



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation

DEVELOPING THOUGHT LEADERS IN EVALUATION

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

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Activity in the IDPE is at an all-time high, and eight new students were admitted to the IDPE this year. Please join me in welcoming **Mohammed Alyami**, **Stacy Berkshire**, **Tala**

**Davidson**, **Lindsay Noakes**, **Amanda Robertson**, **Kelly Robertson**, **Emily Rusieki**, and **Fayez Shafloot**. These students come from diverse backgrounds, both in terms of nationality (e.g., Saudi Arabia) and substantive interests and experience (e.g., international development, human resources, education, pharmaceutical trials).

In this newsletter, we spotlight IDPE student **Lori Wingate** and IDPE alumna **Dr. Daniela C. Schröter**. Other items of interest in this issue include my own recent experience at Northwest-

ern University with two of the most influential figures in experimental and quasi-experimental design and analysis, **Drs. Tom Cook** and **Will Shadish**, as well as an upcoming Evaluation Café featuring Cook and **Dr. Michael Scriven**, on contemporary thinking about causation in educational evaluation.

NORTHWESTERN WORKSHOP ON QUASI-EXPERIMENTS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- From the director...
- Cook and Scriven to speak on causation
- IDPE faculty and student accolades
- Alumna and student spotlights
- Upcoming events

Director of the IDPE, **Dr. Chris Coryn**, and former IDPE student, **Dr. Daniela Schröter**, were recently invited to attend a week-long workshop on quasi-experimental design and analysis at Northwestern University. The workshop was given by **Drs. Tom Cook** and **Will Shadish** at Northwestern's Institute for Policy Research.

As Cook and Shadish note on the IPR Web site: "These workshops are designed to complement the current interest in

randomized experiments in education by simultaneously seeking to improve the quality of the quasi-experiments that are needed when random assignment is not feasible or breaks down. Several recent analyses of the quality of quasi-experiments in education point to designs and analyses that are generally below the state of the art, and so the workshop's principal aim is to improve this state."

Workshop participants included

staff from Westat, the Institute for Educational Sciences (IES), public schools districts throughout the U.S., and university professors and doctoral students.

Largely, the workshop focused on regression discontinuity designs, interrupted time series designs, and propensity scoring. The major emphasis, however, was on using design elements to strengthen causal inferences from quasi-experimental designs.

## STUDENT ACCOLADES

Ten IDPE students will present at this year's annual American Evaluation Association (AEA) conference in Denver, Colorado: **Anne Cullen, Stephanie Evergreen, Awgu Ezechukwu, P. Cristian Gugiu, Amy Gullickson, Otto Gustafson, Brandy Pratt, Margaret Richardson, Ronald Visscher, and Lori Wingate.** Student presentations range from participatory methods of evaluation, cost-effectiveness analysis, cultural competence in evaluation, to advanced statistical methods. Several of these students also serve leadership roles in AEA's

Topical Interest Groups (TIG), including the Business and Industry TIG and the Costs, Effectiveness, Benefits, and Economics TIG.

IDPE student **Ronald Visscher** had his paper titled "Hope for High Impact Aid: Real Challenges, Real Opportunities, and Real Solutions" published in the *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation*.

**Anne Cullen** and **Lori Wingate** passed their written and oral comprehensive examinations on August 2 and 4, respectively. Congratulations Anne

and Lori!

IDPE student **Margaret Richardson** and WMU School of Social Work faculty **Dr. Jim Henry** presented their paper titled "Multiple Types of Child Maltreatment and Exposure to Domestic Violence: Impact on Development and Behavior" at the International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in July.



Ten IDPE students will present at this year's annual American Evaluation Association conference in Denver, Colorado

## FACULTY ACCOLADES

Numerous IDPE faculty will be giving presentations at this year's annual American Evaluation Association conference in Denver, Colorado, including **Drs. Brooks Applegate, Chris Coryn, Arlen Gullickson, Stephen Magura, Gary Miron, Jessaca Spybrook, and Steven Ziebarth.**

Chris Coryn and IDPE student

**Stephanie Evergreen** had their paper "Development and Evaluation of the Social-Emotional Learning Scale" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*. Also, Drs. Chris Coryn and **Daniela Schröter** recently had their paper "Adding a Time-Series Design Element to the Success Case

Method to Improve Methodological Rigor: An Application for Non-Profit Program Evaluation" accepted for publication in the Method Notes section of the *American Journal of Evaluation*.

## IDPE HOSTS DIALOGUE WITH COOK AND SCRIVEN

This fall, the IDPE will host a discussion between two of evaluation's leading theorists and methodologists, **Drs. Thomas D. Cook** and **Michael Scriven**, at a special Evaluation Café on October 24, 2008. Cook and Scriven will discuss their recent thinking about causation in addition to recent methodological ad-

vances, developments, and alternatives to randomized controlled trials (RCTs) for cause-probing investigations in educational and other settings.

Cook, a Professor of Sociology, Psychology, Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research, has authored numerous papers and books on the-

ory of method and causal generalization. Scriven, a Distinguished Professor at Claremont Graduate University, has written extensively on the philosophy and methodology of causation. For additional information on this event, please visit <http://www.wmich.edu/evalctr/evalcafe/>.



Dr. Thomas D. Cook

## IDPE INVOLVED IN EVALUATION STANDARDS FIELD TRIAL

This summer, the IDPE was involved in field trials for the 3rd edition of the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation's *Program Evaluation Stan-*

*dards*. The Joint Committee is a coalition of major professional associations concerned with the quality of evaluation and accredited by the American National Standards Insti-

tute (ANSI). Standards approved by ANSI become American National Standards.

## MICHAEL SCRIVEN TO INSTRUCT AND ADVISE FOR IDPE

**Dr. Michael Scriven**, former IDPE director and Distinguished Professor at the School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences at Claremont Graduate University, will be giving guests lectures and advising IDPE students several times throughout the coming academic year.

Dr. Scriven took honors degrees in mathematics and philosophy of mathematical

logic at the University of Melbourne, and his doctorate in philosophy at Oxford. He is the former president of both the American Educational Research Association and American Evaluation Association.

Tentative lecture topics include the logic of evaluation, the domain of evaluation, transdisciplinarity, technology assessment and product evaluation, evaluation of

training, evaluation of teaching, and hard-core qualitative methods, among others.

During his visits, he will be available to advise students on whose dissertation committees he is serving.

As they become available, dates and topics for Dr. Scriven's lectures will be announced on the IDPE Web site and by e-mail via the EVAL-WMU listserv.



Dr. Michael Scriven

## THAI VISITING SCHOLARS TO JOIN IDPE

The IDPE is pleased to welcome two visiting scholars from Thailand, **Mr. Warayost Lamaisie** and **Ms. Pikun Ekwarangkoon**. Both will join the IDPE family for a full academic year beginning in September and will enroll in all IDPE courses.

Mr. Lamaisie and Ms. Ekwarangkoon chose to return to WMU as visiting scholars after attending a two-day workshop on metaevaluation hosted by the IDPE and The Evaluation Center earlier this year. The workshop hosted 20 faculty and students from

The Division of Educational Research and Evaluation of Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Thai delegation chose to take advantage of the program's internationally recognized expertise in evaluation after hearing presentations on the CIPP Model and the evaluation standards of the Joint Committee for Standards in Educational Evaluation given by **Drs. Arlen Gulikson** and **Daniel Stufflebeam** in January 2008.

Mr. Lamaisie and Ms. Ekwarangkoon are the first in their program to take part in this exchange between the IDPE and Kasetsart University's Educational Research and Evaluation students. This effort, led by **Dr. Chris Coryn**, is intended to develop a long-term relationship of collaborative research, instruction, and learning, and an exchange program between students in both programs.



Map of Thailand

**ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: DR. DANIELA SCHRÖTER**

IDPE alumna, **Dr. Daniela C. Schröter** recently defended her dissertation titled: "Sustainability Evaluation: Development and Validation of a Checklist." Now she has joined Nexus Market Research, Inc., a company specializing in the design, implementation, and analysis of marketing research and evaluation related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmental issues.

She has given many lectures and workshops both nationally and internationally, including an introductory evaluation workshop at the 2008 Michigan Association for Evaluation conference and workshops on goal-free evaluation and Scriven's "Key Evaluation Checklist." She has also taught graduate

level university courses.

Dr. Schröter has published widely, including one book and two book chapters; one anthology; four refereed journal articles; five entries in the *Sage Glossary of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*; five book reviews and four journal reviews, and four non-peer-reviewed articles. Her most recent publication, "Evaluator Competencies: What's Taught Versus What's Sought," coauthored with **Jennifer Dewey, Bianca Montrosse, Carolyn Sullins, and John Mattox**, appeared in the most recent issue of the *American Journal of Evaluation*. Presently, she is preparing several manuscripts for publication from her dissertation and previous evaluation experiences. One of these is

a collaborative effort with **Dr. Wes Martz** that emphasizes methods for validating evaluation checklists. Another is a collaborative effort with **Drs. Chris Coryn and Carl Hanssen**, titled "Adding a Time-Series Design Element to the Success Case Method to Improve Methodological Rigor: An Application for Non-Profit Program Evaluation."

She has been active in varying chair positions for the American Evaluation Association's Topical Interest Groups. She has also taken a leading role in exploring annual conference submission review practices. Additionally, she serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation* and as a reviewer for several other evaluation journals.



IDPE alumna Dr. Daniela Schröter

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LORI WINGATE**

This summer, IDPE student **Lori Wingate** marked a milestone in her academic career by successfully completing her written and oral comprehensive examinations.

Wingate, who's interests include the theory, methodology, and practice of evaluation, has worked on projects such as the state of Illinois' program to evaluate circuit court judges and evaluations in the areas of housing, transportation, technology literacy, and science literacy. Currently, she serves as project manager for

the National Science Foundation's evaluation of the Advanced Technological Education Program.

Wingate holds an M.A. in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago and a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology from Truman State University.

During her time at WMU, Lori has led workshops on evaluation checklists and *The Student Evaluation Standards*, and published a facilitator's guide for *The Student Evaluation Standards*. She has pre-

sented numerous times at American Evaluation Association annual conferences and will copresent with **Dr. Arlen Gullickson** at this year's conference.

Additionally, Lori will kick off this year's Evaluation Café series with a discussion of "The New Metaevaluation Standards: Metaevaluation joins Utility, Feasibility, Propriety, and Accuracy among the Program Evaluation Standards."

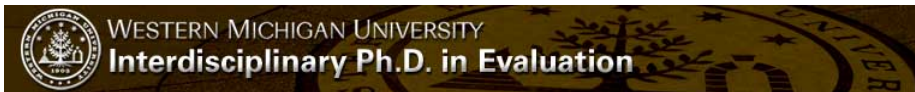


IDPE student Lori Wingate

VISIT THE IPDE WEB SITE AT  
[HTTP://EVALUATION.WMICH.EDU/  
PHD/](http://evaluation.wmich.edu/phd/)

## INTERDISCIPLINARY PH.D. IN EVALUATION PROGRAM

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The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation Program's (IDPE) mission is to develop thought leaders in evaluation who have (1) deep knowledge of evaluation theory, methodology, and practice; (2) superior skills in practical and critical thinking; and (3) a knack for seeing opportunities for innovation and improvement. To accomplish this mission, the IDPE is based on the concept that the best way to learn evaluation is by doing it and the best way to develop thought leaders in a discipline is by exposing them to the best and brightest minds available.

## DEVELOPING THOUGHT LEADERS IN EVALUATION

Prepared by Chris Coryn and Brandy Pratt

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Evaluation Café

Please check the IDPE Web site for more complete listings: <http://www.wmich.edu/evalctr/evalcafe/>

- **September 16**

*The New Metaevaluation Standards: Metaevaluation Joins Utility, Feasibility, Propriety, and Accuracy Among the Program Evaluation Standards*

Lori Wingate—Project Manager and Interdisciplinary Evaluation Doctoral Candidate, WMU

- **September 23**

*Managing the Values of the Key Stakeholders in a Health-Care Setting*

Awgu Ezechukwu—Interdisciplinary Evaluation Doctoral Student, WMU

- **October 14**

*Benchmarking to Improve Student Evaluation Practices*

Kathy Cummings—Associate Dean, College of Education, WMU, and Lindsay Noakes and

Emily Rusiecki— Interdisciplinary Evaluation Doctoral Students, WMU

- **October 24**

*Contemporary Thinking About Causation in Educational Evaluation: A Dialogue with Tom Cook and Michael Scriven*

Tom Cook—Professor of Sociology, Psychology, Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research

Michael Scriven—Distinguished Professor at the School of Organizational and Behavioral Sciences, Claremont Graduate University

*Bernhard Center Room 105, noon-2pm*

- **November 25**

*Unscientific Science? Some Possible Answers to Questions about Evaluation "Theory"*

Chris Coryn—Interdisciplinary Evaluation Ph.D. Program Director, WMU



Western Michigan University,  
home of the IDPE