

National Evaluation Conference, China, October 2024

Stream C: Future-driven systems and approaches

Proposed Topic: Embracing technological change: Strategies for Integrating New Technologies into National Evaluation Systems.

Working Title: Practical Geographical Information System (GIS) for evaluations – translating theories into practice.

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Geographical Information System (GIS) data representation entails the integration of qualitative and quantitative data that is audience-friendly and allows data exploration, inspection, and communication (Azzam and Robinson, 2013). GIS allows data to be associated with sites on a map, offering a powerful data visualization that may be used to formulate evaluation questions. GIS may aid in unpacking the evaluation issue, providing an overview, and developing testable hypotheses for future research. Similarly, GIS analysis results might contribute to the triangulation of evaluation evidence. As a data visualization and communication tool, GIS presents the process and findings of an evaluation to multiple audiences in a more concise and analytical manner. Currently, GIS is grossly underused in evaluations, with majority of its use have been conducted in project or thematic evaluations, and less so in programme evaluations, such as SDG programmes, which encompass numerous projects, locations, and thematic areas (Garcia and Vamoeurn, 2023). The proposed panel discussion will look at the latest developments in the use of GIS project, thematic and programme evaluations. A panel will share their results, practical tips, and lessons learned in applying GIS to a broad spectrum of topics and across different phases of an evaluation process, and discuss the future of GIS in evaluations.

References:

Azzam, T., & Robinson, D. (2013). GIS in evaluation: Utilizing the power of geographic information systems to represent evaluation data. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 34(2), 207-224. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1098214012461710>

Garcia, H. & Vamoeurn, N. (2023) Use of a Geographic Information System in a Country Programme Evaluation. *Asia Pacific Journal of Evaluation*, 01 (01). <https://asiapacificeval.org/apje/>