Program Theory Driven Evaluation Science

Theory-Driven EvaluationsTheory-Driven EvaluationsIntroduction to Theory-Driven Program EvaluationProgram Theory-Driven Evaluation ScienceFoundations of Program EvaluationPractical Program EvaluationAdvances in Mixed-Method Evaluation: The Challenges and Benefits of Integrating Diverse ParadigmsThe Practice-Theory Relationship in EvaluationTheory-driven EvaluationsTheorists' Models in ActionUsing Theory to Improve Program and Policy EvaluationsProgram Theory in Evaluation Challenges and OpportunitiesAdventure-based Professional DevelopmentAn Evaluation of the Backgrounds, Beliefs and Attitudes of Think Detroit PAL Volunteer Youth Sports CoachesChanges in Couples' Perceptions of Intimacy and Sexuality and Meanings of SexJournal of Applied Rehabilitation CounselingOutcome-based EvaluationAn Evaluation of a Specialized Dual Disorder Treatment for Persons with Mental Illness and Substance UseNew Approaches to Evaluating Community Initiatives: Theory, measurement, and analysisSubstance Abuse Prevention Programs for Children Huey T. Chen Huey T. Chen Stewart I. Donaldson Stewart I. Donaldson William R. Shadish Huey T. Chen Jennifer C. Greene Christina A. Christie Huey-Tsyh Chen Marvin Alkin Huey-tsyh Chen Patricia J. Rogers Darl Gurney Kolb Kristen Murray Wendy S. Whelihan Robert L. Schalock Bonnie Josephine BootsMiller Aspen Institute. Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives for Children and Families June Pressly Mead

with the publication of theory driven evaluations huey tsyh chen has given us an ambitious volume indeed it is the aspiration of this book to provide a conceptual framework that integrates the diverse approaches and paradigms of evaluation for those of us accustomed to the rhetoric

of the paradigm wars that have been raging in recent years it is refreshing to find a text that works so assiduously at reconciliation there is much that is useful in chen s analysis he gives us a full and thoughtful book that attempts no less than the construction of a conceptual framework for all of program evaluation it provides an impressive compendium of source material and references spanning not only evaluation but related work in economics and public policy this alone is worth the price of the book chen s theory driven evaluations provides a stimulating even heroic attempt to bring some conceptual integration to a field that has been too long dominated by methodological paradigms and procedural particulars a prepublication review for evaluation and program planning generous use of examples which are well selected and lucidly summarized contemporary sociology chen introduces a new comprehensive framework for program evaluation that is designed to bridge the gap between method and theory oriented perspectives for program planners decision makers scholars and students this volume clarifies illuminates and provides unique insights into the conception construction and implementation of a wide range of programs the research examples used in the discussion draw upon various areas such as education welfare health criminal justice job training and family construction to attract a wider audience journal of applied rehabilitation counseling program evaluation has traditionally emphasized the application of social science research methods in evaluation activities however there is a growing awareness that program theory is vital for broadening the scope and enhancing the usefulness of program evaluation in theory driven evaluations huey tsyh chen introduces a new comprehensive framework for program evaluation that is designed to bridge the gap between the method and theory oriented perspectives he provides an intensive discussion of the nature and functions of program theory approaches to constructing program theories and the integration of program theory with evaluation processes specific types of theory driven evaluations as well as principles and guidelines for application are developed for meeting different policy purposes application of systematic strategies is illustrated by concrete examples from a variety of evaluation studies in different fields the presentation of this new perspective directly addresses the needs and concerns in both the professional and applied areas of program evaluation for program planners decisionmakers scholars and students this volume will clarify illuminate and provide unique insights into the conception construction and implementation of a wide range of programs

a new comprehensive framework for programme evaluation designed to bridge the gap between the method and theory oriented perspectives is presented in this book newly available in paper chen provides an intensive discussion of the nature and functions of programme theory approaches to constructing programme theories and the integration of programme theory with evaluation processes specific types of theory driven evaluations as well as principles and guidelines for application are developed for meeting different policy purposes application of systematic strategies is illustrated by concrete examples from a variety of evaluation studies in different fields

introduction to theory driven program evaluation provides a clear guide for practicing evaluation science and numerous examples of how these evaluations actually unfold in contemporary practice a special emphasis is placed how to conduct theory driven program evaluations that are

culturally responsive and strengths focused in this thoroughly revised new edition author stewart i donaldson provides a state of the art treatment of the basics of conducting theory driven program evaluations each case follows a three step model developing program impact theory formulating and prioritizing evaluation questions and answering evaluation questions the initial chapters discuss the evolution and popularity of theory driven program evaluation as well as step by step guide for culturally responsive and strengths focused applications succeeding chapters provide actual cases and discuss the practical implications of theory driven evaluation science reflections challenges and lessons learned across numerous cases from practices are discussed the volume is of significant value to practicing evaluators professors of introductory evaluation courses and their students advanced undergraduate and graduate students and serves as a text or a supplementary text for a wide range of evaluation and applied research courses it is also of great interest to those interested in the connections between work and health well being career development human service organizations and organizational improvement and effectiveness

program theory driven evaluation science fills the gap between 21st century literature on evaluation and what is happening in practice it features detailed examples of how evaluations actually unfold in practice to develop people programs and organizations commonly accepted strategies for practicing evaluation are outlined followed by comprehe

this book looks back at the origins of program evaluation by summarizing comparing and contrasting the work of seven major theorists of program evaluation it provides an important perspective on the current state of evaluation theory and provides suggestions for improving its practice

the second edition of practical program evaluation shows readers how to systematically identify stakeholders needs in order to select the evaluation options best suited to meet those needs within his discussion of the various evaluation types huey t chen details a range of evaluation approaches suitable for use across a program s life cycle at the core of program evaluation is its body of concepts theories and methods this revised edition provides an overview of these and includes expanded coverage of both introductory and more cutting edge techniques within six new chapters illustrated throughout with real world examples that bring the material to life the second edition provides many new tools to enrich the evaluator s toolbox in this eminently readable book chen presents a strong matrix framework for conceptualizing a full range of evaluation strategies and approaches the writing is exceptionally clear accessible to novice evaluators and because it is fair minded and principled of relevance to seasoned evaluators as well jennifer greene university of illinois at urbana champaign professor chen s second edition of practical program evaluation sets a new standard for providing a variety of systematic frameworks for conducting high quality program evaluations the readers will come away with a detailed understanding of both conventional and cutting edge approaches it is a must read for practicing program evaluators evaluation scholars and students of evaluation stewart i donaldson claremont graduate university chen brings decades of evaluation and experience to this new edition he continues his innovative and pragmatic thinking about evaluation including identifying constructing and testing theories that can work in practice dr chen shows how to

blend formative and summative evaluation process and outcome evaluation theory and action and much more r burke johnson university of south alabama dr chen s latest effort offers evaluators a thoughtful expansion on the topics addressed in practical program evaluation 2005 in terms of program theory logic modeling and his evaluation typology new chapters gleaned from the field reveal solution sets for overcoming challenges in a variety of contexts while still balancing scientific and stakeholder needs this new work provides a solid foundation for the further development of an evaluator s acumen gregg m gascon ohio state university chen has the best conceptual framework and the quality of his writing and analysis are superb he takes the reader through the essential steps in evaluation with particularly valuable treatment of stakeholder involvement mario a rivera university of new mexico

evaluation theory and practice today are characteristically pluralistic embracing diverse perspectives methods data and values within and across studies that aim to generate more insightful and meaningful evaluative claims this volume of new directions for evaluation seeks to strengthen the promise of pluralistic evaluation by advancing an enhanced conceptual framework for planning and implementing mixed method evaluation studies previous mixed method work has concentrated on the technical level of method focusing on combining qualitative and quantitative methods within one evaluation study the present mixed method volume addresses the philosophical level of paradigm analyzing the challenges of combining in one study different even conflicting assumptions about the nature of social phenomena and our claims to know them the volume argues for a shift in the mixed method conversation the shift would be away from a preoccupation with explicit assumptive differences among paradigms such as objectivity subjectivity and realism relativism and toward other characteristics of social inquiry traditions such characteristics define these traditions in important ways but are not logically irreconcilable the significant advance here is to redirect the bases for mixing methods away from what may well be incommensurable philosophical assumptions and toward other inquiry characteristics that can more productively share a common analytic space through analysis of illustrative cases this volume presents an array of conceptual and practical ideas for promising mixed method inquiry directions this is the 74th issue of the quarterly journal new directions for evaluation for more information on the series please see the journals and periodicals page

exploring research s impact on evaluation practice the practice theory relationship in evaluation new directions for evaluation presents the finding of a unique empirical study of evaluation comparing the reported practices of evaluation theorists with real world practices in the field a selection of leading authorities offer both analyses and perspectives on the study s impact on the field prompting deep consideration of the role of empirical study of evaluation and the relationship between concept and practice empirical study of evaluation is key to improving practices and developing alternate approaches and this book stimulates the level of debate necessary for determining future directions

this volume analyzes how evaluation theorists apply their approach in practice a scenario of a situation at an elementary school is presented to four prominent theorists who describe how they would design and conduct an evaluation of the school s program the editors consider the

theorists proposed evaluations as well as their subsequent comments to develop themes related to the influence of theory and context on practice they also provide a comparative analysis of the theorists evaluation approaches in relation to the context of evaluation case presented evaluation theorists seem to be quite good at propounding on how they think the evaluation world ought to work yet do we really know that what theorists say they would do in practice is indeed what they would actually do evaluation after all is situational each context offers its own constituency set of values programmatic elements bureaucratic hurdles and other variables this volume demonstrates why evaluators need to adapt their point of view to a particular situation and provides much needed study and analysis on the way in which they make those adaptations this is the 106th volume of the jossey bass quarterly report series new directions for evaluation

this collection of essays edited by huey tsyh chen and peter h rossi underscores the importance of theory in program evaluation and analyzes the nature and implications of theory driven evaluations scholars from different disciplines cover a wide range of issues such as functions of program theory the interface between theory and methods strategies for formulating theory cost and resource constraints different types of theory driven evaluations and the future implications of such evaluations this broad based analysis is designed for interdisciplinary audiences in all the social sciences including political scientists sociologists and public administrators this policy study analysis points to four types of theory that guide evaluations and describe theory driven metaevaluation five approaches are used to analyze research strategies and methods three applications offer insights into programs and policies and their implementation multigoal theory driven approaches programs for the homeless and children s mental health services five chapters examine applications in impact assessment and cost benefit analysis the importance of theory in selection modeling the impact of plant closings research based theory for educational planning and evaluation using meta analysis in evaluation and theory driven approaches to cost benefit analysis

this issue explores the current state of program theory as it has developed over the last ten years and examines the role program theory can play in a range of new areas that have recently arisen in evaluation the contributors draw on a review of the literature to discuss the history of program evaluation its diversity in application and its strength and limitations in practice including the special challenges related to causal inference they describe opportunities for program theory to help evaluators in areas such as measuring performance replicating successful programs helping program staff understand the support evaluation and conducting meta analysis they outline a future agenda for program theory evaluation explain why it is essential that there be an increase in real world tests and applications and more this is the 87th issue of the quarterly journal new directions for evaluation

the author draws on thirty years of experience as a teacher and program evaluator to provide administrators with a user friendly guide to using outcome based evaluation obe to judge the efficiency and effectiveness of their social and educational programs adapted from publisher description

sections include a theory of change approach to evaluation reflections from evaluation

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Introduction

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