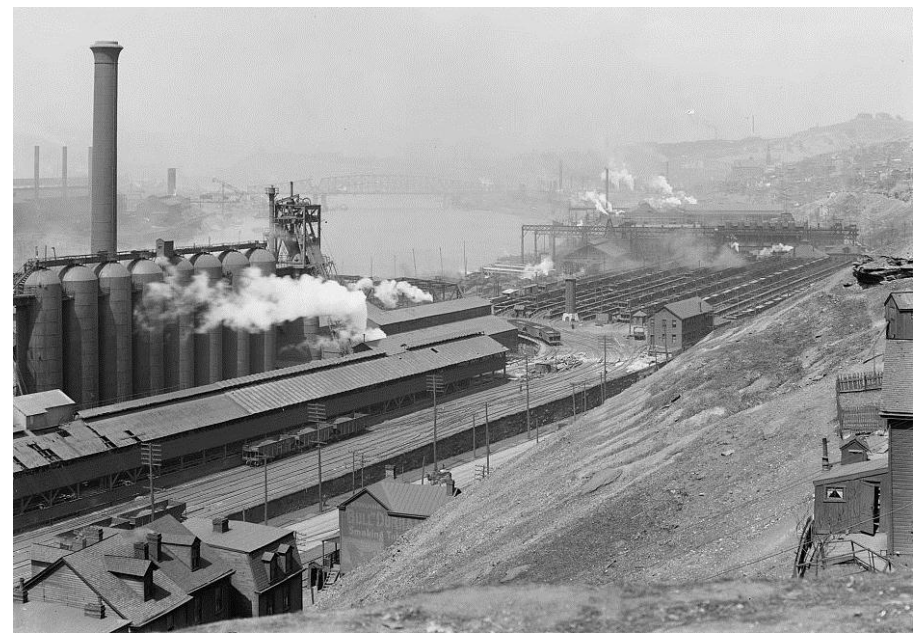
## PITTSBURGH A TALE OF TWO CITIES

### LIVABLE



Quality of Life  
indicators

### UNLIVABLE



Harbinger of post-  
industrial country

# CONCEPTUALIZING **EVALUATION** COMPLEXITY & ECOLOGY

## Developmental Evaluation

Focus on nonlinearity

emergence

dynamic

adaptive

uncertainty and

coevolutionary



# CONCEPTUALIZING **EVALUATION** COMPLEXITY & ECOLOGY

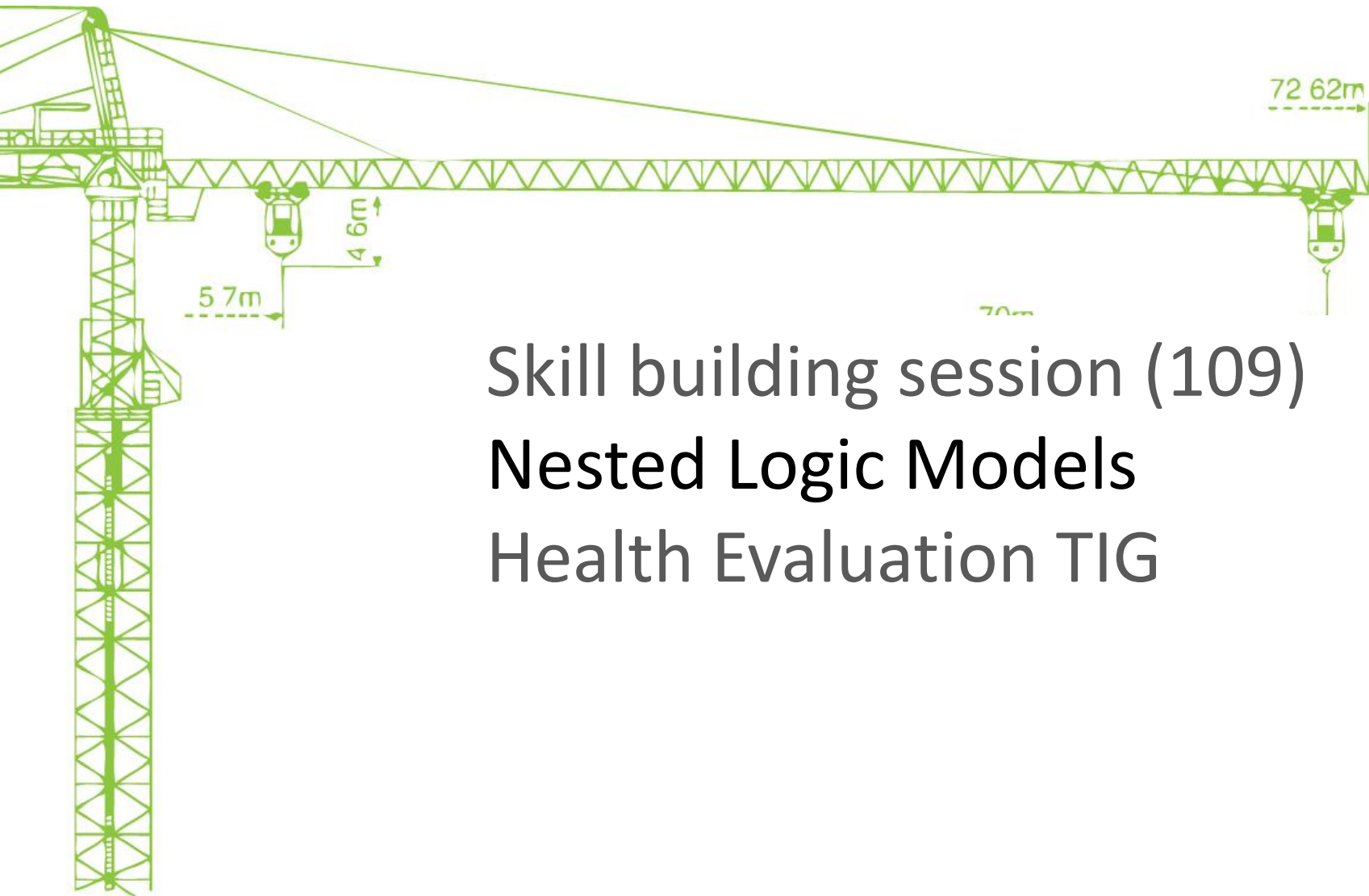
Emergence of  
evidence-based discourse and  
practices in conservation,  
environmental management

Addressing methodological challenges  
Understanding principles of  
adaptive management



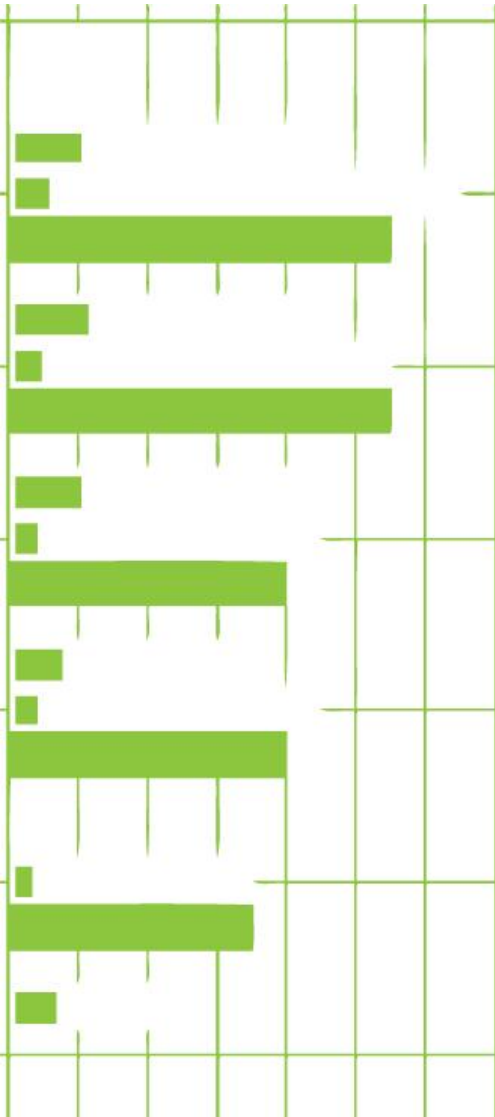


# DEMONSTRATING THE CONFERENCE THEME



Skill building session (109)  
Nested Logic Models  
Health Evaluation TIG

# DEMONSTRATING THE CONFERENCE THEME

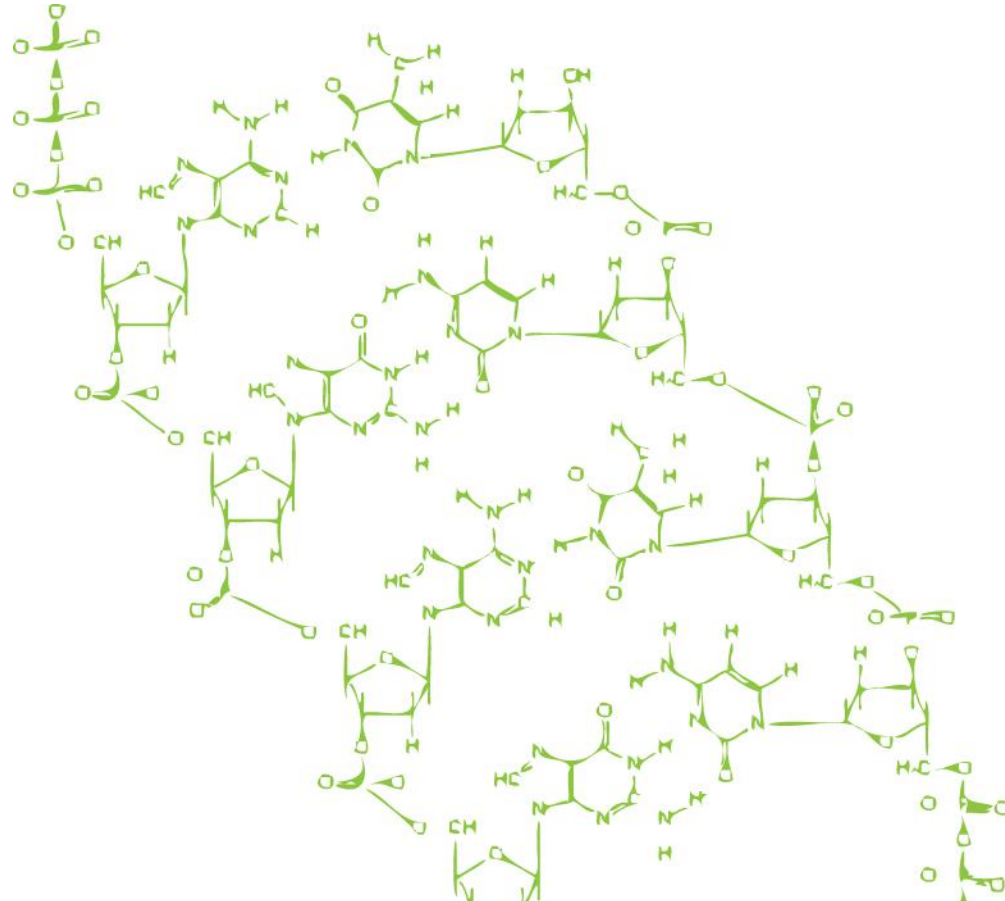


Panel session (702)  
Outcome mapping  
Systems in Evaluation TIG

# DEMONSTRATING THE CONFERENCE THEME

Expert lecture session (795)

Inferences from  
evaluations  
in complex ecologies



# DEMONSTRATING THE CONFERENCE THEME



Demonstration session (263)

Complex ecology in action

Environmental TIG

# DEMONSTRATING THE CONFERENCE THEME



Multipaper session (922)

Feminist approaches to evaluation research

Feminist Issues in Evaluation TIG

# LAYOUT OF PLENARY TALK



# RELATIONSHIPS ISSUES

Consider...

key interests

interactions

variables

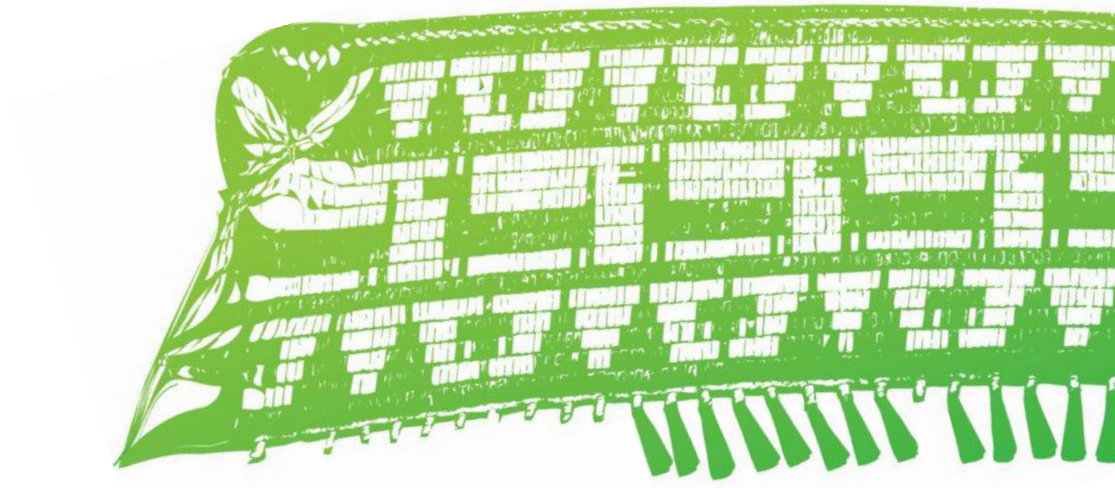
stakeholders

amidst dynamic and complex issues at

program

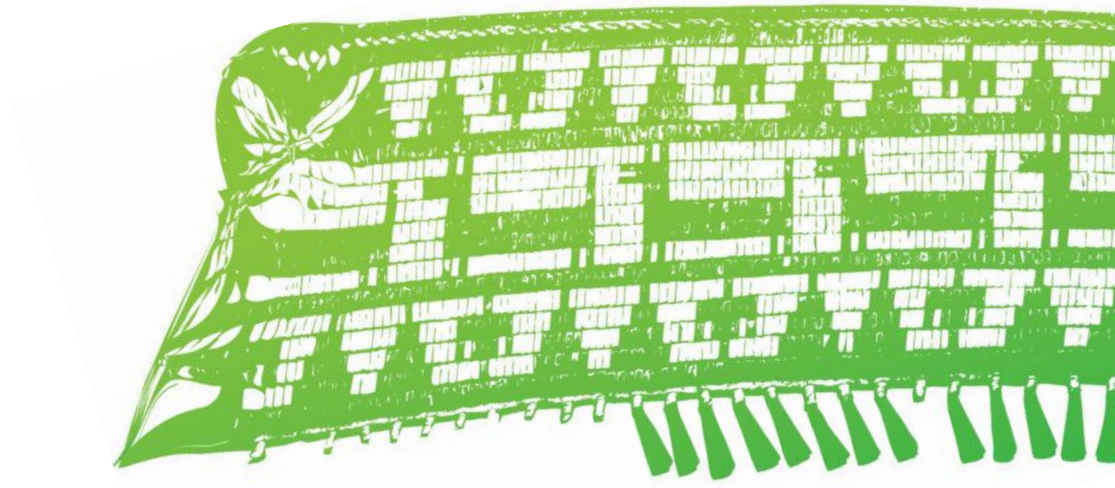
policy

project levels



# RELATIONSHIPS QUESTIONS

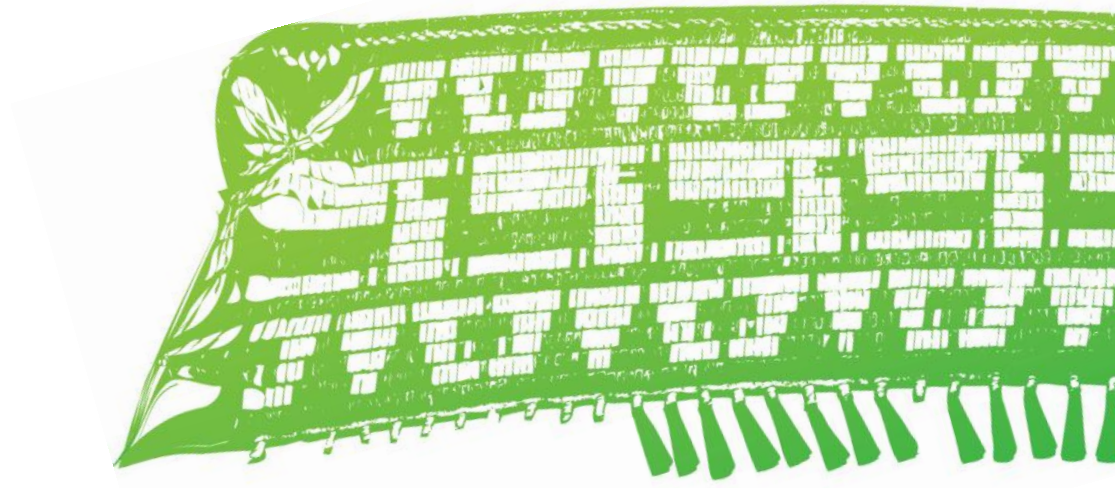
What key interactions,  
variables,  
or stakeholders  
do we need to attend to  
(or not)?





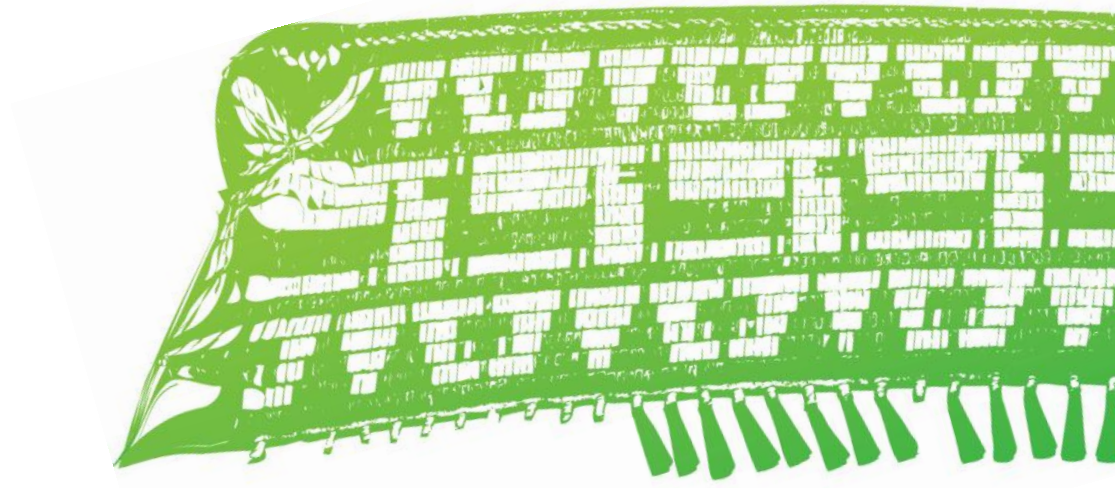
# RELATIONSHIPS QUESTIONS

Whose interests  
and what decisions  
and relationships  
are driving context?



# RELATIONSHIPS QUESTIONS

How can evaluators attend to important interactions amidst competing interests and values through innovative methodologies, procedures, and processes?

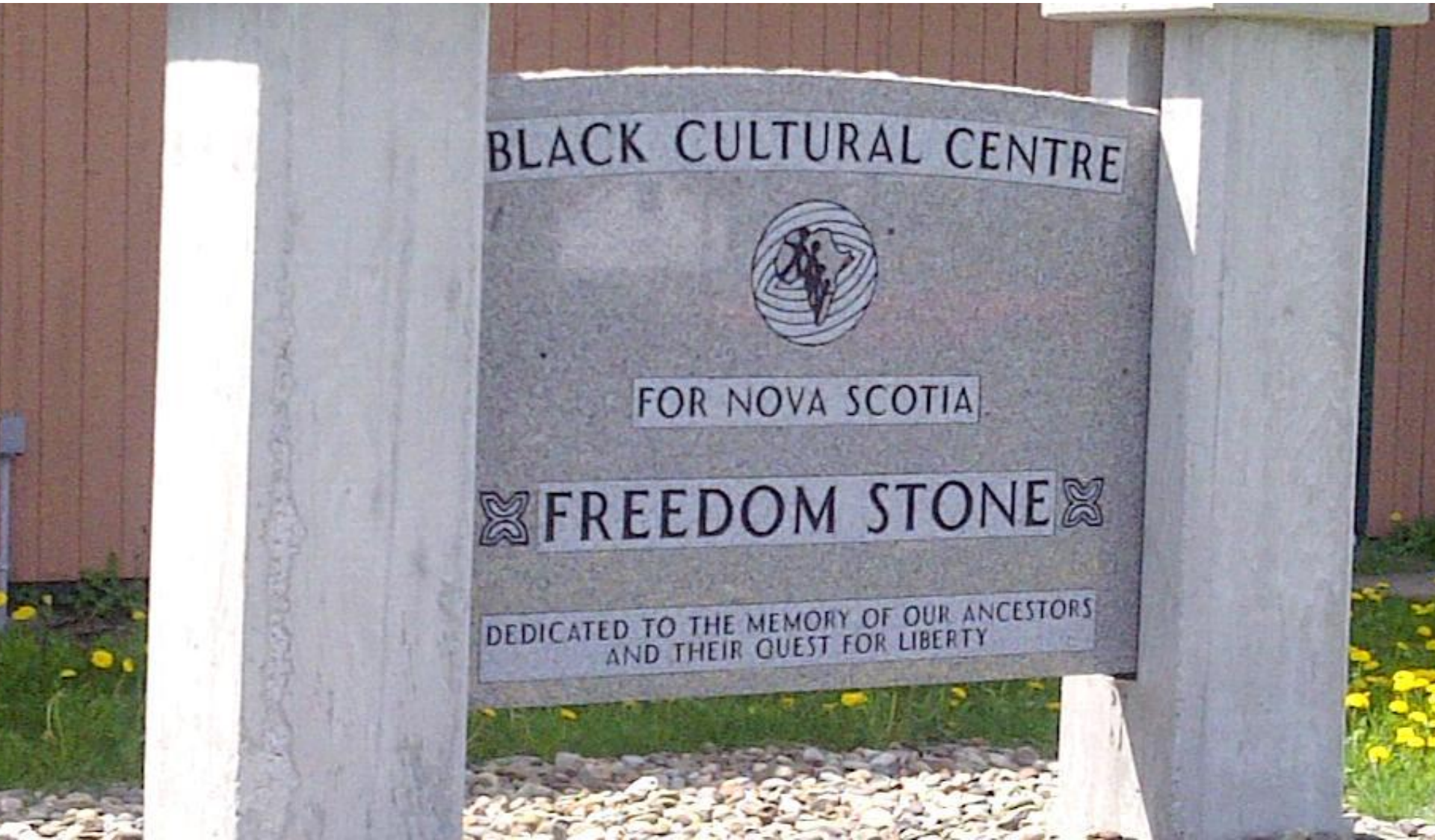


# RELATIONSHIPS AFRICVILLE





# RELATIONSHIPS AFRICVILLE





# RELATIONSHIPS AFRICVILLE

## Africville Relocation Report

Donald H. Clairmont    Dennis W. Magill



Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia Library



\*20619



# RELATIONSHIPS AFRICVILLE

## Halifax, Nova Scotia

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When the last house in Africville was demolished on January 6, 1970 a chapter closed in the lives of some 80 black families numbering about 400 individuals. With the closing down of the settlement, it could be argued that what happened stands without comparison with any other black community in the annals of the history of Nova Scotia. For all its uniqueness, and for all the special lessons derived from it, the story of



# RELATIONSHIPS AFRICVILLE



# RELATIONSHIPS AFRICVILLE





# RESPONSIBILITIES ISSUES

Require us to consider...

how our designs  
delivery  
and dissemination  
are responsive  
ethical  
and equitable



# RESPONSIBILITIES QUESTIONS

What responsibilities,  
inclusive of and beyond the technical,  
do we evaluators have  
in carrying out our evaluations?



# RESPONSIBILITIES QUESTIONS

In what ways  
might evaluation design,  
implementation, and utilization  
be responsible  
to issues pertinent to  
our general and social welfare?



# RESPONSIBILITIES QUESTIONS

How can evaluators ensure their work is responsive, responsible, ethical, equitable, and/or transparent for stakeholders and key users of evaluations?



# **RESPONSIBILITIES AFRICVILLE**

“The historical description and evaluation of the Africville relocation had, therefore, to be planned and executed at standards of comprehensiveness, thoroughness, and competence...”

-Clairmont & Magill, 1971



# RESPONSIBILITIES AFRICVILLE

## Africville Update

On February 24, 2010, Mr. Peter Kelly, Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality presented a formal apology to the former residents of Africville and to their descendants.



## An Apology for Africville

*"On behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality, I apologize to the former Africville residents and their descendants for what they have endured for almost 50 years, ever since the loss of their community that had stood on the shores of Bedford Basin for more than 150 years."*

*You lost your houses, your church, all of the places where you gathered with family and friends to mark the milestones of your lives.*

*For all that, we apologize.*

*We apologize to the community elders, including those who did not live to see this day, for the pain and loss of dignity you experienced.*

*We apologize to the generations who followed, for the deep wounds you have inherited and the way your lives were disrupted by the disappearance of your community.*

*We apologize for the heartache experienced at the loss of the Seaview United Baptist Church, the spiritual heart of the community, removed in the middle of the night. We acknowledge the tremendous importance the church had, both for the congregation and the community as a whole.*

*We realize words cannot undo what has been done, but we are profoundly sorry and apologize to all the former residents and their descendants.*

*The repercussions of what happened in Africville linger to this day. They haunt us in the form of lost opportunities for young people who were never nurtured in the rich traditions, culture and heritage of Africville.*

*They play out in lingering feelings of hurt and distrust, emotions that this municipality continues to work hard with the African Nova Scotian community to overcome.*

*For all the distressing consequences, we apologize.*

*Our history cannot be rewritten but, thankfully, the future is a blank page and, starting today, we hold the pen with which we can write a shared tomorrow.*

*It is in that spirit of respect and reconciliation that we ask your forgiveness."*

Mayor Peter Kelly  
February 24, 2010



# **RESPONSIBILITIES** **AFRICVILLE**





# RESPONSIBILITIES AFRICVILLE



## SEAVIEW MEMORIAL PARK

LAND DEEDED  
1848 — 1969

DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
THE FIRST BLACK SETTLERS AND ALL  
FORMER RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY  
OF CAMPBELL ROAD, AFRICVILLE AND ALL  
MEMBERS OF THE SEAVIEW UNITED  
BAPTIST CHURCH.

FIRST BLACK SETTLERS  
WILLIAM BROWN  
JOHN BROWN THOMAS BROWN

TO LOSE YOUR WEALTH IS MUCH  
TO LOSE YOUR HEALTH IS MORE  
TO LOSE YOUR LIFE IS SUCH A LOSS  
THAT NOTHING CAN RESTORE

ERECTED 1988



# RESPONSIBILITIES AFRICVILLE





# RESPONSIBILITIES AFRICVILLE



# RELEVANCE ISSUES

Consider issues like...

use

sustainability

scale

and strategy

for these same

programs

policies

and projects

we evaluate



# RELEVANCE QUESTIONS

What relevance do  
our evaluations have  
in complex social, environmental,  
fiscal, institutional, and/or  
programmatic ecologies?



# RELEVANCE QUESTIONS

How can evaluators ensure that their decisions, findings, and insights are meaningful to diverse communities, contexts, and cultures?



# RELEVANCE QUESTIONS

What strategies exist  
for evaluators, considering  
our transdisciplinary backgrounds,  
to convey relevant  
evaluation processes,  
practices, and procedures?

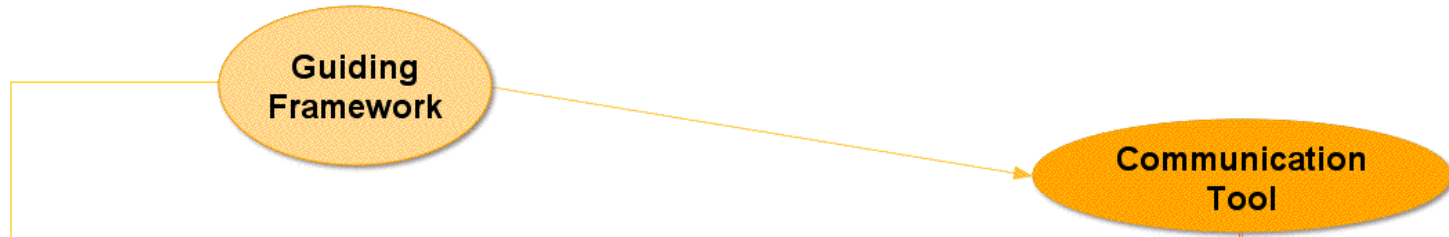


## Logic Model Use

in Project Design

in Project Implementation

in Project Evaluation



# RELEVANCE LOGIC MODELS

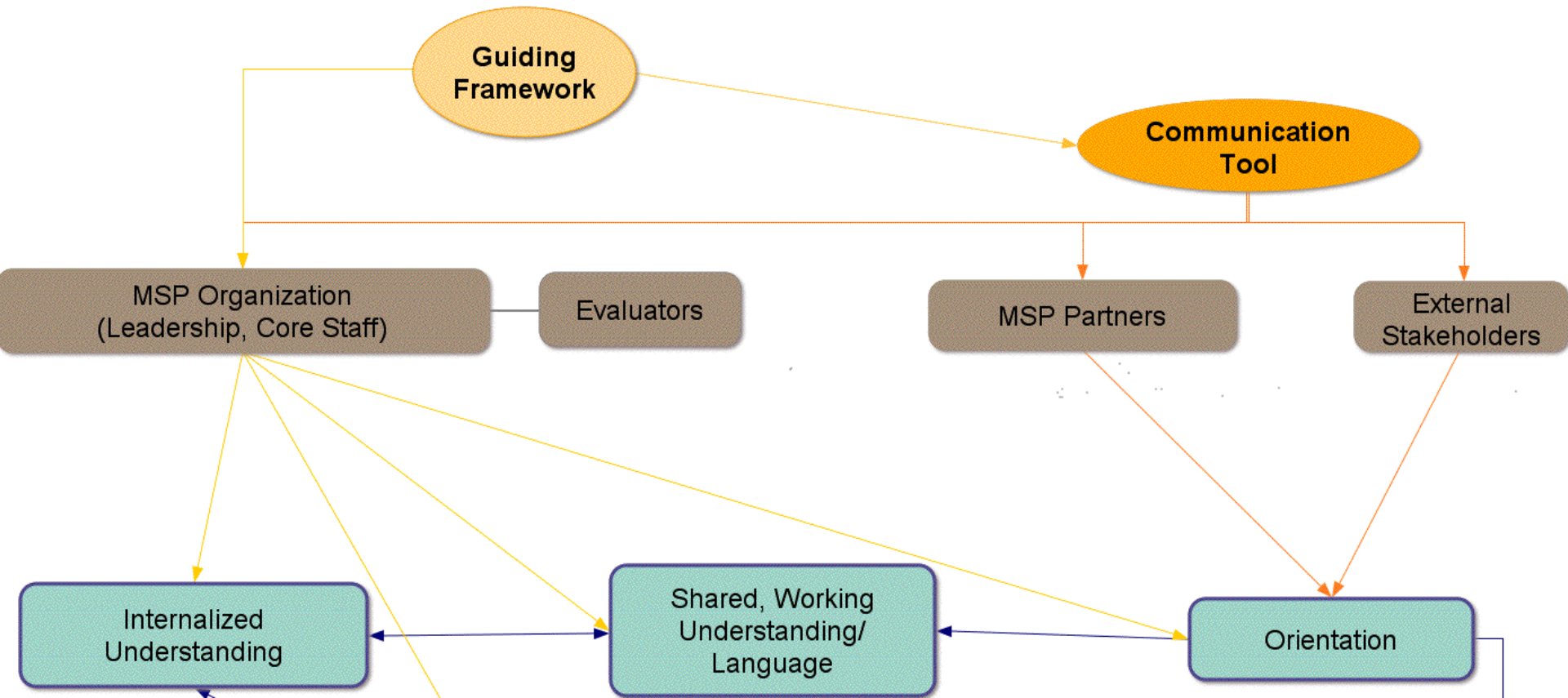


## Logic Model Use

in Project Design

in Project Implementation

in Project Evaluation



prescriptions & instances of use

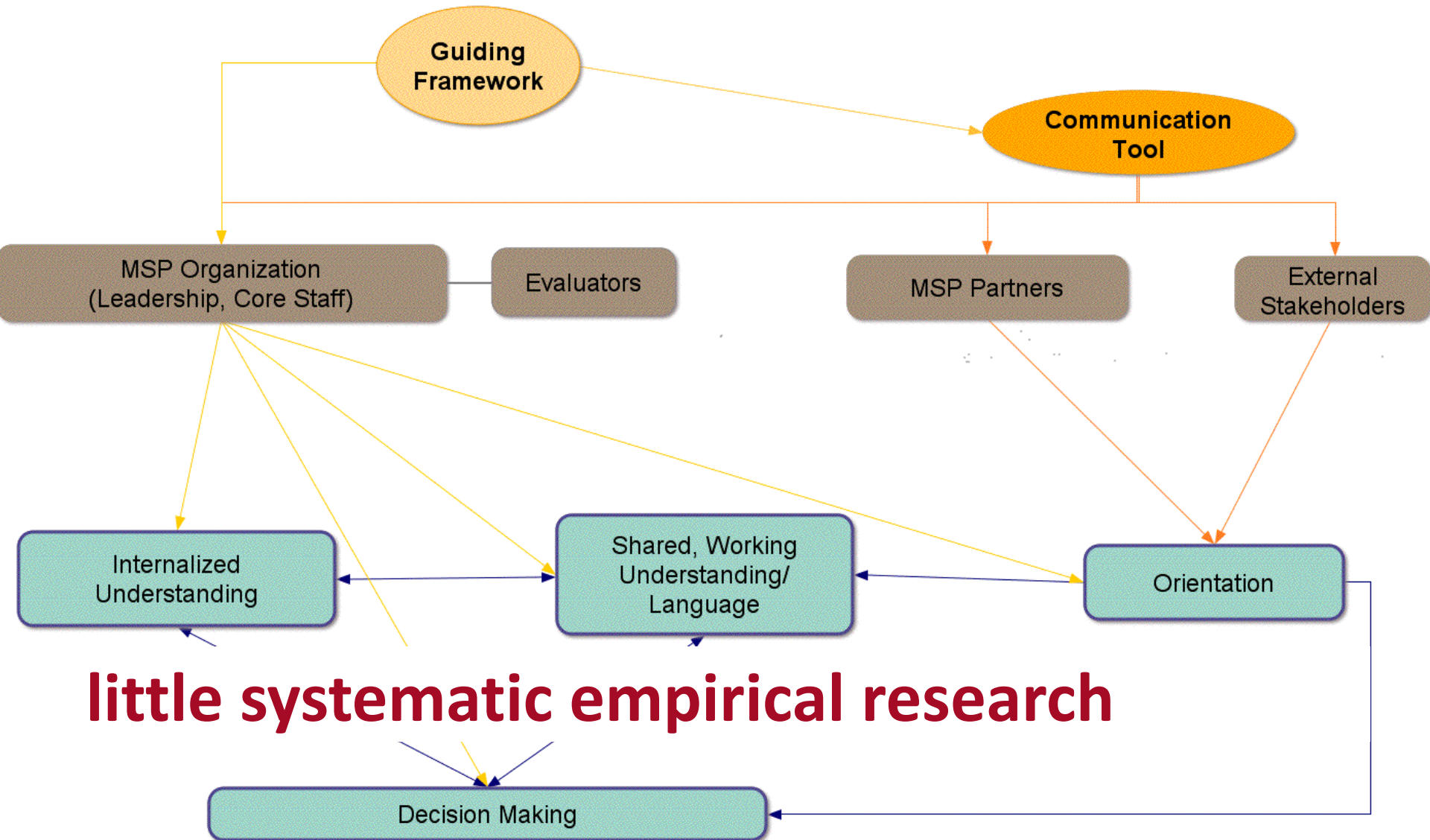


## Logic Model Use

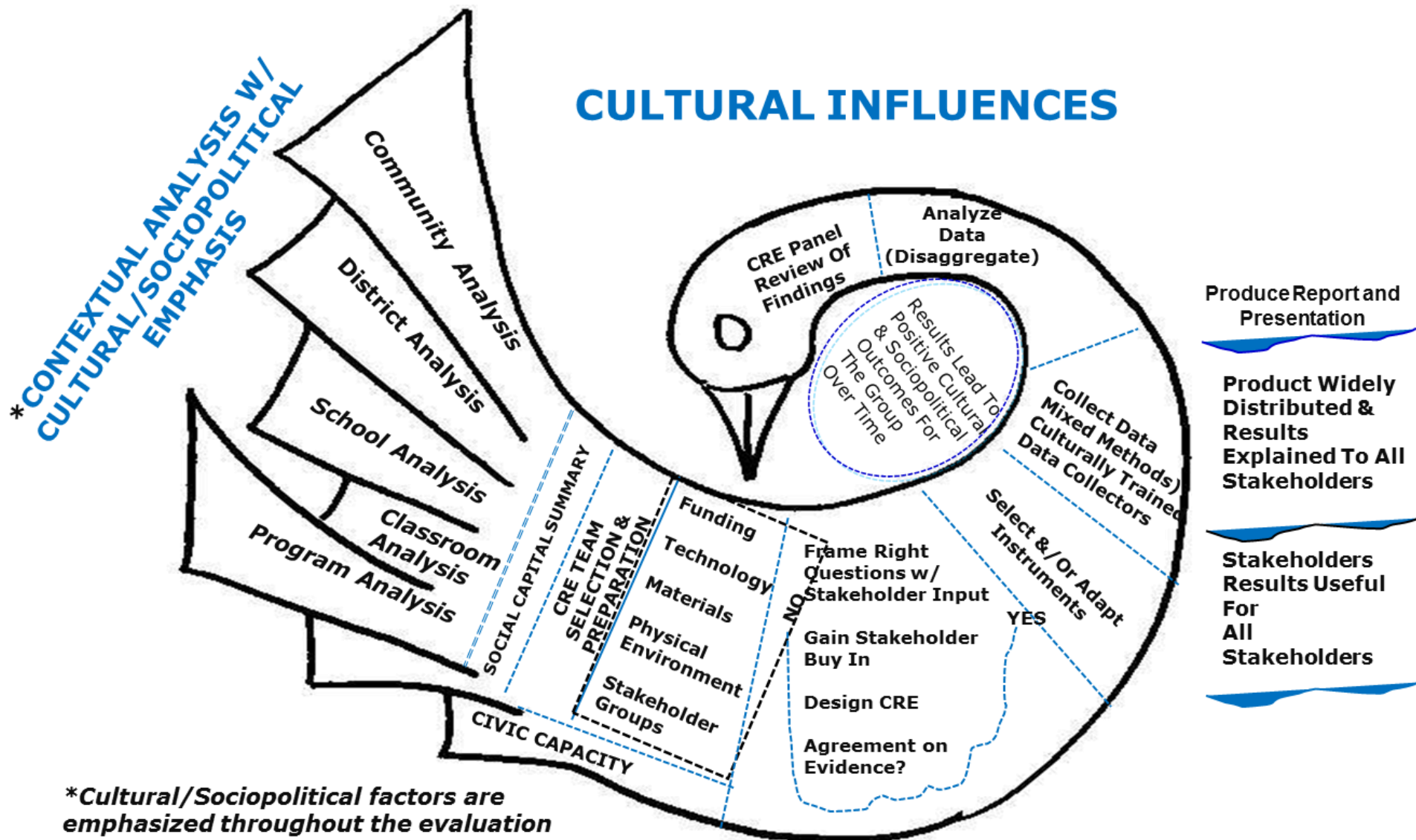
in Project Design

in Project Implementation

in Project Evaluation



# LOGIC MODELS IN **COMPLEX ECOLOGIES**



# CLOSING SUMMARY

Evaluation (in complex) ecologies  
reminds us to consider  
relationships, responsibilities,  
and relevance of our  
work and practice



# LAYOUT OF PLENARY TALK



# **TAKING A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE**

## **THURSDAY PLENARY**



Linda  
Smith  
Presenter



Fiona  
Cram  
Chair



Karen  
Kirkhart  
Discussant

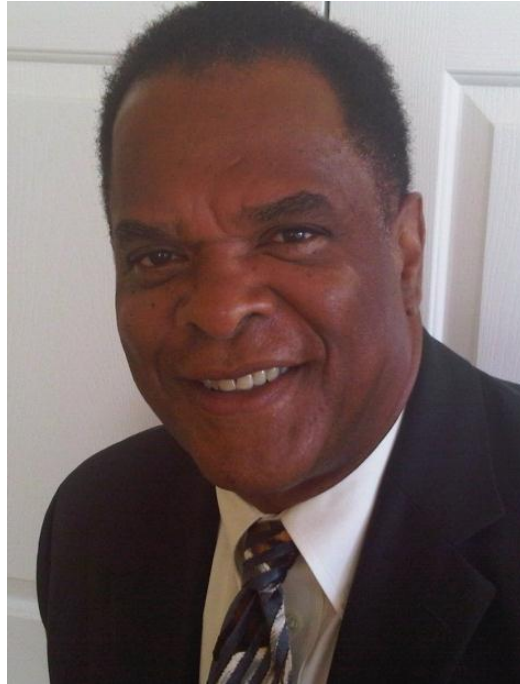


# THE ROAD TO A FAIR FOOD SYSTEM

## FRIDAY PLENARY



Oran  
Hesterman  
Presenter



Ricardo  
Millett  
Chair



Katherine  
Dawes  
Discussant

# CLOSING SESSION

## SATURDAY TOWN HALL



“Signposts are important as we walk through our world as evaluators. Many things can guide our journey, especially the people we have built trustworthy relationships with.”

photograph + 25 words

AEA2012closingphotos@gmail.com

by Thursday at noon

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