SYSTEMS CONCEPTS IN EVALUATION: AN EXPERT ANTHOLOGY

Description

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Bob Williams and Iraj Imam (eds.)
EdgePress/American Evaluation Association (2007)

Systems Concepts in Evaluation: An Expert Anthology brings together a wide range of systems concepts, methodologies and methods and applies them to evaluation settings. This book addresses the questions:

â?¢ What is a systems approach?
â?¢ What makes it different from other approaches?
â?¢ Why is it relevant to evaluation?

The 14 chapters cover a wide range of systems concepts and methods. Most chapters are case study based and describe the use of systems concepts in real life evaluations. The approaches and methods covered include:

â?¢ System Dynamics (both quantitative and qualitative)
â?¢ Cybernetics and the Viable System Model
â?¢ Soft Systems Methodology
â?¢ Critical Systems Thinking
â?¢ Complex Adaptive Systems

There are also overview chapters that explore the history and diversity of systems approaches and their potential within the evaluation field. There is a substantial introduction by Gerald Midgley to the key developments in systems concepts and methods over the past 50 years, and this explores the implications for evaluation of each of those developments.

Although focused on evaluation, the book is a valuable source for anyone interested in systems concepts,
action research and reflective inquiry. It is useful for both teaching and practice.

Chapters :
Introduction, Iraj Imam, Amy LaGoy, Bob Williams and authors
Systems Thinking for Evaluation, Gerald Midgley
A Systemic Evaluation of an Agricultural Development: A Focus on the Worldview Challenge, Richard Bawden
System Dynamics-based Computer Simulations and Evaluation, Daniel D Burke
A Cybernetic Evaluation of Organizational Information Systems, Dale Fitch, Ph.D.
Soft Systems in a Hardening World: Evaluating Urban Regeneration, Kate Attenborough
Using Dialectic Soft Systems Methodology as an Ongoing Self-evaluation Process for a Singapore Railway Service Provider, Dr Boon Hou Tay & Mr Bobby, Kee Pong Lim

Evaluation Based on Critical Systems Heuristics, Martin Reynolds
Human Systems Dynamics: Complexity-based Approach to a Complex Evaluation, Glenda H Eoyang, Ph.D.
Evaluating Farm and Food Systems in the US, Kenneth A Meter
Systemic Evaluation in the Field of Regional Development, Richard Hummelbrunner
Evaluation in Complex Governance Arenas: the Potential of Large System Action Research, Danny Burns
Evolutionary and Behavioral Characteristics of Systems, Jay Forrest
Concluding Comments, Iraj Imam, Amy LaGoy, Bob Williams and authors

PUBLICATION AND PURCHASE DETAILS

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