

Call for Contributions for Edited Volume: Indigenous Knowledge Systems' Shifting Epistemic Inequalities in Evaluation.

Dr Linda Khumalo, (Postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Development Policy and Management at the University of Antwerp) and Dr Evans Boadu, (Postdoctoral researcher at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Governance) are editing a volume on indigenous knowledge systems in evaluation.

The edited volume seeks to contribute to understanding the evaluative impulses embedded in indigenous knowledge ideas, values, and philosophies applied in evaluation. We are seeking chapter contributions from indigenous evaluators and researchers across different contexts to collaboratively address the need for more documentation and synergies in understanding indigenous knowledges in evaluation and explore future directions.

About the book

Applying indigenous knowledge philosophies and methodologies in evaluation is critical to ensuring equity and transformation in evaluation. Yet, there is limited consensus on understanding indigenous knowledges and their relevance to and application in development evaluation. Moreover, there is a need for an epistemological shift in current evaluation discourse from Euro-Western domination of evaluation models and practices to acknowledging and legitimising indigenously driven evaluation philosophies.

The chapters will examine the evaluative scholarship informed by indigenous knowledge practices and how these are understood in diverse contexts. Additionally, the volume will explore how [if] indigenous knowledges are shifting the epistemic arrangements and activities and outcomes of evaluation. The book will also critically analyse the contestations of legitimising the evaluative instincts rooted in indigenous knowledges and the implications on broader evaluation contexts.

We are seeking contributory chapters that include, but are not limited to, the following **thematic questions**:

1. How are indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) understood in evaluation?
 - a. How have IKS been used in evaluation? What are the geographical bounds/nuances in understanding indigenous knowledge and evaluation?
 - b. What is the role of IKS in evaluation?
 - c. What cultural beliefs, values, and ideologies influence the conceptualisation of indigenous evaluation?
 - d. What evaluative impulses are embedded in indigenous knowledge, values, norms, and other cultural realities?
2. What do indigenous knowledges and approaches look like in different evaluation contexts/ what examples exist in practice?
 - a. What conceptual frameworks emerging from indigenous evaluation practice have been used?
 - b. What are the empirical case studies from different continents and regions (e.g., Africa, Latin America, North America, Europe, the Caribbean, and Australia) showcasing the use of IKS in evaluation practice
 - c. What intra and cross-regional lessons can be drawn from indigenous evaluation practice?
 - d. How are IKS engaging with/ challenging the dominance of Euro-Western evaluation approaches? What are the challenges and opportunities?

Guideline to authors

We invite proposals for contributions relating to one or the other thematic areas mentioned above. We invite contributions from indigenous evaluators and evaluators working with indigenous knowledges and practices across diverse contexts. Contributors could be from researchers, practitioners in evaluation, or policymakers interested in documenting shifting epistemological asymmetries in evaluation and bringing indigenous knowledges in evaluation to the fore.

Please note that book chapters will be in English, however, should funding be available, we will attempt to have translations in other languages, such as French.

Submissions

Please submit a brief expression of interest through a **300-word** abstract outlining what you propose your chapter will cover to Evans and Linda at the following email address: evans.boadu1@wits.ac.za and Linda.Khumalo@uantwerpen.be on or before **01/05/24**.

The abstracts will be reviewed against the thematic areas of the volume, and selected authors will be invited to submit revised/ more extensive abstracts and work towards a draft chapter. The process of selecting abstracts will be competitive, so it's important to be clear about the suggested content of your potential chapter and how it will contribute to the body of knowledge.

Complete chapters should be **6000-8000 words**, including references.

Peer review

All abstracts and chapters submitted will go through a thorough peer review procedure. We may ask a few authors of accepted abstracts to assist with the peer review of the full draft chapters submitted to guarantee prompt publication; in exchange, they will be acknowledged for their extra work.

Important deadlines

- Deadline for abstract submission: **1 May 2024**
- Deadline for feedback to authors on submitted proposals: **7 June 2024**
- Planned publication: **December 2025**

Publishers

The edited volume will be published by Africa Minds and the University of Leuven.