

CALL FOR PAPERS

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG SCHOOL OF HUMAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITS PROGRAMME EVALUATION GROUP

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON METHODOLOGY IN PROGRAMME EVALUATION

April 7th to 9th 2010.

<http://wpeg.wits.ac.za>

Honorary Chair: Professor Norman Duncan (Head: School of Human and Community Development)

Programme Committee Chair: Professor Charles Potter (Psychology)

Conference Chair: Professor Ray Basson (Education)

Pre-conference Workshop Chair: Adilia Silva PhD (Psychology)

Reviewing Committee Chair: Enid Schutte (Psychology)

Adviser Quantitative Methods: Professor Peter Fridjhon (Head: School of Statistics and Actuarial Sciences) **Adviser Qualitative Methods:** Professor Ruksana Osman (Head: School of Education)

Technical Adviser: Brett Bowman PhD (Senior Researcher: School of Human and Community Development)

Webmaster: Gregg Ravenscroft (PhonicInventories.com, working in association with Webmaster@wits.ac.za)

Overall Conference Theme

International Trends in Programme Evaluation Methodology.

Conference Aims

The School of Human and Community Development at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) aims to bring together contributions from programme evaluation theorists and practitioners working in both developed and developing country contexts.

The virtual conference focuses on the following general areas as relevant to the development of common approaches to programme evaluation internationally:

- Theory and paradigms of programme evaluation
- Programme evaluation methodology
- Teaching, training and instruction in programme evaluation
- Applications of programme evaluation theory and models, and the practice of programme evaluation.

Conference Specific Themes

In addition to contributions in the general areas above, the conference aims to attract contributions focused on the following areas relevant to the development and

evaluation of social and educational development programmes in the developed and developing world:

- Programme Evaluation and Programme Development in Developed and Developing World Contexts
- Internationalisation of Programme Evaluation
- Programme Evaluation Methodologies Applicable in Developed and Developing World Contexts
- Programme Evaluation and Social Development in Developed and Developing World Contexts
- Programme Evaluation and Socio-Political Development in Developed and Developing World
- Programme Evaluation and Democracy
- Cross-cultural and Inter-cultural Applications of Programme Evaluation Methodologies
- Teaching Programme Evaluation to Multicultural Audiences
- Training Programme Evaluators in Multicultural Contexts
- Applications of Indigenous or Local Knowledge in Programme Evaluation
- Applications of Indigenous Practices in Programme Evaluation.

South Africa is a multicultural, multi-lingual, multi-ethnic and diverse country socio-politically, socio-economically and educationally. The conference will be organised by the Wits Programme Evaluation

Group in Johannesburg, and will use the internet to attract a variety of general conference contributions as well as contributions in the above areas.

The refereed conference proceedings will form the record of the conference. In putting together the conference proceedings, the programme committee will attempt to demonstrate commonalities as well as differences in the field of programme evaluation as theorized, conceptualized, applied and taught internationally.

Ways of Participation

The conference is a virtual conference, hosted on the internet. It focuses on contributions in electronic format of three kinds:

- Papers on programme evaluation theory and/or methodology. These should be written and presented in such a way as to be useful to others on both conceptual and/or methodological levels.
- Workshop materials in the form of PowerPoint presentations supported by written handouts. These should be written and presented in such a way as to be useful to others who teach programme evaluation, for teaching, training and/or instructional purposes.
- Short case studies of completed evaluations. These should be written and presented in such a way as to be useful to others in documenting applications and the practice of programme evaluation, as applied in specific local, national or international contexts.

To participate in the conference, draft contributions and abstracts relative to these three types of contribution need to be uploaded to the conference website between **April 7th and 9th, 2010**.

Information on deadlines relative to the timing of different stages in the conference upload and reviewing process is provided below. Additional information, instructions for authors and reviewers, and templates, are provided on the conference website at the following address:

<http://wpeg.wits.ac.za>

Programme Committee

The Programme Committee is drawn from members of Wits' Programme Evaluation Group, which is a network of persons who have taught or been taught programme evaluation either through courses taught in the School of Human and Community Development or in the School of Education at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

The programme committee will be involved in the appraisal of contributions for the refereed conference proceedings, and will be supplemented by a number of reviewers through its reviewing committee. A combination of non-blind review and appraisal will be used to determine which of the conference contributions warrant being included in the proceedings. The names of the committee as well as additional reviewers who contribute to the conference process will form part of the record of the conference.

Language of the Conference and Participation

The participation of researchers, practitioners lecturers, trainers and students of programme evaluation is encouraged. The conference aims to attract a variety of types of contribution relative to the skills of these different interest groups.

The language of the conference is English. Participation in the conference is through electronic conference submissions. The programme committee would like to encourage participation from persons working in the programme evaluation field both in specific local and national country contexts, as well as more generally internationally.

Types of Submissions Accepted

1. Papers

- **Research** papers (between 4000 and 6000 words), focused on conceptualisation and/or methodological application of theory and paradigms of programme evaluation.
- **Review** papers (between 4000 and 6000 words), focused on reviews of theoretical contributions and/or methodological applications of theory and paradigms of programme evaluation, illustrating conceptualisations and/or methodological applications in the field.
- **Position** papers (between 4000 and 6000 words), focused on issues relating to conceptualisation and/or methodological application of theories and paradigms of programme evaluation, or standpoint research illustrating applications of programme evaluation theories and paradigms.

2. **Workshop materials** in the form of PowerPoint presentations (between 12 and 20 powerpoint slides) supported by written handouts (between 2000 and 3000 words), presented in such a way as to be useful to others for teaching, training and/or instructional purposes.

3. Case Studies

- **Case studies:** case studies of completed evaluations (between 2000 and 4000 words), illustrating methodological applications.
- **Reports:** technical reports on completed evaluations (between 2000 and 4000 words), illustrating methodological applications.
- **Work in progress** short reports (between 2000 and 4000 words), illustrating particular evaluation designs or work in progress on programme evaluations, or illustrating methodological applications in programme evaluations in process.

Stages in Conference Participation, and Deadlines

Participation in the conference will involve submission and refereeing of electronic contributions in five stages:

Stage One: Submission of Draft Contributions and Abstracts

The virtual conference takes place **between 8.30 am South African time (Greenwich time minus two hours) on April 7th 2010, and 5.30 pm South African time (Greenwich time minus two hours) on April 9th 2010**. Over this period, contributors to the conference will need to complete the upload of their papers (4000-6000 words), workshop materials in PowerPoint supported by written materials (2000-3000 words), or case studies (2000-4000 words), in English.

This will need to be done using the Stage One upload form, which can be downloaded from the conference website, at

<http://wpeg.wits.ac.za>

Contributors may upload more than one contribution. Each of the contributions will need to be accompanied by a **200 word abstract** in English. For each contribution, the contributor will be asked to nominate two reviewers, and to provide their email addresses.

Conference Fee

There will be a registration fee of R250-00 (payable in South African rands -- prevailing US dollar equivalent likely to be +/- 30 dollars) for each contribution made to the conference. This will be requested at time of upload at Stage One.

Payment of the registration fee will entitle the author(s) of each contribution to the display of the abstract on the conference website, to participation in the conference review and appraisal process, and to an electronic copy of the refereed conference proceedings, which will be made available for

download from the conference website after the review process has been completed.

Guidelines for Authors

For further information on required formats for contributions, prospective participants are referred to the separate Guidelines for Authors and Reviewers, which are available on the conference website, at

<http://wpeg.wits.ac.za>

Deadlines will be adhered to, and late contributions will not be accepted. Participants will be able to upload draft contributions and abstracts only between:

8.30 am South African time (Greenwich time minus two hours) **on April 7th**, when the virtual conference starts; and

5.30 pm South African time (Greenwich time minus two hours) **on April 9th 2010**, when the virtual conference ends.

Stage Two: Display of Abstracts and Completion of Reviews

After the conference ends on April 9th, the abstracts will be displayed on the conference website between **April 16th and May 31st 2010**, as a record of all contributions made at the conference. Over this period, each contribution made at the conference will also be reviewed by a combination of blind and non-blind review and appraisal.

The reviews will be conducted by the two reviewers nominated by participants in the conference. These reviews will be supplemented by committee appraisal.

Deadline for Receipt of Reviews

The deadline for submissions by reviewers is not later than **5.30 pm South African time** (Greenwich time minus two hours) **on May 31st 2010**. Reviews received by this cut-off time on this date will be included in the committee appraisal process.

Stage Three: Notification of Acceptance or Non-Acceptance of Contributions for the Refereed Conference Proceedings

The review committee process will be based on the reviews submitted for each contribution, as well as appraisal by at least two committee members. The process of combining reviews and appraisals will be completed by **June 30th, 2010**. Decisions concerning acceptance or non-acceptance for the refereed conference proceedings will be made at this point, and notifications of acceptance sent out.

In combining reviews and appraisals of contributions, the programme committee will attempt to work as

fairly as possible. However, reviews not received by the deadline of May 31st 2010 will not be included in the decision-making process.

Once the programme committee's decision as to acceptance or non-acceptance of a particular contribution for the refereed conference proceedings has been made, this decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into with authors on reasons for acceptance or non-acceptance of any contribution.

Stage Four: Upload of Camera-ready Contributions to Refereed Conference Proceedings

Once notifications of acceptance have been received, participants will need to prepare and then upload **final, camera-ready versions of accepted papers, workshop materials and case studies, plus abstracts** to the conference website. Upload will need to be made on or before **5.30 p.m. South African time** (Greenwich time minus two hours) on **July 31st, 2010**.

Upload to the conference website will need to be made in pdf format, by this cut-off time on this date.

The programme committee would like to stress that deadlines for upload will be adhered to. Contributions which are not uploaded to the conference website on or before 5.30 p.m. South African time (Greenwich time minus two hours) on July 31st, 2010 in pdf format will not be accepted for the refereed conference proceedings.

Stage Five: Compiling and Sending out of Refereed Conference Proceedings

The refereed conference proceedings will be compiled by the editors. The electronic file or files containing the conference proceedings will then be made available for download by **September 30th 2010**, on the conference website at

<http://wpeg.wits.ac.za>

It is important to note that the refereed conference proceedings will be made available for download to conference participants as an electronic file or files, and not as a hard copy. Hard copies of the refereed conference proceedings will subsequently be made available for purchase, through Amazon.com. The costs involved in purchasing a hard copy of the refereed conference proceedings are not included in the conference fee.

The refereed conference proceedings will be published by the Wits Programme Evaluation Group, under the editorship of the programme committee chair (Charles Potter), the conference chair (Ray Basson), the pre-conference workshop chair (Adilia Silva), and the reviews committee chair (Enid Schutte). The conference proceedings will be downloadable from the

conference website between **September 30th and December 31st 2010**.

Stage Six: Availability of Refereed Conference Proceedings

The programme committee will work towards making the refereed conference proceedings available by **5.30 p.m. South African time** (Greenwich time minus two hours) on **September 30th 2010**. After this date, the conference proceedings will be downloadable as an electronic file or files from the conference website between **September 30th and December 31st 2010**.

Thereafter, all documents relating to contributions made to the conference will be cleared from the conference website and archived.

Book on Programme Evaluation in South Africa

Once the refereed conference proceedings have been published, the programme committee also intends publishing a book on Methodology of Programme Evaluation in South Africa. The focus of the book will lie on internationalisation of programme evaluation methods and approaches, and will be based on both national and international contributions as well as South African exemplars.

The programme committee will approach those authors who have made contributions of outstanding quality and relevance, to contribute these to the book, which will be published by the Wits Programme Evaluation Group, under the editorship of the programme committee chair (Charles Potter) and the conference chair (Ray Basson). This will be made available in both electronic format, as well as in hard copy through Amazon.com.

The costs involved in purchasing either an electronic or a hard copy of the book are not included in the conference fee.

Conference Fee

The level of the conference fee has been set so as to create maximum likelihood of attracting contributions from researchers, practitioners, lecturers, trainers and students of programme evaluation living and working in both developed and developing world contexts. For this reason, there is only one conference fee per contribution. This is payable at time of upload of draft contributions, between April 7th and 9th 2010.

The fee has been set at R250-00 per contribution. This amount is payable in South African rands (prevailing US dollar equivalent likely to be +/- 30 US dollars) by credit card at time of upload of each contribution. Only those contributions on which fees are received and cleared will be included in the review process.

There will be no additional fees for those contributions accepted to the refereed conference proceedings, or for any contributions included in the book on methodology of programme evaluation in South Africa.

The conference fee entitles the author(s) of each contribution to the display of the abstract on the conference website, to participation in the conference review and appraisal process, and to download the electronic copy of the refereed conference proceedings once these become available. It does not entitle authors of contributions to a hard copy of the conference proceedings or to an electronic or hard copy of the book on programme evaluation in South Africa. These will need to be purchased separately.

Student and Young Researcher Discounts

There are no discounts or reduced fees for students. However, a number of full-time students and young researchers (maximum fifty) will be invited to participate in a pre-conference workshop run by members of the Wits Programme Evaluation Group.

The pre-conference workshop aims to bring together those new to the field with an interest in programme evaluation research, as well as teaching and learning about programme evaluation. It is aimed at current students, past students and teaching staff.

The workshop will involve pairing participants with a developmental editor over a four month period between October 2009 and February 2010. During this time, developmental feedback will be given by editors and worked upon by participants.

Participants can initially present draft contributions (papers, case studies and teaching or workshop materials) as well as Powerpoint presentations, or a combination of these. As one of the best ways to learn about programme evaluation is through case studies, participants will also be encouraged to present completed programme evaluations or work in progress, or their draft evaluation designs, as the departure point for work with their developmental editors.

After editorial feedback, contributions presented at the pre-conference workshop will be revised. Abstracts will then be uploaded to the conference website. The revised contributions will also be uploaded, and will be subject to a similar process of review to other submissions to the virtual conference.

Being new to the field, participants in the pre-conference workshop will pay a nominal fee of R100-00 (payable in South African rands -- prevailing US dollar equivalent likely to be +/- 12 US dollars). This will entitle these participants not only to participation

in the pre-conference workshop, but also to subsequent display of abstracts on the conference website, to participation in the review and appraisal process pertaining to the virtual conference, and to download the electronic copy of the refereed conference proceedings once these become available.

Participation in the pre-conference workshop will be by invitation from the programme committee only. Acceptance will be on a first come first served basis (maximum of fifty participants).

Details can be obtained from the Chair of the Programme Committee, Professor Charles Potter (email: charles.potter@wits.ac.za), or from the Conference Chair, Professor Ray Basson (email: raymond.basson@wits.ac.za), or from the Chair of the pre-conference workshop, Dr Adilia Silva (email: adilia.silva@wits.ac.za).

Membership of the Programme Evaluation Group

The Wits Programme Evaluation Group is a network of persons who have taught courses in programme evaluation at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, or who have studied programme evaluation at post-graduate level at the university.

One aim of the conference is to build this network. Authors of contributions accepted for the refereed conference proceedings will be placed on the Wits Programme Evaluation Group's mailing list, unless they specify that they do not want this.

Authors of accepted contributions will also be asked if they wish to be included in the mailing list at time of upload at Stage Four (i.e. on or before the camera-ready deadline of 5.30 p.m. South African time on July 31st, 2010).

Copyright and Disclaimers

Authors will be asked to certify at time of upload that their contributions do not contain any information which is copyright protected, ethically inappropriate or offensive to individuals or organisations, or which might violate the intellectual property rights of others. Authors will also be asked to state that they take personal responsibility concerning any possible breach of copyright or intellectual property rights in material submitted to the conference.

Though reasonable care can be taken in reviewing and appraising contributions that material presented by contributors is of a good standard, it will not be possible to check for originality of contributions as part of the reviewing and appraisal process. For this reason, the programme committee and the University of the Witwatersrand take no responsibility for any violation of copyright or intellectual property rights in

material published on this website as part of the conference process or as part of the refereed conference proceedings.

These disclaimers are made on the basis that certification will be provided by individual contributors at time of upload, that they take personal responsibility that any material made available by them on this website as part of the conference or as part of the refereed conference proceedings is not copyright protected, ethically inappropriate or offensive to individuals or organisations, or in violation of the intellectual property rights of others, either within South Africa (where the virtual conference is being hosted), or internationally.

**Charles Potter PhD
Programme Committee Chair**

**Ray Basson PhD
Conference Chair**

**On behalf of the Programme Committee and the
Wits Programme Evaluation Group, University of
the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg**

August 2009

References:

Kaplan, D. (2005). OPINION: How to Improve Peer Review at NIH: A revamped process will engender innovative research. *Scientist*. Philadelphia, PA: Institute for Scientific Information.

Whitley, R. and Glaser, J. (Eds.) (2007). *The changing governance of the sciences: The advent of research evaluation*. Springer: Dordrecht.