

In This Issue

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Welcome to the first issue of the *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation* (JMDE) for 2009, which marks our sixth year of publication. Not too bad for an online journal with no financial resources! With this issue, we are delighted to welcome the newest member of our editorial team, Lori Wingate. Lori is the book review section editor for the *American Journal of Evaluation* and a doctoral candidate in Western Michigan University's Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation program. She has been a staff member at The Evaluation Center for almost a dozen years and has worked closely with many of the field's luminaries, including E. Jane Davidson, Arlen Gullickson, James Sanders, Michael Scriven, and Daniel Stufflebeam. Lori's official role on the JMDE editorial staff is as its copy editor and she was brought on to assist with assuring that papers published in JMDE meet the highest standards of quality. In this role, Lori will work directly with authors whose papers have undergone peer review and been accepted for publication to improve the formatting, style, clarity, and accuracy of their manuscripts. Please join me in welcoming Lori.

In this first issue of 2009, we have a special section devoted to *The Theory, Method, and Practice of Metaevaluation*—the evaluation of evaluations. Michael Scriven, originator of the term metaevaluation (1969),¹ precludes the special

¹ Scriven, M. (1969). An introduction to meta-evaluation. *Educational Products Report*, 2, 36-38.

section with his editorial titled “Metaevaluation Revisited” (most of which was written prior to his reading of the papers that follow). Here, he outlines his current thinking on what metaevaluation is, how it is justified, and when and how should it be used. In addition to Scriven's editorial, three papers appear in our special section on metaevaluation. The first of these is Leslie Cooksy and Valerie Caracelli's “Metaevaluation in Practice: Selection and Application of Criteria.” In this paper, the authors report on their findings from an analysis of eighteen metaevaluations. From this analysis, they conclude that the field does not have a shared understanding of metaevaluation. Next, Enrique Reboloso Pacheco, Baltasar Fernández-Ramírez, and Pilar Andrés present their metaevaluation of the self-evaluation stage of an evaluation process in higher education in Spain in their paper titled “Quality Criteria for Self-Evaluation in Higher Education.” Rounding out this special section is Monica Oliver's paper “Metaevaluation as a Means of Examining Evaluation Influence.” Monica explores, from a metaevaluative perspective, how and in what ways evaluations influence the organizations and broader policy arenas in which they are conducted.

In the *Articles* section, the first paper comes from Rocco John Perla and James Carifio. They present their argument for a general and unified view of educational research and evaluation. Then, Tim Stegmann uses the increasingly popular propensity-score-matching technique to

estimate causal effects in his study of an active labor market program in Germany. In the final article in this section, J. Bradley Cousins, Jim Cullen, Sumbal Malik, and Brigitte Maicher provide a reflective account of a consultation process on professional designations initiated by the Canadian Evaluation Society.

In *Practical Ethics for Program Evaluation*, Risto Huotari discusses ethical issues in agency evaluation from the viewpoint of activity theory. In our popular *Ideas to Consider* section, Lindsay Noakes makes a strong case for extending Michael Patton's utilization-focused evaluation to the evaluation of teachers. Then, in *Global Review: Regions*, Rubén Arriazu presents his study of the historical development of an evaluation culture in Spain using a biographical method. William Wiersma reviews Daniel Stufflebeam and Anthony Shinkfield's recently published *Evaluation Theory, Models, & Applications* in our *Book Reviews* section.

Two *Comments* round out this issue. First, Murray Rudd comments on and responds to Scriven's "The Economist's Fallacy," published in the ninth issue of JMDE. Then, Hellmut Eggers presents some comments and proposals concerning Thomaz Chianca's paper, "The OECD/DAC Criteria for International Development Evaluations: An Assessment and Ideas for Improvement," which also appeared in the ninth issue of JMDE.

As always, we welcome your comments on any matters related to JMDE. I may be reached at chris.coryn@wmich.edu.

—Chris L. S. Coryn, *Managing Editor*