Navigating Evaluation Resources on Mesh - The Evaluation Map

All Evaluation Resources

A full list of the guides, reports, papers and case studies exploring evaluation on Mesh. More specific lists of resources can be found by clicking on the evaluation types below.

Guides to Evaluating Engagement

A set of guides and tool kits on how to evaluate public and community engagement.

General Evaluation Resources

A list of gateway websites and discussion lists for more information on evaluation methods.

Frameworks, Methods and Approaches

For a list of Mesh introductions to the below methods, frameworks and approaches click here, or select the individual titles below for a full list of resources on that approach

Theory Driven Evaluation

Realist evaluation

A method that is useful for evaluation of complex social programmes, implemented across a variety of contexts. Integrates qualitative and quantitative analysis and seeks to build an understanding of 'what works for who in what circumstances'

Theory of change

These approaches emphasise being explicit about understandings about 'how change happens' and how an initiative contributes to that change in any particular context. This in turn, helps to focus data collection and enables 'testing' of the theory of change to see if it adequately accounts for what happens.

Complexity Sensitive Evaluation

Participatory System Inquiry and Systemic Action Research

PSI helps to map and understand the bigger picture and the wider 'system' affecting any particular initiative.

SAR draws on multiple lines of inquiry in a real-time assessment process that continually draws on empirical data for collective reflection, analysis and responsive action.

Developmental Evaluation

Coming Soon

An approach for situations where there is uncertainty about the important aspects of an initiative to understand and assess at the outset. Provides a framework for selecting relevant evaluation questions, and the tools and mix of methods best suited to help address them. Supports iterative learning and helps focus the evaluation as the initiative unfolds.

Evaluating relationships and networks

Network Based Approaches to Evaluation

These methods focus on changes in relationships and networks as a key outcome of interest. They address the relational nature of social process and draw on the concepts and tools drawn from social network analysis.

Outcome Mapping

A planning, monitoring and evaluation approach that is particularly helpful for evaluating multi-stakeholder projects. It seeks to assess contribution of a project to changes in the relationships and behaviour of those it comes into direct contact with and has influence over.

Social Media Evaluation

Coming Soon

Increasingly information and dialogue are shared through social media platforms, shaping the terms of debate and engaging stakeholder groups in different ways.

Participatory Methods

Most Significant Change (Stories of Impact)

A qualitative and participatory monitoring and evaluation approach that gathers stories of change from a range of stakeholders, which are then discussed and analysed together to assess the impact of projects. It is particularly useful where there may not yet be agreement on what outcomes are the most important, or they are difficult to predict in advance.

Participatory Statistics

A set of methods that enable local people to generate statistics for local level planning, learning and reflection, but which can also be aggregated at wider levels for statistical analysis and generation of 'representative' evaluation findings.

Case Study Methods for Evaluation

Evaluation Case Studies

Case studies are often misunderstood, but can be valuable and rigorous way to answer 'how' and 'why' questions, and understand projects in their real-life contexts.

Qualitative Comparative Analysis

QCA is a research and data analysis method for comparing complex cases. It was explicitly developed to tackle complexity in social programmes and combines quantitative and qualitative analysis. It uses set-theory to understand how causes and conditions combine differently in different cases to explain outcomes of interest.

Engagement Topic Areas

Evaluating Arts Based Engagement

Evaluating Community Advisory Boards

Coming Soon

Evaluating Public Events

Coming Soon