



Indigenous Evaluations

EVALUATION ADVISORY PANEL OF IOE
Seminar Series

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Decolonizing paradigm



Relational thought



Internationalization



Engagement

The issue



Indigenous evaluation draws our attention to the power-based nature of the discipline. Evaluation is an exercise of power and has a tendency to use the power irresponsibly. Euro-Western thought, research and evaluation paradigms continue to dominate the minds, visions and practices of evaluation, prioritizing northern approaches and donor-driven practices and thus threatening quality. The formerly colonized peoples of Africa, Asia, Indigenous peoples of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, USA are questioning the role of evaluation as a transformative justice tool that can enable the attainment of the SDGs and make the development initiatives effective.



The status quo

It is time for the internationalization of indigenous evaluation and its use in monitoring and evaluation. Indigenous evaluation is not about a people but about a thought that moves away from Desecrates' s thought of 'I am therefore I am' to African Ubuntu philosophy of 'I am therefore we are' and other indigenous relational thoughts. It is not about indigenous traditions and methods that can only be understood by the Southerners, formerly colonized, but about a decolonizing paradigm whose ontologies, epistemologies and methodologies can be learnt and utilized and resources provided for further development and testing of innovative techniques and practices.

The horizon

In country led evaluation, IFAD can engage with Southern evaluation knowledge systems, learn from promising practices around the globe, engage in evaluation capacity development that build evaluation practice and pilot indigenous methods of evaluation; apply indigenous evaluation guidelines to its practice, partner with VOPES and prioritize evaluators with cultural knowledge, skills and competencies.

Literature

- Chilisa, B. (2020) Indigenous Research Methods. Thousand Oaks, SAGE (USA) [\[here\]](#)
- Chilisa B., & Mertens D (2021) Indigenous Made in Africa evaluation frameworks: Addressing Epistemic violence and contributing to social transformation, American Journal of Evaluation, vol 42 (2) 241-253 [\[here\]](#)
- Piccio R. (2020) The Complexity of Indigenous Evaluation, Evaluation Matters, 6. New Zealand Council for Educational Research [\[here\]](#)
- Held M. (2019) Decolonizing Research Paradigms in the Context of Settler Economy: An Unsettling Mutual and Collaborative Effort. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 18, 1-16 [\[here\]](#)