



Evaluation in Action: Interviews With Expert Evaluators

By Jody L. Fitzpatrick, Christina A. Christie, Melvin M Mark

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Evaluation in Action: Interviews With Expert Evaluators is the first book to go behind the scenes of real evaluations to explore the issues faced and the decisions made by notable evaluators in the field. Drawing from the popular "Exemplars" section in the *American Journal of Evaluation (AJE)*, the book's twelve interviews with evaluators illustrate a variety of evaluation practices in different settings and include commentary and analysis on what the interviews teach about evaluation practice.

Praise for Evaluation in Action

Evaluation in Action: Interviews With Expert Evaluators is a "must" read for those who want to know how evaluations really take place.
?Marvin C. Alkin, *University of California, Los Angeles*

This book offers a rare opportunity to glimpse the assumptions, values, logic, and reasoning behind evaluator choices. It models the reflection required of good practice. The interviews are accessible and engaging, like being invited to a conversation over coffee?a tribute to the power of storytelling. They drew me in and made me want to join the discussion and ask even more questions. The section on cultural competence in evaluation is a particularly significant contribution to the knowledge base of our field.

?Karen Kirkhart, *Syracuse University, former President of American Evaluation Association*

This book is unique in the breadth of evaluation types and settings covered and the interview format provides a personal, in-depth picture of the evaluator's thinking. I'm excited about using it with my students.
?Katy Perry, *Oklahoma State University, former Chair of the Topical*

Interest Group on Teaching of Evaluation

This book fills a major gap in evaluation literature. In addition to the cases, the introductory chapter is a masterful distillation of key issues in evaluation, while the last two chapters provide a concise analysis of the interaction of evaluation theory and practice.

?Leslie Cooksy, *University of Delaware*

"A fresh and insightful glimpse into the deliberations and choices made by practicing evaluators. The questions asked of the evaluators are right on target and give students of evaluation, whether they are in the classroom or on the job, solid guidance on navigating around the dilemmas that arise when dealing with stakeholders and with sticky ethical challenges. This text fills a need in training evaluators not met by current textbooks."

?Kathryn E. Newcomer, *George Washington University*

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Editorial Review

Review

"A timely introduction to how evaluators go about the business of evaluation. Evaluation in Action will be useful for evaluators at all stages, experienced and new, and for students." (Carol J. Evans 2009-08-13)

"As one of the few collections of evaluator applied reasoning and practical insights, this volume is a useful resource for students, practitioners, and theorists/methodologists who want to better understand how evaluators think in practice and make decisions; how flow of work and events arising in the field shape the nature and use of evaluation theory, method, and practice." (Leigh M. Tolley and Nick L. Smith *The Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation* 2011-01-01)

About the Author

Jody L. Fitzpatrick is Director of the Master's in Public Administration Program and an Associate Professor with the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver. She is the author of *Program Evaluation: Alternative Approaches and Practical Guidelines* (Third Edition, Pearson, 2004; with James Sanders and Blaine Worthen). Dr. Fitzpatrick's interests include evaluation practice, ethics, and education policy. Dr. Fitzpatrick has many years of experience conducting evaluations, first as an internal evaluator in Appalachia and New York and then as an external evaluator in a variety of settings. She has published in *Evaluation Review*, *American Journal of Evaluation*, and *New Directions for Evaluation* and has served on the Board of the American Evaluation Association and as Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Evaluation*.

Christina A. Christie is a Professor and Head of the Social Research Methodology Division in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at University of California, Los Angeles. Christie specializes in educational and social policy and program evaluation. Her research focuses on the factors and conditions that influence evaluation practice in an effort to strengthen our understanding of evaluation as a method for facilitating social change. She has published extensively and her work appears in journals such as *American Journal of Evaluation*, *Children and Youth Services Review*, *Evaluation and Program Planning*, *Studies in Educational Evaluation* and *Teachers College Record*. Christie has served on the board of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) and is the former Chair of the Theories of Evaluation Division and the Research on Evaluation Division of AEA. Currently, she is an Associate Editor for the *American Journal of Evaluation*.

Melvin M. Mark is professor of psychology at the Pennsylvania State University, where he also is Head of the Department of Psychology. He has served as President of the American Evaluation Association (AEA). He was Editor of the *American Journal of Evaluation* (and is now Editor Emeritus). A social psychologist, Dr. Mark has wide ranging interests related to the theory, methodology and practice of evaluation, as well as a general interest in the application of social psychology to evaluation and applied social research. Dr. Mark's awards include the American Evaluation Association's Lazarsfeld Award for Contributions to Evaluation Theory. He is author of more than 125 articles and chapters in books. Among his books are

Evaluation: An integrated framework for understanding, guiding, and improving policies and programs and the co-edited volumes *Social Science and Social Policy*; *SAGE Handbook of Evaluation*; *What Counts as Credible Evidence in Applied Research and Evaluation Practice*; *Evaluation in Action: Interviews with Expert Evaluators*; and *Social Psychology and Evaluation*.

Users Review

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Victor Elam:

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