

Editorial

Description

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The [“Rick on the Road”](#) blog is where I write about specific issues M&E issues that are of interest to me. Here is the list of the most recent [“Rick on the Road”](#) editorial postings:

2024

- [On two types of Theories of Change: Temporal and atemporal, and how they might be bridged](#)
- [Developing and using a Configurational Theory of Change within an evaluation](#)

2023

- [Using the Confusion Matrix as a general-purpose analytic framework](#)
- [Beyond summarisation by AI and/or editors- Readers can now interrogate full transcripts of meeting discussions](#)
- [Evaluating thematic coding and text summarisation work done by artificial intelligence \(LLM\)](#)
- [Finding useful distinctions between different futures](#)
- [How can evaluators practically think about multiple Theories of Change in a particular context?](#)

2022

- [Four types of futures that should be covered by a Theories of Change](#)
- [We need more doubt and uncertainty!](#)
- [Using ParEvo to conduct thought experiments](#)
- [Alternative futures as “search strategies”](#)
- [Budgets as theories](#)
- [Making small samples of large populations useful](#)

2021

- [Choosing between simpler and more complex versions of a Theory of Change](#)
- [Exploring counterfactual histories of an intervention](#)
- [Reconciling the need for both horizontal and vertical dimensions in a Theory of Change diagram](#)
- [Diversity and complexity? Where should we focus our attention?](#)
- [Paired case comparisons as an alternative to a configurational analysis \(QCA or otherwise\)](#)
- [The potential use of Scenario Planning methods to help articulate a Theory of Change](#)
- [Mapping the “structure of cooperation”: Adding the time dimension and thinking about further analyses](#)
- [Connecting Scenario Planning and Theories of Change](#)

2020:

- [The implications of complex program designs: Six proposals worth exploring?](#)

- [â??If you want to think outside of the box, you first need to find the boxâ?• â?? some practical evaluative thinking about Futures Literacy](#)
- [Has the meaning of impact evaluation been hijacked?](#)
- [Quality of Evidence criteria that can be applied to Most Significant Change \(MSC\) stories](#)
- [Mapping the structure of cooperation](#)
- [EvalC3 versus QCA â?? compared by a re-analysis of one data set](#)
- [Converting a continuous variable into a binary variable i.e. dichotomising](#)
- [Rubrics? Yes, butâ?!](#)
- [Temporal networks: Useful static representations of dynamic events](#)

2019:

- [Combining the use of the Confusion Matrix as a visualisation tool with a Bayesian view of probability](#)
- [On finding the weakest linkâ?!](#)
- [Participatory design of network models: Some implications for analysis](#)
- [Extracting additional value from the analysis of QulP data](#)
- [On evaluating innovation](#)
- [Where there is no \(decent / usable\) Theory of Changeâ?!](#)
- [On using clustering algorithms to help with sampling decisions](#)

2018:

- [Two versions of the Design Triangle â?? for choosing evaluation methods](#)

2017

- [Transparent Analysis Plans](#)

2016

- [â?!and then a miracle happens \(or two or three\)](#)
- [Three ways of thinking about linearity](#)
- [EvalC3 â?? an Excel-based package of tools for exploring and evaluating complex causal configurations](#)
- [Why we should also pay attention to â??what does not workâ?•](#)
- [Why I am sick of Evaluation Questions!](#)

2015

- [False Positives â?? why we should pay more attention to them](#)
- [Macro versus meta Theories of Change](#)
- [Clustering projects according to similarities in outcomes they achieve](#)
- [Evolving better performing hypotheses, using Excel](#)
- [Is QCA its own worst enemy?](#)
- [Characterising purposive samples](#)
- [Evaluating the performance of binary predictions](#)
- [How to select which hypotheses to test?](#)

- [In defense of the \(careful\) use of algorithms and the need for dialogue between tacit \(expertise\) and explicit \(rules\) forms of knowledge](#)
- [A mistaken criticism of the value of binary data](#)

2014

- [Comparing QCA and Decision Tree models – an ongoing discussion](#)
- [Pair comparisons: For where there is no common outcome measure?](#)
- [The challenges of using QCA](#)
- [Thinking about set relationships within monitoring data](#)

2013

- [Complex Theories of Change: Recipes for failure or for learning?](#)
- [Measuring the impact of ideas: Some testable propositions](#)
- [A reverse QCA?](#)
- [Another perspective on the uses of control groups](#)
- [An example application of Decision Tree models](#)
- [My problem with RCTs](#)

2012

- [Evolutionary strategies for complex environments](#)
- [AusAID's – Revitalising Indonesia's Knowledge Sector for Development Policy program](#)
- [Open source evaluation – the way forward?](#)
- [Representing different combinations of causal conditions](#)
- [A perspective on – Value for Money – relationships](#)
- [Data mining algorithms as evaluation tools](#)
- [Criteria for assessing the evaluability of Theories of Change](#)
- [Can we evolve explanations of observed outcomes?](#)
- [Modular Theories of Change: A means of coping with diversity and change?](#)
- [Evaluation questions: Managing agency, bias and scale](#)

2011

- [Evaluation quality standards: Theories in need of testing?](#)
- [Relative rather than absolute counterfactuals: A more useful alternative?](#)
- [Evaluation methods looking for projects or projects seeking appropriate evaluation methods?](#)
- [Models and reality: Dialogue through simulation](#)
- [A submission to the UK Independent Commission for Aid Impact \(ICAI\)](#)

2010

- [Counter-factuals and counter-theoreticals: What to do when random assignment is not an option?!](#)
- [Do we need a Minimal Level of Failure \(MLF\)?](#)
- [Meta-narratives, evaluation and complexity](#)

- [Cynefin Framework versus Stacey Matrix versus network perspectives](#)
- [Evaluating a composite Theory of Change \(ToC\)](#)

2009

- [Reflections on Dave Snowden's presentations on sense-making and complexity](#)
- [On the poverty of baselines and targets!](#)
- [Why we should make economists work harder](#)
- [Constructing longer term perspectives](#)
- [Bibliographic Timelines](#)

2008

- [Comments on the draft DFID evaluation policy](#)
- [An aid bubble? Interpreting aid trends](#)
- [Aid organisations as self-interested businesses?](#)
- [Social Frameworks: An improvement on the Logical Framework?](#)
- [Assessing achievements in Katine, Uganda](#)
- [A network approach to the selection of 'Most Significant Change' stories](#)

2007

- [Managing expectations about monitoring and evaluation in Katine](#)
- [Katine: an experiment in more publicly transparent aid processes](#)
- [Checklists as mini theories-of-change](#)
- [Evolving storylines: A participatory design process?](#)
- [Prediction markets as a source of independent and continuous evaluation for development projects?](#)

2006

- [Assumptions, evidence and multiple stakeholders](#)
- [Evidence that the \(development\) world is getting better](#)
- [Integrating funding applications and baseline surveys](#)
- [The risks of big increases in aid flows to poor countries](#)
- [The 'attribution problem' problem](#)

2005

- [Impact pathways and genealogies](#)
- [Networks of Indicators](#)
- [Fight institutional Alzheimers](#)
- [Using 'modular matrices' to describe programme intentions and achievements](#)
- [Constructing 'an auditable trail of intentions'!](#)
- [Identifying the impact of evaluations: Follow the money?](#)
- [Learning circles and loops: Time for some more sophisticated representations](#)

2004

- [Open Government and Open Aid](#)
- [No more paradigm changes please!](#)
- [Where have all the evaluations gone?](#)
- [Projects versus Project Funding Mechanisms](#)
- [Treating organisations as though they were machines](#)
- [Is moving the goal posts a good thing?](#)
- [Where are the partners?](#)
- [Monitoring empowerment: A contradiction in terms?](#)
- [Why did the chicken cross the road?](#)
- [Thinking about networks of policies](#)
- [Question: How do you assess a country's ownership of a PRSP?](#)
- [Hypothesis-led Surveys of Influence on KAP](#)
- [PRSP Monitoring: Target fixation and mission creep](#)

Readers may also be interested in

- The [Rick's Methods](#) page on this site
- [Rick Davies's comments on other websites and blogs](#) [in process]
- My [YouTube presentations](#) from some training events and conferences
- See also [Evaluating Katine](#)

Category

1. Uncategorized

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