THE BREADTH OF EVALUATION PRACTICE TODAY

Influences, Arenas, & Disciplines

Jody Fitzpatrick

AEA 2013

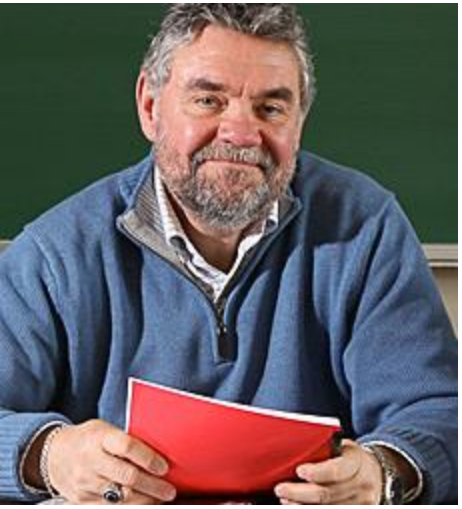
Evaluation
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

We need a **description** of what is happening

an **intervention for correction**

empirically-based theories

Evaluation
NEEDS ASSESSMENT



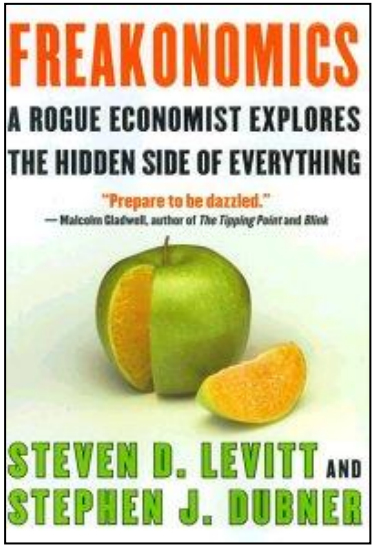
“We need to move beyond the relatively weak theoretical musings and anecdotal reports of practice. We need to add to the **empirical knowledge base**...to extend our theories and guides on practice.”

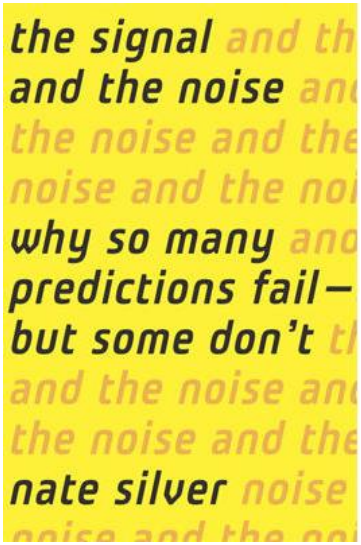
Evaluation
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

“There are **telling gaps** in our collective understanding of evaluation practitioners…”

Context of EVALUATION TODAY

Public interest in
numbers
facts &
truth
accountability
impact





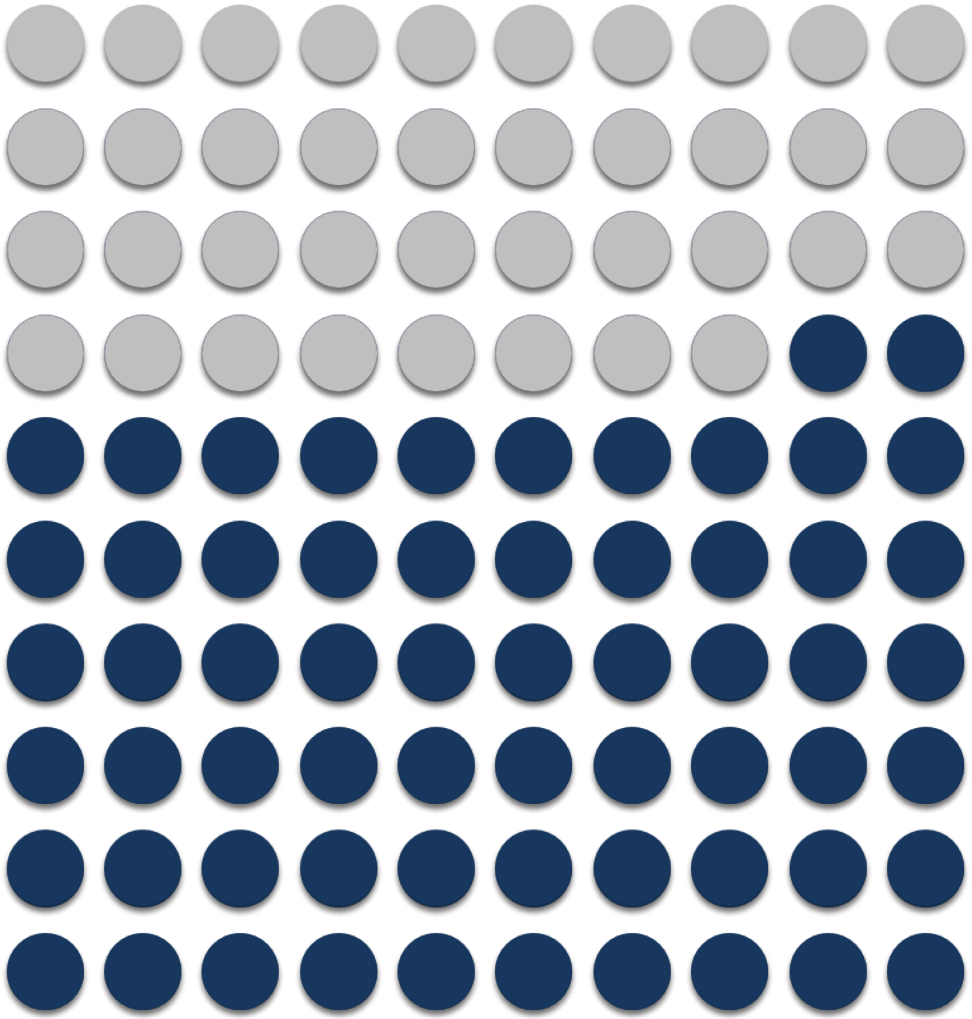
What Is HAPPENING in Evaluation Today?

NOT as much as we think

37% of federal managers report an evaluation

90% of nonprofits report a basic evaluation

WHO Does the Evaluation?



82%

nonprofit eval done by nonprofessional

BETTER News

NONPROFIT version

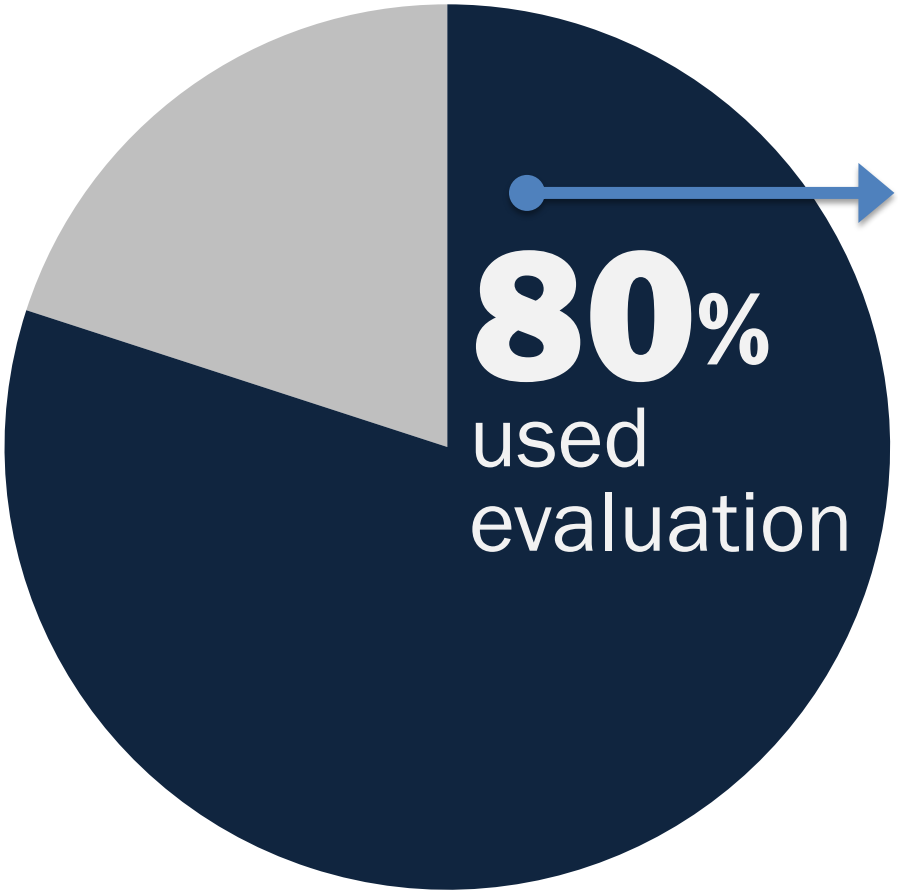
1 out of 4

worked with an external evaluator

and liked it!

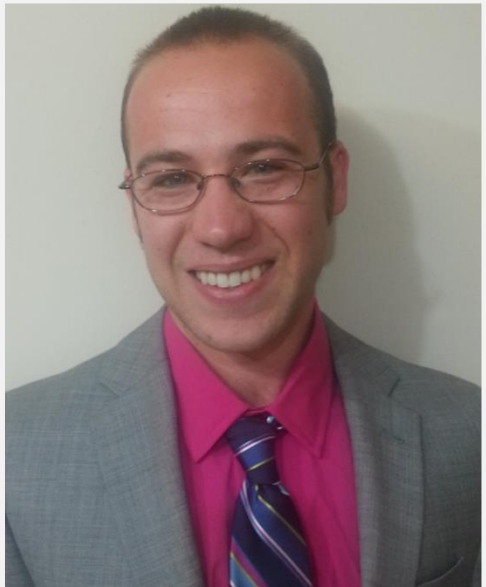
BETTER News

FEDERAL version



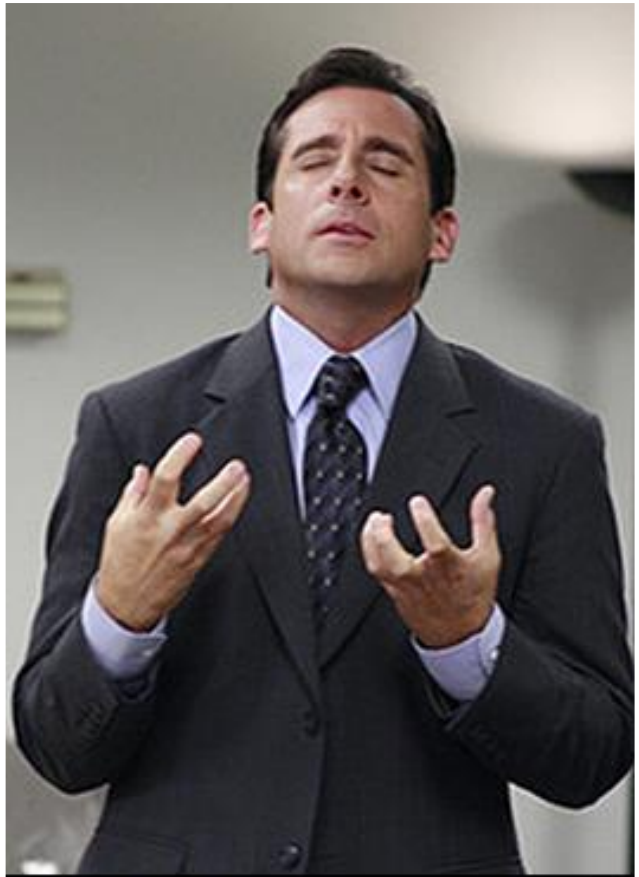
& made program changes to improve performance

WHO ARE Evaluators Today?



OTHERS doing evaluation

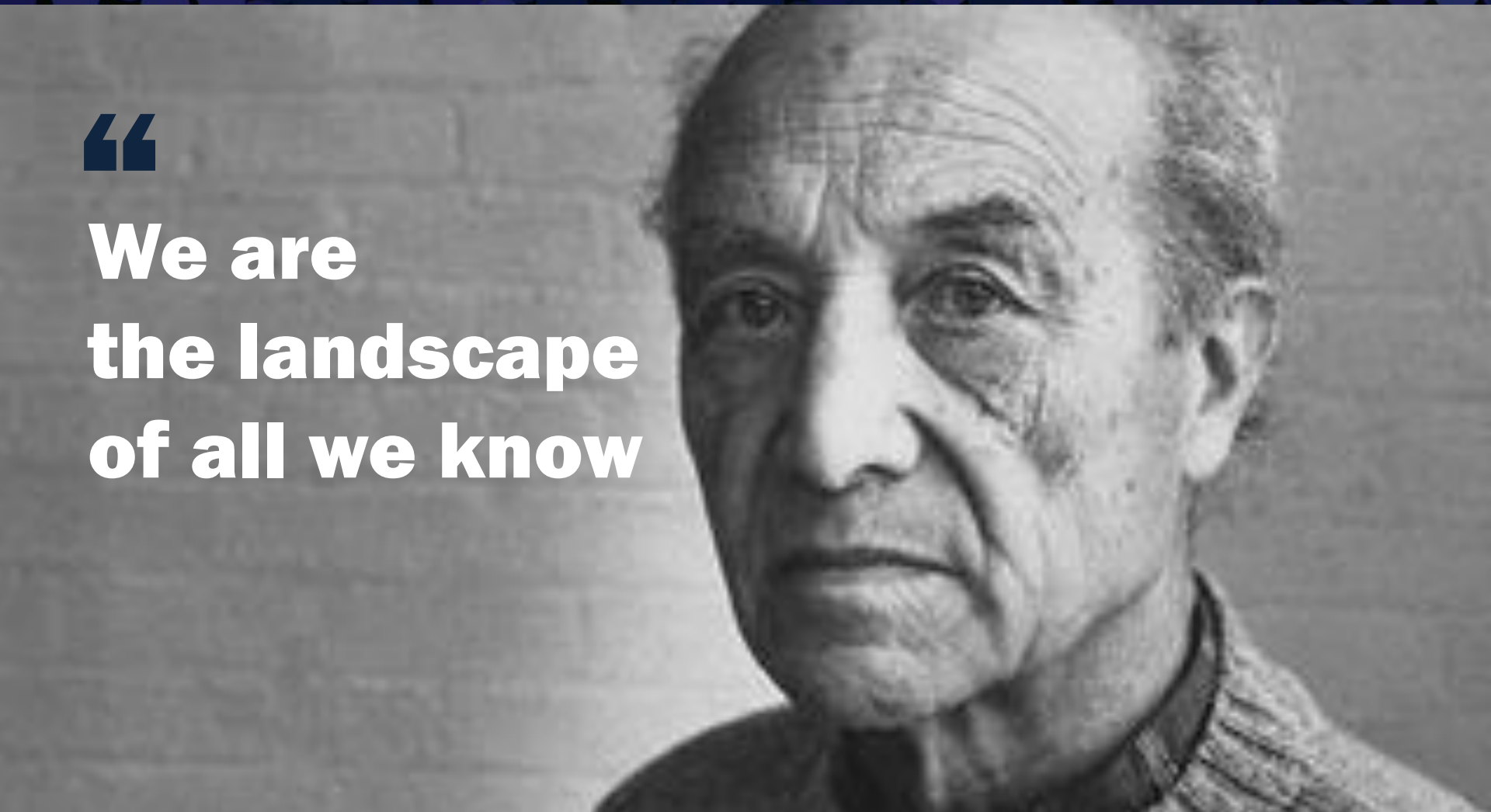
managers



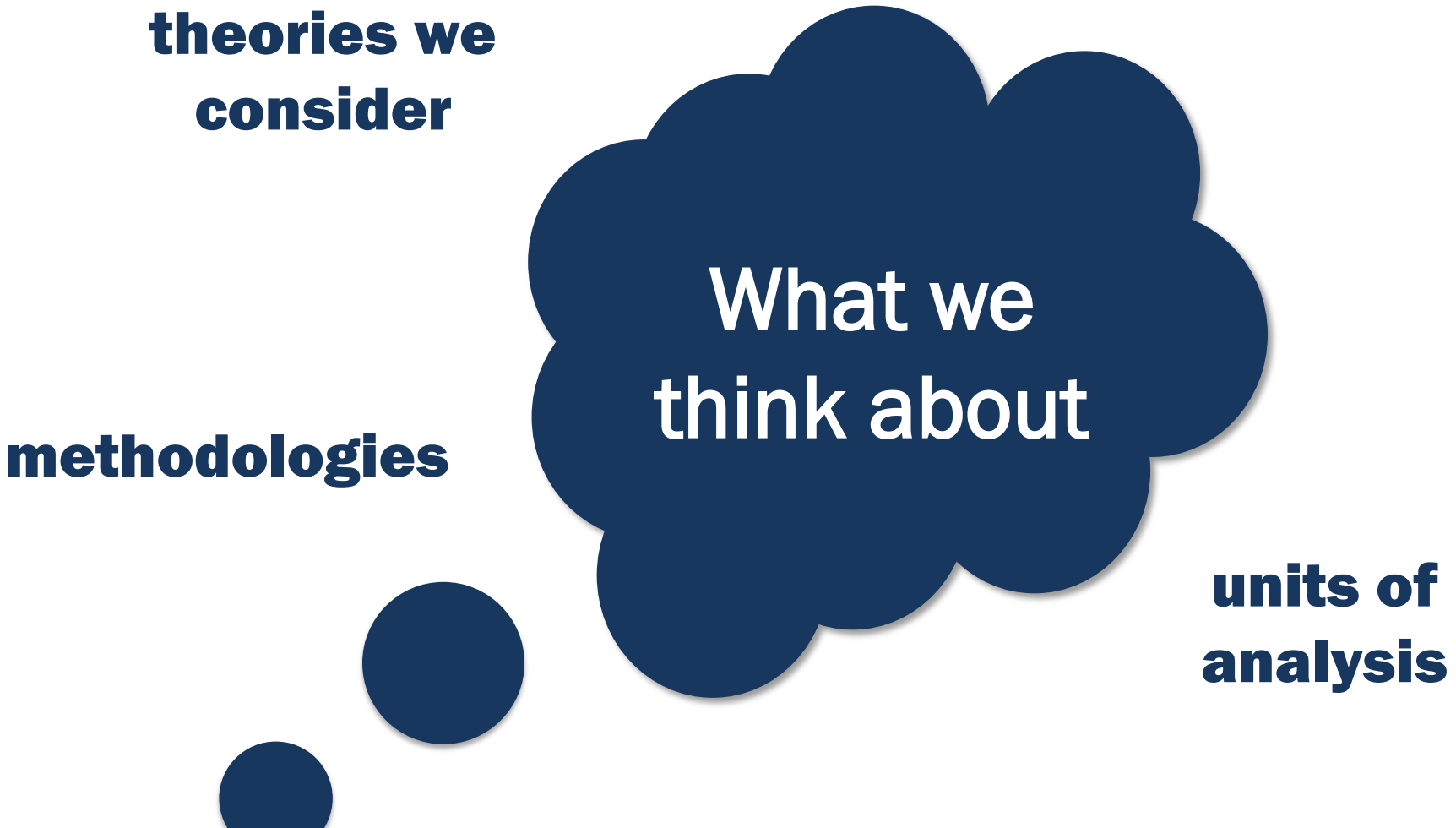
social science researchers

policy analysts

Isamu Noguchi



How Does Our Discipline AFFECT US?



Consulting Professions LIKE OURS

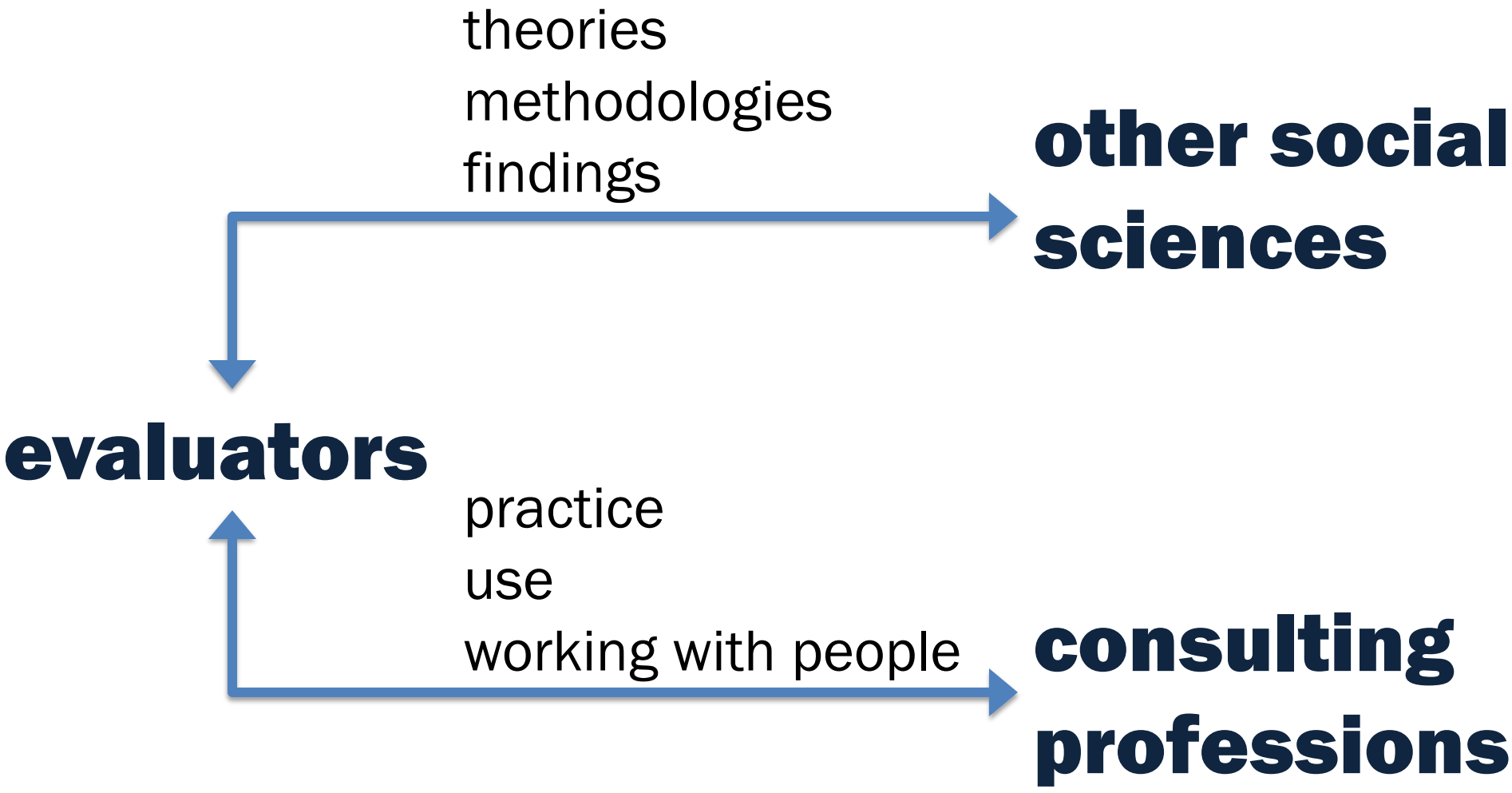
COMPETITORS or ALLIES?

Ethnocentrism of disciplines

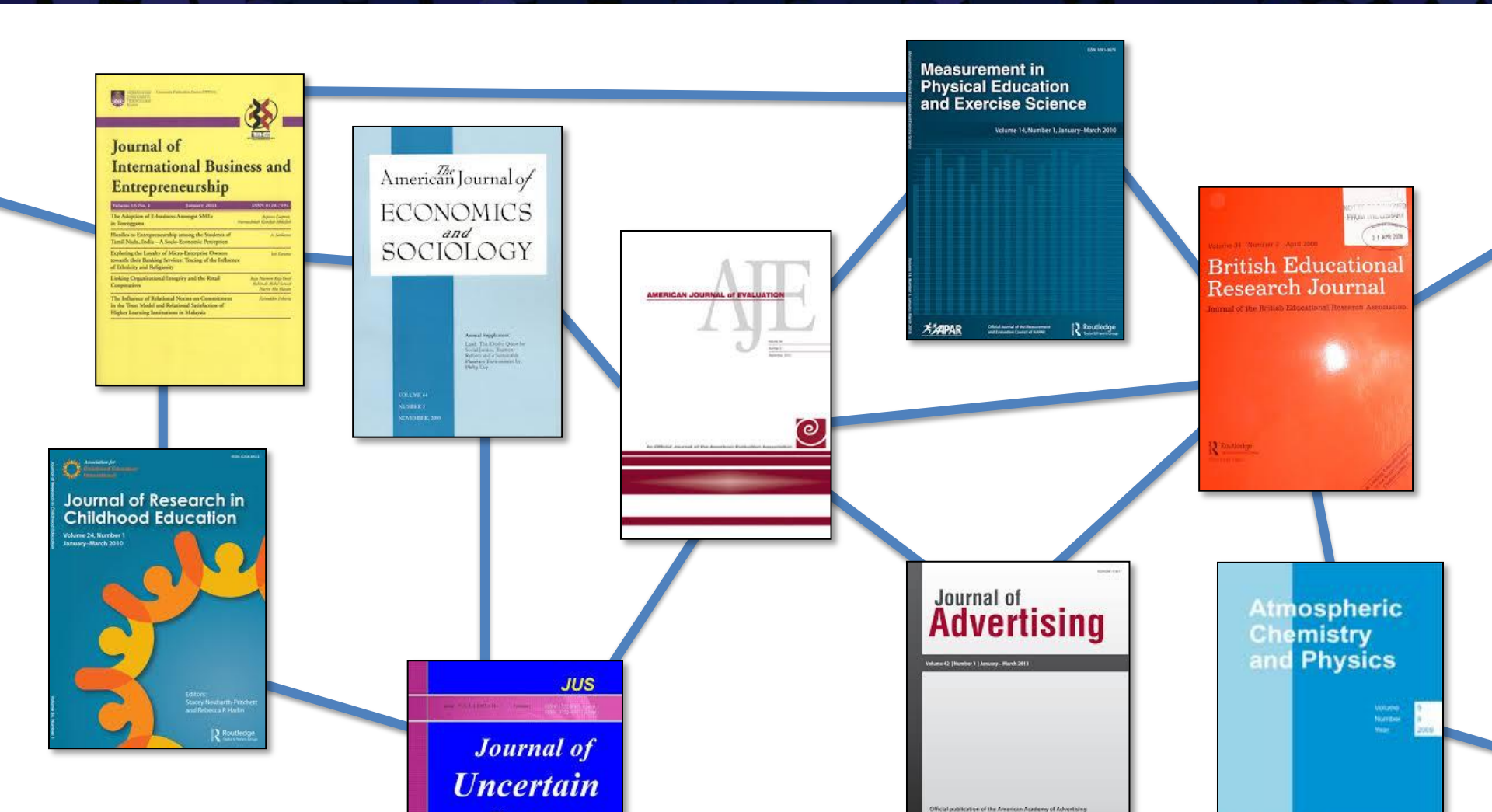
Campbell's

Fish scale model

WHAT Do We Share & Learn?



HOW Do We Learn & Share?



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