



**How does Evaluation rise to the
challenge of competing issues,
crisis and uncertainty?**

Call For Abstracts

UK Evaluation Society Annual Conference 2023

October 3rd – 5th 2023

October 3rd – Online

October 4th and 5th in-person, Central London



How does Evaluation rise to the challenge of competing issues, crisis and uncertainty?

Societies locally, nationally and globally are experiencing multiple and interconnected impacts from war, political instability, the energy crisis, pandemics, financial instability and both a climate and planet emergency. As a result, policy and decision-makers are grappling with increasingly complex and overlapping systems and need timely, relevant and accessible information to meet these challenges.

The evaluation profession, which spans multiple sectors and disciplines, is well placed, and already generating a wealth of evidence, to find appropriate and innovative solutions to support the meeting of these challenges. Given the urgency and significance of this work, we have chosen to reflect the role of the evaluator, evaluation commissioners, and those working across the field of evaluation, in responding to these challenges as the focus for our 2023 Conference.

Evaluators work in and across a range of professional backgrounds and academic disciplines and have a wealth of different experiences and approaches to share. We therefore seek to use the UK Evaluation Society Conference 2023 to showcase and share experience and knowledge of how the evaluation profession is adapting to support competing issues, crisis and uncertainty.

UK
- Evaluation
Society

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Call for Abstracts

The Conference welcomes abstracts which relate to the main theme, in the following four areas: Transdisciplinary evaluation approaches, Ethics for Evaluation, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in evaluative practice, Innovative evaluation methods to address competing challenges, crises and uncertainty and How evaluation is taught and learned to meet challenges in an uncertain environment.

1

Transdisciplinary evaluation approaches

The context: UK Evaluation Society supports evaluators, commissioners, evaluation managers and those working widely in the field of evaluation, in their endeavour to deliver high quality evaluations. Complex system challenges involve multiple sectors rather than isolated problems within discipline silos.

The ask: We invite case studies and evaluations which address the intersection between social, health, environment and wider policy domains. Evaluations in progress are welcome where they demonstrate an approach rather than outcomes. Exploratory evaluation proposals will also be considered.

2

Ethics for Evaluation, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in evaluative practice

The context: Evaluative practice involves engaging with ethical dilemmas eg in the collection of data, use of data, bearing witness during the course of an evaluation.

The ask: We welcome case studies/examples of ethical dilemmas and how they were handled.

The context: Throughout the process of designing and conducting an evaluation and across all sectors, robust evaluative practice needs to embrace, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Pro-active and deliberate strategies are sought which demonstrate how to facilitate embedding of EDI to ensure representative and meaningful engagement.

The ask: We seek case studies which go beyond the sufficient, such as meeting legal requirements, but for example might explore, how EDI was brought into policy of evaluation commissioning, examples of evaluation using co-creation strategies, or how EDI has been implemented into your personal evaluative practice.

3

Innovative evaluation methods to address competing challenges, crises and uncertainty

The context: In order to respond to emergent challenges arising locally, nationally and globally and to provide time sensitive and relevant knowledge to evaluation commissioners, there is increasing demand for evaluation methods to evolve and adapt.

The ask: We welcome examples of evaluations using novel approaches in analysis, and in data collection eg digital approaches, examples of 'rapid' evaluations and adaptations of standard methods both qualitative and quantitative, to demonstrate novel application to meet prevailing challenges across all sectors.

4

How evaluation is taught and learned to meet challenges in an uncertain environment, and the impact on the wider evaluation industry/sector/field

The context: Given the diverse professional backgrounds of those working in the field of evaluation, there are many different ways and levels of learning evaluative practice.

The ask: At an individual level, we welcome examples of how you are continuously learning, and what type(s) of learning has worked for you. We are particularly interested to hear from those in their early career or who have changed to evaluation mid-career, and those working in different contexts eg government departments, academia, NGOs, consultancy. At an organisational level we welcome experience and views around ensuring professional standards. At the level of the profession and the overall evaluation industry, we welcome experiences, views and insights.



Within all these four areas, we particularly encourage submissions which:

- Represent transdisciplinary evaluations dealing with competing issues, interconnecting systems and fast moving situations
- Consider approaches used, or the policy impact of findings, of major national level evaluations

We are open to contributions from a wide range of fields and sectors, with named presenters from civil society, government, academia, students, the private sector... from within the UK, or any part of the world. The Conference is a great opportunity to share your work/evaluation interests, get feedback and hear what others are doing.

Please submit your abstract using the links at the end of this document.

Note that sessions on October 3rd will only be online, the rest of the Conference will take place in-person on October 4th and 5th at a venue in central London.

Criteria for submission

Please ensure your abstract:

- Demonstrates relevance to the Conference theme, and a sub-theme
- Furthers evaluative practice and makes a contribution to the field
- Provides original and innovative content
- Identifies any ethical angle, and/or relevance in terms of EDI

Submission review criteria

Abstracts which follow the submission criteria will be selected on the basis of the following quality criteria:

- Demonstrates how the proposed session will appeal to the Conference audience
- Demonstrates relevance to the type of session selected and provides audience interaction
- Is concise and coherent with a clear focus and structured under headings

If your abstract is selected, UKES will seek agreement to the following from each presenter and chair, prior to the session being allocated a conference slot:

- Register and pay fees to attend the UK Evaluation Society Conference, by June 30th 2023 at the latest.
- Permit slides, and recording of the session at the Conference (if scheduled online, or in the main hall on in-person days) to be shared with Delegates for a limited time after the event.

Poster Submissions

We welcome poster displays outlining an evaluation project or case study which falls under one of the four sub-themes of the Conference. Posters will be displayed in a dedicated space at the in-person conference venue. Please provide an abstract with a brief overview.



**Abstract
Submission
Form**

**Closing date for abstract
submissions: Wednesday 15th
March 2023 at 1700 hrs GMT.**



**Poster
Submission
Form**

**Closing date for Poster
submissions: July 31st 2023
at 1700 hrs GMT.**

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