

gLOCAL Evaluation Week 2021, May 31–June 4
'Sharing local and global M&E knowledge'

Title: **The Local is Indigenous: EvalIndigenous advocacy for Indigenous evaluation**

Conference track

'Building Better Forward'

About EvalIndigenous

EvalIndigenous is a network of Indigenous evaluators and non-Indigenous allies focused on raising the profile of Indigenous evaluation so it can be increasingly inclusive of Indigenous evaluators, Indigenous peoples, and Indigenous aspirations for equity, fairness and justice. The [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(2007\)](#) frames our work, moving from an evidence-based focus towards a shared global understanding of good practice for Indigenous peoples and our rights within the field of evaluation.

Proposal

Article 18 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples upholds the right of Indigenous peoples to 'participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights'. This signals the right of Indigenous peoples to be full participants in evaluations that impact our lives, as evaluation is an important contributor to decision-making. EvalIndigenous is a global collaboration network that advocates for culturally responsive Indigenous evaluation worldwide, including as part of the 2030 SDG agenda and its commitment to 'leaving no-one behind' and 'reaching the furthest behind first'. This panel presentation will canvas what Indigenous evaluation is, why it is important, and the work undertaken by EvalIndigenous to advocate for Indigenous evaluation. This advocacy includes the Indigenous Voices project which is documenting the presence and practice of Indigenous evaluators and evaluation/decision-making experts from around the globe; the development of an African Indigenous Evaluation Protocol; and advice to Indigenous communities about the questions they might ask evaluators to help ensure their full inclusion in evaluation decision-making and implementation. The panel will also reflect upon the 2030 SDG agenda and what it will take to ensure that Indigenous peoples are fully acknowledged and included in monitoring and evaluation efforts locally and globally.

Rational

Evaluators wanting to work with Indigenous peoples must explicitly recognise and promote Indigenous sovereignty including tribal governance and treaties, evaluation policies (including data sovereignty), and requests to have local evaluators. In addition, for evaluations in Indigenous contexts to be credible evaluators should fully engage Indigenous peoples from the beginning through to the 'end' of an evaluation, including the dissemination and use of evaluation findings by Indigenous peoples.

Panel Members

EvalIndigenous Co-Chairs, Serge Eric Yakeu Djiam (CE) and Fiona Cram will be joined by network members Awuor Ponge, Aneta Cram, Nicole Bowman, Victor Manuel Quintero and Florence Etta.

Serge Eric Yakeu Djiam is the Former President of the African Evaluation Association. He has 18+ years' experience with universities as a Visiting Professor and Team Leader in evaluation with government, CSOs, donors/funders, and UN agencies. He has led the design and implementation of country evaluation within complex and humanitarian environments. With a multi-disciplinary background and experience he has worked in Africa, Europe, North-America, Middle-East, and Asia.

Fiona Cram (Ngāti Pāhauwera) has over 20 years of Kaupapa Māori (by Māori, for Māori) research and evaluation experience with Māori and tribal organisations, government agencies, district health boards, and philanthropic organisations. This includes research in the pursuit of decolonisation, tribal sovereignty, and societal transformation. She is currently Editor-in-Chief of the Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association journal, *Evaluation Matters*, and in 2020 she co-authored a Sage volume with Jill Chouinard on *Culturally Responsive Approaches to Evaluation*.

Nicole Bowman (Lunaape/Mohican) is a traditional Ndulunaapeewi Kwe (Lunaape woman), authentically engaged community member and a scientific and evaluation innovator and advocate. Her academic lodge sits at the intersection of truth, spirituality, traditional knowledge, sovereignty, governance and evaluation.

Aneta Cram (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Pāhauwera) is a part-time evaluator for a consulting company in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Program Chair for the Indigenous Peoples in Evaluation TIG for the American Evaluation Association and she is a doctoral student at Victoria University of Wellington. Her doctorate is exploring Indigenous knowledge systems and their place in evaluation practice in the forms of evaluation frameworks. Aneta is driven in this work through questioning colonial western systems and promoting ideas of a future that centre Indigenous peoples and Indigenous knowledge.

Florence Etta is an award-winning evaluator (won the AEA's Evaluation of the Year Award 2012 with the Core Team of the Paris Declaration Phase II Evaluation) is currently CEO and Principal Consultant with GRAIDE International Consultants, a monitoring, evaluation and research enterprise devoted to supporting CSOs and NGOs and bridging the CSO-Government divide in order to make development more gender transformative, equitable and effective especially in Africa.

Awuor Ponge is the Africa Regional Representative at the EvalIndigenous Global Network. He is an Associate Fellow, in-charge of Research, Policy and Evaluation at the African Policy Centre (APC). He is also a Doctoral Candidate and Adjunct Faculty at Kenyatta University's Department of Sociology, Gender and Development Studies in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and an Evaluator working in the international development sector. He was awarded the International Organisation for Collaboration in Evaluation (IOCE) and EvalPartners Award in 2015 for his contribution to Evaluation in Africa and Mentoring Young and Emerging Evaluators.

Victor Manuel Quintero Economist from the Central University of Missouri, master in Comparative Public Policy from FLACSO - Mexico and with doctoral studies (Virginia Tech). He has experience in the design and implementation of evaluation systems through the construction, use and participatory interpretation of indicators focused on the evaluation of effects and impacts. He currently works as a professor, researcher in the areas of EvalIndigenous, Public Innovation and Intercultural Assessment.