

Program

Complexity and Evaluation in an Uncertain World Conference

16-17 March 2016 • Melbourne Business School

Australia and the broader global community face messy, wicked and new types of social, environmental, economic and political challenges. The interests and power of various actors engaged in addressing these challenges may vary but what they have in common is that they need to measure and assess the impact of their efforts.

How do we assess the progress being made towards addressing these issues? How do we adjust and adapt our efforts in the light of changing circumstances and social learning? What kind of institutional environments support and encourage the forms of evaluation and learning that allow agencies to respond to uncertainty and complexity?

Wednesday 16 Mar, 2016

8:00AM

Registration

Arrival tea & coffee available

9:00AM

Plenary

Welcome to Country

9:15AM

Plenary - Welcome to the conference and building the conference community

Liz Gillies, Chris Roche

9:35AM

Plenary - Key Note

Michael Quinn Patton will join via Skype from the US

Michael Quinn Patton, Janet Clinton

10:35AM

Morning Tea

11:00AM

Plenary - Facilitated Q&A

Facilitated Q&A session with Michael Quinn Patton

Michael Quinn Patton, Janet Clinton

11:30AM

Plenary: A response from Australian evaluators and practice leaders

A panel chaired by Dr Tim Moore with leading Australian evaluators and practitioners responding to Michael Quinn Patton and asking "What do we need in Australia to take this to the next level?"

Dr Tim Moore, David Lilley, Dr Jessica Dart, Janet Clinton, Lauren Heery

12:15PM

Lunch

1:30PM

Break out sessions

**1. How do I start?
Expectation
management –
scope & approach
of evaluation**
Mark Cabaj

**2. Participatory
evaluation –
representation,
voices, co-design of
evaluation
processes.**
Jen Riley

**3. Building a
learning culture
with creative
communications
and alternative
feedback loops**
Zoe Dawkins

**4. Beyond
indicators - how do
we know we are
making progress?**
Bethany Davies

2:45PM

Afternoon Tea

3:15PM

Plenary - Learning from the international field

Two case studies

Mark Cabaj

4:15PM

Plenary Panel

A panel with Liz Gillies in dialog with those that commission evaluation work in a developmental evaluation context.

Liz Gillies, Carolyn Chernov, Matthew James, Robert Kennedy, Dr Annemarie Wright

5:00PM

Close with thanks

5:30PM

Conference cocktails

**7:00PM -
10:00PM**

Please note: the optional Conference Dinner has been cancelled

8:00AM **Registration**

9:00AM **Plenary - Welcome and framing Day 2**
Liz Gillies, Chris Roche

9:15AM **Plenary - Australian case studies**
Central Lands Council
Stronger Smarter Institute
Dr Jessica Dart, Linda Kelly

10:15AM **Morning Tea**

10:45AM **Breakout Sessions**
based on participants' highest learning needs from Day 1 of the conference

Priority learning area #1	Priority learning area #2	Priority learning area #3	Priority learning area #4
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11:45AM **Wisdom expo & networking**
Conference participants sharing their approaches, methods, techniques or tools in a structured peer learning session.

12:45PM **Lunch**

1:30PM **Case consultation**
2 participants will bring their 'case' of evaluating progress and impact in a complex problem and seek 'live' advice through a structured case clinic process.

Australian Futures Project with Liz Skelton in Cohen
Empowered Communities with Kerry Graham in Mawby

2:30PM **Group learning session**
Facilitated group discussions to apply learning to your context

3:00PM **Plenary panel: how do you create the authorizing environment for this work?**
Mark Cabaj, Chris Roche, Liz Skelton, Matthew James, Kellie Horton

3:50PM - 4:00PM **Close and thanks**
