

National Evaluation Capacities 2017

Pre-conference workshop

Technology to Enhance Applied Research & Evaluation

Facilitator: Tarek Azzam PhD, is Director of The Evaluators' Institute and Associate Professor at the Division of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences, Claremont Graduate University. Azzam's research focuses on developing new methods suited for real world evaluations. These methods attempt to address some of the logistical, political, and technical challenges that evaluators commonly face in practice. His work aims to improve the rigor and credibility of evaluations and increase its potential impact on programs and policies. Azzam has also been involved in multiple projects that have included the evaluation of student retention programs at the university level, Science Technology Engineering Math education programs, children's health programs, and international development efforts for the Rockefeller and Packard Foundations.



Workshop Overview

This workshop will focus on a range of new technological tools and examine how they can be used to improve applied research and program evaluations. Specifically, we will explore the application of free or inexpensive software to engage clients and a range of stakeholders, collect research and evaluation data, formulate and prioritize research and evaluation questions, express and assess logic models and theories of change, track program implementation, provide continuous improvement feedback, determine program outcomes/impact, and to present data and findings. Participants will be given information on how to access tools such as Crowdsourcing, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), data visualization, and interactive conceptual framing software to improve the quality of their applied research and evaluation projects.

Outline

- Brief Introductions
- Roles of Technology in Evaluation

- Interactive Conceptual Models Part I
- Break
- Interactive Conceptual Models Part II
- Geographic Information Systems
- Lunch
- Effective Data Visualization
- Break
- Crowdsourcing in Evaluation
- Questions