

Culture in Evaluation: Summary of Blogs



Zenda Ofir, Independent Evaluator

IN a series of blogs, Zenda Ofir examines the relationship between culture and evaluation to explore questions such as “what would evaluation have looked like if it were invented in Africa, or in the East, or by indigenous peoples across the world?”.

In the first three of six blogs, Ofir explores “Made in Africa” evaluation,

argues for critical engagement with, yet pride in African societies’ histories, philosophies and cultures, and calls for African leadership to engage in evaluation practices on the continent and worldwide. She highlights that there is a need to ensure that African intellectuals do not uncritically buy into dominant narratives, including about development.

Date	Blog title	link
February 11, 2018	Made in Africa Evaluation, Part 1: The genesis of MAE	http://bit.ly/MAEpart1
June 8, 2018	Made in Africa Evaluation, Part 2: ‘Africa-rooted’ evaluation	http://bit.ly/MAEpart2
July 6, 2018	Made in Africa Evaluation, Part 3: ‘Africa-led’ evaluation	http://bit.ly/MAEpart3

The remaining three blogs highlight the NICE – Navigating the Intersection of Culture and Evaluation – Framework, a practical application that calls for deep interrogation by evaluation specialists in

Africa and for the Global South of common evaluation concepts and practices in order to help accelerate the development of evaluation theory and practice suitable for the continent and the current era.

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Date	Blog title	link
August 23, 2018	The NICE Framework, part 1: Where culture and evaluation meet	http://bit.ly/NICEpart1
August 25, 2018	The NICE Framework, part 2: Application of the framework	http://bit.ly/NICEpart2
August 28, 2018	The NICE Framework, part 3: A research agenda for evaluation	http://bit.ly/NICEpart3

Author's profile

Zenda Ofir is a South African independent evaluator, holder of a PhD in Chemistry. She works primarily in Africa and Asia; and from the local to the global level, she has been focusing on the interface between science and knowledge, development and evaluation. She has a special interest in evaluation across contexts and cultures, the SDGs, transformational systems change, and national to global development trajectories. She formerly held the positions of AfrEA President, IOCE Vice-President, and AEA Board member; she is currently an Honorary Professor at Stellenbosch University, the IDEAS Vice-President, a steering committee member of the emerging South-South Collaboration on Evaluation initiative, and the Lead Steward of the Evaluation for Transformation Working Group of the SDG Transformations Forum. In her earlier career, she was also a senior program manager at a South African science council and later the Director of Research at the University of Pretoria. She is currently based near Geneva, Switzerland.

