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| Presenter’s full name (title, name, surname) | **Dickson Otieno** |
| Nationality | Kenyan |
| Gender | Male |
| Country of residence | United States of America |
| Institutional affiliation | Virginia Tech |
| Contact information including email and telephone | Email: [odickson@vt.edu](mailto:odickson@vt.edu)  Tel.: +15409883747  LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dickson-otieno-vt/> |
| Title of the abstract | **National Evaluation Policy Narratives: The Happening of Kenya’s National Evaluation Policy** |
| Conference session | **√□ Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems**  □ Stream B. Inclusive National Evaluation Systems  □ Stream C. Future Driven Systems and Approaches |
| Name(s), title(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of all other authors/contributors (if applicable) | **Thomas Archibald**  Associate Professor, Virginia Tech  Email: [tgarch@vt.edu](mailto:tgarch@vt.edu)  LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-archibald-19708515/> |
| Preferred format: | **√□ Formal presentation (maximum 10 minutes)**  □ Participation in a panel discussion where the experience can be shared  □ Participation in an interactive session where the example can be shared, without a formal presentation  □ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| I will need to apply for bursary support, if selected. | **√□ Yes**  □ No |
| Language to be used for presentation | **√□ English** □ French □ Spanish □ Chinese |

**National Evaluation Policy Narratives: The Happening of Kenya’s National Evaluation Policy**

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| This abstract is part of my Doctor of Philosophy dissertation research whose purpose is to investigate the dynamics of Kenya’s national evaluation policy processes and their potential impacts on evaluation capacity building and utilization. The study explains how national evaluation policy happens by analyzing the policy subsystem dynamics that either facilitate or derail national evaluation policy design and use. Likewise, the research assesses stakeholder shadow interests and power plays between different policy actors, and impending conflicts from divergent interests and agendas. The hoped-for utility of this study is an enhanced capacity to do and use evaluation for better decision-making and responsiveness to Africa’s development needs. Further, a robust national evaluation policy (NEP) can potentially strengthen the national evaluation ecosystem and facilitate its integration into public policy learning and decision-making structures.  The demand for stronger and more effective national evaluation systems is on the rise in Africa. This rising demand responds to the increasing need for evidence-based decision making, accountability, and learning, specifically in governments (Fraser & Morkel, 2020). As such, African governments increasingly employ monitoring and evaluation as a means to good governance, responsive leadership, and inclusivity even in the wake of public sector reforms (Kanyamuna et al., 2020) and to address the "ever-rising expectation from ordinary citizens" (Makadzange, 2022, p. 1). Further emphasis is placed on the need for stronger and resilient national evaluation systems that help inform policy and development outcomes and ultimately change the world (Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP, 2022). The strengthened systems ideally and ultimately lead to better governance, accountability, evidence-based decision-making, transparency, accountability, and stakeholder empowerment (Chirau et al., 2022; Dlakavu et al., 2021).  The ultimate purpose of this study is to define how national evaluation policies happen and the potential effects on national evaluation capacities. Specific to this abstract, my discussions will be around the dissertation’s first objective that answers how the Kenya National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy come to be; considering the following two sub-components: (i) discussing the role of international forces in Kenya’s M&E policy agenda-setting and (ii) identifying the M&E policy sub-groups narratives that drove in Kenya’s evaluation policy agenda and whether some agendas could be at cross-purpose. I am in the initial stages of data collection and could have insights for rich discussions during the conference in Beijing, China. |