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Africa Evaluation Indaba

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AFRICA EVALUATION INDABA

ONLINE SERIES

Transforming Evaluation for Equity and Social Justice

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

clear
Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results
ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

22-24 NOVEMBER 2022

Transformation has been a key feature in the international evaluation discourse and has been pursued and defined in varying ways. The lack of literature from the Global South makes the discourse around transformation more complex as it is often dominated by Global North ideas of what ought to be transformed. The Indaba aims to gather local and international speakers in making a contribution to the transformation discourse form a Global South perspective. It aims to explore transformation in Evaluation from its historical context in relation to the Global South and how it may relate to equity and social justice.

The second edition of the Indaba coincides with the tenth anniversary since the hosting of the African Thought Leaders Forum on Evaluation and Development. The Forum was instrumental in laying foundations for the articulation of the Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) paradigm and the broader efforts in indigenizing Evaluations in Africa. The Forum could be located within a broader agenda in transforming Evaluation practice within the continent. The Indaba positions itself as an honour to earlier efforts in transforming Evaluation practice to embody equity and social justice. The sessions are curated in a manner that reflects how some of the work of CLEAR-AA and its partners lends itself within collective efforts in transforming Evaluation practice.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR ZEBLON ZENZELE VILAKAZI,

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND



Professor Zeblon Vilakazi is the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand. He was instrumental in establishing South Africa's first experimental high-energy physics research group at CERN, working on the Large Hadron Collider. Vilakazi has fostered international collaborative research, as Director of iThemba LABS (the largest cyclotron facility in the southern hemisphere) where he initiated a flagship rare – isotope beam (RIB) project. In 2019 he played a role in securing a place for African academic partners in the development of practical applications through access to the IBM Quantum Computing network. In May 2022, Professor Zeblon Vilakazi was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society (UK).

22 NOVEMBER 09:30 AM – 11:00 AM CAT | ZOOM

THE MAE BELLAGIO GATHERING – TEN YEARS ON

The African Thought Leaders Forum on Evaluation and Development popularly coined as the 'Bellagio Forum' was held in Bellagio, Italy in 2012 to encourage African thought leadership in the development arena. The forum was inspired by the need to infuse 'new thinking" to evaluation theory and practice towards strengthening evaluation profession and practice in Africa. The forum was also aimed at promoting the visibility and contribution of African thinking in global knowledge on evaluation and development. The Forum was instrumental in laying foundations for indigenizing Evaluation in Africa. The ten years commemoration of the forum calls for a need to engage and reflect on the journey, exploring what has worked as well as some of the challenges experienced in the process of indigenizing Evaluation.

This session aims to outline some practical strategies on how to further this agenda as we approach the second decade since the 2012 forum. The session will take the form of a roundtable discussion with speakers that formed part of the 2012 forum.

22 NOVEMBER 02:00 PM – 03:30 PM CAT | ZOOM

PROMOTING GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN M&E POLICIES IN AFRICA

Gender mainstreaming is the practice of emphasizing gender equality while developing development policies, programs, and initiatives (Council of Europe, 2022). After centuries of excluding women from many professions and development interventions, this position arose from an understanding of the need to empower women and bring their needs, interests, and aspirations at the forefront of development agendas. CLEAR-AA is a convenor of country programs for Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD), Evaluation Capacity Building (ECB), and works with in-country partners in mainstreaming gender in country programme activities. The mission is to design M&E frameworks that allow for the development of robust M&E systems and the formation of monitoring and evaluative (M&E) cultures. The ultimate goal is to use M&E data to improve policy and program formulation and, as a result, improve development results. CLEAR-AA has taken a conscious stance to encourage gender mainstreaming in its M&E frameworks. The Centre has co-created M&E guidelines and policies that demand for the evaluation of development initiatives that focus on women's empowerment and other issues that disproportionately affect women. While these are encouraging steps, it has been recognized that there is still much work to be done to enhance gender mainstreaming in ECD and development practice.

The session will take a form of a panel discussion in reflecting on work done around gender mainstreaming in Evaluation Systems.

23 NOVEMBER 09:30 AM – 11:00 AM CAT | ZOOM

STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE USE IN PARLIAMENTARY CONTEXTS: REFLECTIONS ON EMERGING PRACTICES AND LESSONS TO MAXIMISE EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES

Globally public institutions and representatives are under increasing pressure to rebuild trust with citizens and strengthen accountability in delivering on national development priorities. The trust deficit with citizens, coupled with the greater complexity of socio-economic challenges confronting countries, have contributed to an increase in appetite to establish and apply tools, such as Monitoring and Evaluation, to strengthen evidence informed policy decisions. Like other public institutions African Parliaments have also taken a keen interest in strengthening M&E capabilities, in order to perform their oversight, law-making and representative functions more effectively. In the past period, a range of experiences and perspectives have emerged that give insight in how parliaments are responding to this push for more evidence informed policy making. This session will reflect on some of the emerging experiences of African parliaments and their journeys in strengthening evidence use.

The reflection will be anchored on the seminal publication, ***African Parliaments: Evidence Systems for Governance and Development, vol 1*** *and will explore the following themes:*

- What are some of the current practices and future potentials for parliaments in their interactions with national evaluation systems?
- How do parliaments engage with citizen evidence and to what extent does it influence parliamentary policy debates?
- What practices and approaches can be applied to strengthen parliaments' position to use evidence more effectively in shaping developmental and transformative futures for African countries?

23 NOVEMBER 02:00 PM – 03:30 PM CAT | ZOOM

EVALUATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT – A MADE IN AFRICA EVALUATION AND DECOLONIALITY LENS

A lot has been said about the Made in Africa Evaluation paradigm; however, for us to transform the African evaluation landscape there is a need to examine whether the curriculum and courses that churn out evaluators in the African continent is reflective of the Made in Africa Evaluation paradigm. M&E curriculum provides a way of identifying the knowledge we value during evaluation. It structures how we are taught to think and talk about the world of evaluation. As education has become increasingly global, communities have challenged the widespread assumption that the most valuable knowledge and the most valuable ways of teaching and learning come from a single European tradition. This session aims to explore the question: Are the evaluation curricula and courses decolonised enough? The session will also discuss the status of evaluative capacity development, examine where it aligns with the Made in Africa Evaluation Paradigm and map a way forward for decolonising the curriculum.

24 NOVEMBER 12:00 PM – 01:30 PM CAT | ZOOM

FOOTPRINT EVALUATION AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN AFRICA – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR EVALUATION IN AND FOR AFRICA?

Michael Quinn Patton through his book on Blue Marble Evaluation calls on Evaluators to act on the 'Global Challenges of the Anthropocene' referring to the human actions that have had dire effects on the environment. Footprint evaluation focuses on the 'footprint' that human systems make on natural systems. This requires attention to the interconnections between human systems and natural systems. Footprint evaluation is grounded on the belief that all evaluations should include a consideration on environmental sustainability, even when this is not a stated goal of the intervention. This is so that decision-making considers the potential and actual impacts of planned interventions (projects, programs, policies) on the environment. The world is certainly faced with numerous environmental crises, and it has become urgent that evaluations provide the necessary evidence on potential and actual impacts of interventions on the environment. This session aims to contextualise the discourse on Footprint Evaluation and its implication on Evaluations in and for Africa.

24 NOV| 02:00 PM – 03:30 PM CAT | ZOOM

EFFORTS TOWARDS ACTUALISING THE MAE PARADIGM: MAE JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUE

Part of growing the use of the MAE paradigm rests on cultivating scholarship on MAE. As a convenor vested in MAE, CLEAR-AA has gathered though leaders who have been working on curating a special journal issue towards making a scholarly contribution in enriching the practice and discourse on MAE. This session aims to share highlights on emerging thinking around the paradigm in reigniting the discourse around MAE.

Click here to register for morning sessions

Click here to register for afternoon sessions

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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