

## **American Evaluation Association Alaska Chapter 2019 Conference**

I'm an Outsider: Evaluating Alaska Native Projects Across Cultures

Sharing My Practice – Learning from Others

*Birds of a Feather* Facilitated by kas aruskevich

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### **Practices for *Outsider* Evaluations<sup>1</sup>**

#### FOUNDATIONS

- Build authentic relationships & partnerships
- Learn about evaluation & gain practical experience

#### GROWTH

- Learn about cultural & context
- Find a sponsor
- Follow protocols
- Communicate effectively
- Tailor evaluations
- Identify program strengths & evaluation relevance

#### RESPONSIBILITY

- Be clear about your role as evaluator
- Agreement before advocacy
- Hire locals as part of the team
- Be respectful – you are a guest
- Reciprocate

#### WISDOM

- Reflect on your practice
- Tailor evaluations to each context
- Mentor
- Privilege Indigenous
- Let Indigenous people do it

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<sup>1</sup> Aruskevich, K. (2010). *Telling the Story of Indigenous Evaluation: Stories from the Post-Settler States of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States*. Unpublished dissertation.

Business website for report examples: <http://evaluationresearchassociates.com>

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## Indigenous Evaluation Frameworks

A framework is broadly defined as a visual or written product that explains graphically or in narrative form the main things to be studied...the key factors, concepts or variables and the presumed relationships among them.<sup>2</sup>



AIHEC Model<sup>3</sup>



Waapalaneexkweew Model<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Miles, M. and Humberman, A. (1994). *Qualitative Data Analysis*. Sage Publications.

<sup>3</sup> American Indian Higher Educations Consortium, (2009). *Indigenous Evaluation*. <http://indigeval.aihec.org>.

<sup>4</sup> Waapalaneexkweew (Bowman, N., Mohican/Lunaape). Looking backward but moving forward: Honoring the sacred and asserting the sovereign in IE. In S. Rallis (Ed), *American Journal of Evaluation*, 2018, Vol 39, p. 553.

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### Guiding questions for discussion:

#### Up Front (15 minutes)

1. How do you get evaluation work with Alaska Native projects?
2. How do you contract for evaluation? Is it preset? What could be added if anything?
3. Tell how you design an evaluation plan.
4. What are your obligations as an outsider/external evaluator in an Indigenous community?
5. What are your thoughts on Alaska Native sovereignty?
6. In what ways can you decolonize your practice?
7. Is there a place for non-Indigenous evaluators of an Indigenous-based program?

#### Working with the Project (15 minutes)

8. What are your first steps when you enter a Rural community or organization for the first time?
9. How can you set up a site visit to “listen more, talk less?”
10. How do you offer reciprocity for information you gather from project clients, students and other non-staff people?
11. What evaluation approaches do you use? Why?
12. What methods do you use to collect data? What if it doesn't work?
13. How do you learn about local protocols?
14. What do you do if you don't know some content area in the proposal? Any examples?

#### Reporting (15 minutes)

15. What context do you include in your evaluation reports? What are your sources?
16. How do you use a strengths-based approach? How do you report on areas for improvement?
17. Do you include a methodology section in your report? Your limitations? Your evaluation process? Photos?
18. How do you share your report? Integrate feedback?
19. Do you identify findings? Why/why not?
20. Do you provide recommendations? Why/why not?