For a list of Mesh introductions to the below methods, frameworks and approaches, or select the **Most Significant** where there may not yet be agreement on what outcomes are the most important, or they are difficult to predict in advance.

### Theory Driven Evaluation

A method that is useful for evaluation of complex social programmes, implemented across a variety of contexts. It integrates qualitative and quantitative analysis and seeks to build an understanding of ‘how change happens’ 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.

### Realist Evaluation

A planning, monitoring and evaluation approach that is particularly useful 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.

### Participatory System Inquiry and Systemic Action Research

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 useful 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.

### Participatory Methods

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 generalisation of ‘representative’ evaluation findings.

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### Social Media Evaluation

**Coming Soon**

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

### Evaluating Case Studies

Cases 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 complex 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.

### 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.

### Case Study Methods for Evaluation

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

### General Evaluation Resources

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

### Specific 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.

### Engagement Topic Areas

Evaluating Arts Based Engagement

Evaluating Community Advisory Boards

Evaluating Public Events

**Coming Soon**

**Coming Soon**

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