



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation

DEVELOPING THOUGHT LEADERS IN EVALUATION

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- IDPE announces new director
- IDPE and EC to host workshop for faculty and students from Thailand
- IDPE students conduct evaluation for W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- New IDPE Web Site
- Upcoming events

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE IDPE

After briefly serving as the interim program manager of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation Program (IDPE) after Dr. Michael Scriven ended his appointment, Dr. Chris Coryn was appointed as the permanent director of the program earlier this spring.

Dr. Coryn received a B.S. in Psychology in 2002 and an M.A. in Applied Social Psychology in 2004, both from Indiana University. He completed his Ph.D. in Evaluation under Dr. Michael Scriven in 2007 at Western Michigan University, and was the first student to complete the IDPE. He has published more than 50 scholarly, peer-reviewed papers in journals such as the *American Journal*

of Evaluation, *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*, *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation*, *Evaluation Journal of Australasia*, *New Directions for Evaluation*, *The Qualitative Report*, and *Current Research in Social Psychology*, among others. He, along with Drs. Michael Scriven and E. Jane Davidson and IDPE student Daniela Schröter, led the development of the *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation*, for which he serves as co-editor.

He specializes in evaluation theory, logic, and methodology, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, and advanced statistical modeling techniques.

He has taught courses and

given lectures and workshops both nationally and internationally.



New IDPE director Dr. Chris Coryn

IDPE AND EVALUATION CENTER TO HOST WORKSHOP FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS FROM THAILAND

The IDPE and The Evaluation Center will tentatively be hosting a two-day workshop later this spring to faculty and students from The Division of Educational Research and Evaluation of Kasetart University, Bangkok, Thailand.

As requested by the Thailand

faculty and students, the workshop will primarily focus on metaevaluation. The workshop will be given by IDPE staff and students.

In addition to the workshop, the Thailand faculty and students will visit the WMU and EC offices, meet with the IDPE's

director to discuss the design and delivery of the program, and consider the possibility of having faculty and staff from Kasetart University study at the EC or through the IDPE as visiting scholars.

STUDENT ACCOLADES

On February 13, 2008, third-year IDPE student Krystin Martens successfully completed her written and oral comprehensive examinations for the IDPE.

P. Cristian Gugiu, fourth-year IDPE student, and Dr. Liliana Rodriguez-Campos had their paper "Semi-Structured Interview Protocol for Constructing Logic Models" published in *Evaluation and Program Planning*. Mr. Gugiu

also had his paper "The Logic of Summative Confidence" published in the *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation (JMDE)*.

Fifth-year IDPE student, Daniela Schröter, with co-authors Chris Coryn and Bianca Montrosse, published her study of the American Evaluation Association's (AEA) peer review process in *JMDE*. She also completed a study of "Logic Model Theory

and Practice" for Deutsches Jugendinstitut (German Youth Institute). Ms. Schröter also published a book chapter, "The Logic and Methodology of Sustainability Evaluation: A Checklist Approach" in *Nachhaltiger Mehrwert von Evaluationen (Sustained Value-Added via Evaluation)*.

IDPE students Amy Gullickson and Anne Cullen both had book reviews published in *JMDE* in 2008.



Fourth-year IDPE student P. Cristian Gugiu

DR. DANIEL STUFFLEBEAM REFLECTS ON THE IDPE

In a forthcoming paper reflecting on the development and first five years of the IDPE, Dr. Daniel Stufflebeam who, along with Dr. E. Jane Davidson, established the IDPE in 2003, notes:

"No doubt, the IDPE's graduates are becoming a powerful force for advancing the theory, practice, and utilization of evaluation—

across the disciplines and abroad as well as throughout the U.S. As the IDPE's founder, it is indeed gratifying to see that this program has taken root, has had outstanding administrative leadership...a diverse group of outstanding students... [and is]...efficiently and effectively moving students through the program to graduation, and overall is fulfilling its promise. It seems

clear that the IDPE is an important milestone in the continuing development of the evaluation profession. It is a key resource for groups throughout the world that need to employ highly trained professional evaluators, and it is an instructive example for universities that seek to establish graduate programs in evaluation or to strengthen their existing programs."

"...the IDPE's graduates are becoming a powerful force for advancing the theory, practice, and utilization of evaluation..."
Dr. Daniel Stufflebeam

JMDE ENTERS ITS 5TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

In 2008, the open-access, online, peer reviewed *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation (JMDE)* published collaboratively by The Evaluation Center and IDPE, entered its fifth year of publication.

The journal has published more than 1,000 pages of scholarly and practitioner

publications and other content, including reviews of global evaluation practices, available free of cost.

JMDE has more than 1,000 subscribers in more than 100 countries and these numbers continue to increase with the release of each issue.

Contributors have included

such luminaries as Michael Scriven, E. Jane Davidson, Michael Q. Patton, Lois-Ellin Datta, Tom Cook, James Sanders, Brad Cousins, John Hattie, Wolfgang Bewyl, physicist Richard Hake, European Union evaluator Hellmut Eggers, and program officers from the National Science Foundation.



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NEW ADDITIONS TO IDPE FACULTY

This spring, Nicholas Andreadis, M.D., and Dr. Jessaca Spybrook joined the more than 30 existing faculty of Western Michigan University (WMU) serving the IDPE.

Dr. Andreadis is an assistant professor in WMU's Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology as well as the coordinator of the Master of Arts in Human Resource

Development program at WMU.

He holds a B.A. from Kent State University and an M.D. from Creighton University. His research interests include organizational development, training evaluation, human performance technology, and learning organizations.

Dr. Spybrook is a senior research associate at WMU's Evaluation Center. She holds

a B.A. in Elementary Education, an M.A. in Applied Statistics, and a Ph.D. in Educational Studies with an emphasis on Quantitative Methods from The University of Michigan. Dr. Spybrook studied under Dr. Steven Raudenbush, of hierarchical linear modeling (HLM) fame, for her doctorate. Her research interests include quantitative methods and educational research and



New IDPE faculty member
Nicholas Andreadis, M.D.

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT: DR. THOMAZ CHIANCA

IDPE alumna, Dr. Thomaz Chianca, completed the IDPE in 2008. Since returning home to Rio de Janeiro, the "City of Splendors" in Brazil, he has been catching up with family and friends after a long time away completing his doctoral studies (4 years and 3 months).

Since returning to Brazil he has made great progress in restarting his evaluation consulting business. He is in the final stages of negotiations for two large contracts. The first one is an impact evaluation of a \$3 million program to prevent women's breast cancer, the contract involves 31 sites throughout the country funded by the Brazilian section of the Avon Institute. The other involves the provision of support to the Maria Cecilia Vidigal Foundation—dedicated to

infant development issues and with a \$7 million/year budget—to become an evaluative organization. The idea is to help that foundation make the best use of evaluative knowledge and practice to orient their operations so they can be more effective and efficient.

Dr. Chianca also has been invited to co-lead the creation and development of an evaluation unit within one of the largest institutes dedicated to helping foundations, businesses and families promote and structure their private social investment: IDIS - Instituto para o Desenvolvimento do Investimento Social (Institute for the Development of Social Investment). Here, the evaluation unit will provide monitoring and evaluation services to the more than 150 clients of IDIS. The unit

also will be a center of intelligence in evaluation, fostering the development of knowledge through the production and dissemination of publications and the promotion of strategic evaluation meetings, seminars and conferences.

For the fourth year, he will serve as the project manager for the Heifer International impact evaluations (see story on page 5).

In addition, Dr. Chianca has also returned to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro as a part-time professor of research methods and teaches evaluation, survey, and qualitative methods at the university's dental school.

"In addition to consulting, Dr. Chianca has returned to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro to teach evaluation, survey, and qualitative methods at the university's dental school."



Dr. Thomaz Chianca (right) with Dr. Chris Coryn (left) following defense of his doctoral dissertation in November, 2007

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: WES MARTZ

Third-year IDPE student Wes Martz is a doctoral candidate following completion of his written and oral comprehensive examinations in 2007. He is vice president, marketing at Kadant Inc., a \$366 million global manufacturing firm with 2,000 employees worldwide. He has senior management experience in business development, strategic marketing, advertising, public

relations, and global brand management.

His research interests include business evaluation, organizational effectiveness and strategy, and decision making in business. He holds an M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing and a B.S. in Industrial Management from Purdue University.

He is an adjunct instructor of

marketing at WMU's Haworth College of Business and has taught marketing, advertising, and small business management courses.

He has advised more than 300 small business owners and entrepreneurs and was recognized as a "Top 40 Under 40" business leader influencing the course of business in West Michigan.



Third-year IDPE student Wes Martz

IDPE DISSERTATION SUPPORT GROUP

The IDPE dissertation support group (DSG) meets biweekly at The Evaluation Center. The DSG is a student-led series of meetings intended to help advanced students prepare and improve their dissertations through open dialogue with other IDPE students. All students, whether at the stage of writing a dissertation or not, are welcome to attend DSG sessions.

Specifically, the DSG is designed for students to discuss

- Dissertation topics
- Progress on their dissertation
- Problems encountered in the dissertation process

The DSG also serves as a sounding board for

- Conceptual issues
- Methodological issues
- Other dissertation-related issues

Regular attendees and discussants include IDPE students Wes Martz, Amy Gullickson, Otto Gustafson, and Daniela Schröter.

"The IDPE dissertation support group meets bi-weekly and is a student-led series of discussion intended to help advanced students navigate the dissertation process."

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: W. K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

IDPE students Anne Cullen, Stephanie Evergreen, and Daniela Schröter recently contracted with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Battle Creek Community Foundation to conduct a needs assessment and evaluation of its Hispanic/Latino Community Development Project

(HLCDP).

This project will utilize a variety of methodologies to determine the project's merit and worth from a consumer orientation—in particular to the Latino/Hispanic community in Battle Creek.

The evaluation coincides with the start of the project grant

and continues through its duration. The evaluation will examine four specific components of the project, which include (1) *¿Dónde Está?* Resource Guide for Latinos/Hispanics; (2) *¿Como Se Dice?* Translation; (3) *Stats Matter Program*; and (4) *Better Relations Program*.

W. K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION



IDPE students conduct evaluation for W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Battle Creek Community Foundation

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

For the fourth consecutive year, the IDPE and The Evaluation Center will be evaluating the impact of Heifer International development projects. The evaluation is managed and directed by former IDPE director Dr. Michael Scriven and recent IDPE graduate Dr. Thomaz Chianca.

This evaluation uses the Hoofprint Model developed by Scriven, Chianca, and

IDPE students, which is designed to evaluate Heifer International impacts at three levels: (1) below the ground; (2) on the ground; and (3) above the ground.

Each year, teams of evaluators, consisting of an IDPE student (i.e., junior evaluator) and a senior evaluator, are sent for several weeks of intense field work in one of the countries receiving Heifer International

support. Past impact evaluations have been conducted in Albania, Cameroon, China, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Tanzania, Thailand, and the South-Central United States.

In 2008, the IDPE and EC will evaluate the impact of Heifer International projects in Cambodia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, and Vietnam.



IDPE and EC to conduct fourth impact evaluation of Heifer International projects

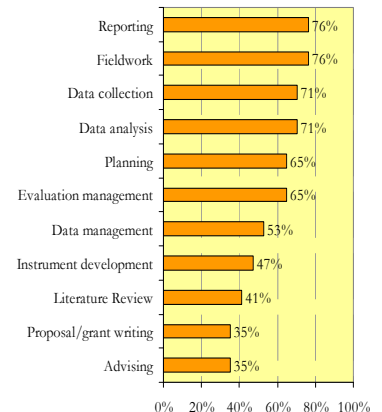
FIRST ANNUAL IDPE STUDENT SURVEY

At the outset of the fall 2007 semester, IDPE student Daniela Schröter, Dr. Chris Coryn, and the program's coordinator, Mary Ramlow conducted the first annual survey of IDPE students. This Web-based survey was used to gather information about all IDPE students for use in placing them in real-world project experiences, to monitor their progress through the program, and to

gather information for updating the IDPE Web site.

At the time of the survey, the IDPE had produced 2 graduates and had 26 active students. Approximately 30% of the IDPE's students are foreign-born (e.g., Asia, Africa, Europe, South America), but 80% are U.S. citizens. The majority of IDPE students (61%) self-reported their racial/ethnic identity as

European/white, 23% as African-American/black, 8% as Latino/Hispanic, and 8% as Asian. The gender ratio of male to female students in the IDPE is 1:1. On average, students anticipate completing the program within 4 years. This is not surprising, since 77% of IDPE students are enrolled full-time, despite work commitments.



Roles IDPE students serve on evaluation projects

IDPE RECEIVES TOP-TEN RANKING

In 2007, the IDPE received a top-ten ranking as one of the U.S. best doctoral programs in educational evaluation and research according to Academic Analytics' Faculty Scholarly Productivity (FSP) index.

The third annual FSP index ranks per-capita scholarly accomplishment by discipline

at the nation's research universities. The index is based on faculty performance indicators such as number of publications (e.g., books and journal articles), citations to publications, external research funding, and honors and awards. The index rates the output of 164,843 faculty

members in nearly 7,300 doctoral programs at 375 universities offering doctoral degrees.

The third edition of the index was issued in late 2007, and the results of the analysis were widely reported in higher education media, including the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

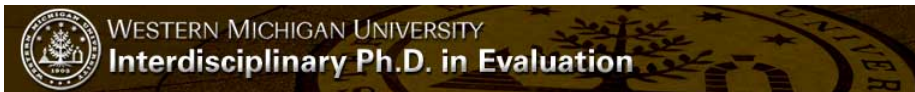


Academic Analytics ranks IDPE as one of the top ten doctoral programs in educational evaluation and research

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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DEVELOPING THOUGHT LEADERS IN EVALUATION

NEW IDPE WEB SITE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

New IDPE Web Site

In 2007, fifth-year IDPE student Daniela Schröter led the redesign of the IDPE Web site.

The new Web site includes updated student and faculty profiles, forms and documents commonly needed by IDPE students, IDPE application instructions and forms, and informational sections of interest to IDPE students and faculty that include such features as "what's new?", IDPE events, and other announcements.

Also new are the IDPE Daniel L. Stufflebeam Travel Scholarship and Michael Scriven Dissertation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Evaluation Theory, Methodology, or Practice.

Information and application instructions for these awards, as well as additional information about the IDPE, can be found on the newly-updated IDPE Web site at

[http://evaluation.wmich.edu/
phd/](http://evaluation.wmich.edu/phd/)

Upcoming Events

- Michigan Association for Evaluation (MAE)—13th annual conference, Monday, March 31, Lansing, MI
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)—annual conference, March 24-28, New York, NY
- American Evaluation Association (AEA)—annual conference, November 5-8, Denver, CO

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.



Western Michigan University,
home of the IDPE