



# Symposium on Evaluation in the Knowledge Society

organized in cooperation between  
the European Evaluation Society (EES)  
and the Master Program in Evaluation,  
University of Southern Denmark

Date: 18-19 October 2007

Place: University of Southern Denmark, Odense



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK  
CENTRE FOR  
CONTINUED EDUCATION

# Symposium on Evaluation in the Knowledge Society

## Welcome note

You are cordially invited to participate in "Evaluation in the Knowledge Society". The symposium is a bridge-building exercise between various fields of knowledge. The field of evaluation will benefit from renewed inspiration from academic perspectives on evaluative knowledge and its social implications. Academics interested in the role of knowledge in contemporary society will find in evaluation an interesting example of a knowledge-producing socio-political practice.

The symposium will comprise keynote speakers, plenary sessions, parallel paper sessions, small-group sessions and a reception where you can meet presenters, authors, EES representatives, and others. A dinner is included in the programme.

## Maximum no. of participants

175. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis.

## Practical information

The programme commences on 18 October at 10 a.m, and closes on 19 October at no later than 4. p.m.

The venue: University of Southern Denmark, Campusvej 55, 5230 Odense M. The modern conference section of the university is reserved for the purpose.

A full program will be available by 1 July on the website.

## Website

[www.evaluation.sdu.dk](http://www.evaluation.sdu.dk)

## Working language

English. Small-group presentations may take place in Danish. Attention will be given to the fact that issues of language, translation and understanding are non-trivial.





## Theme

The theme of the conference is knowledge as it is produced, facilitated, discussed, and made politically relevant as a part of the practice of evaluation in contemporary society.

Contributions to the symposium could answer questions such as these:

- 1 Are there particular new trends in the so-called "knowledge society" which fundamentally change the conditions for evaluation?
- 2 How do we understand the social, organizational and political processes which lead to some forms of knowledge rather than others in specific evaluations? Does evaluation itself privilege some forms of knowledge rather than others?
- 3 What is the interplay between various forms of knowledge, such as tacit, local or practical knowledge versus systematic, theoretical, global, quantifiable, or standard-based knowledge in evaluation? Is the relation between evaluation on the one hand and professional, disciplinary, and sector-based knowledge on the other changing?
- 4 Are the more conventional debates about methodologies in evaluation cast in a new light if we look at methodology in a broader perspective of social forms of knowledge? How do we understand the social significance of movements promoting particular forms and roles of methodology/knowledge, such as those supporting "evidence-based practice"?
- 5 Do recent theories of knowledge, which suggest that knowledge interferes with social life in complex, paradoxical and non-linear ways, help us understand how evaluation is socially productive beyond what is known as "learning", "accountability", and "enlightenment"?
- 6 Does new affordable knowledge production lead to a democratization of evaluative knowledge? Or does the knowledge society usher in new inequalities in relation to the power to evaluate and the power to control knowledge production?
- 7 Is it meaningful to say that certain professional practices have become more knowledge-based? Can the same be said about policy-making?
- 8 If evaluation capacity, evaluation culture, and self-evaluating organizations are enhanced, what will be their contribution to knowledge in society?
- 9 Knowledge and language are closely connected. Should we be more attentive to issues of language and translation in evaluation as something which shapes and transforms knowledge?
- 10 What is the significance of contemporary media in the public presentation and discussion of knowledge from evaluation?



## Reception and dinner

A reception followed by a dinner will take place on the premises on 18 October in the evening. Admission to these events is included in the conference fee.

## Conference fee

Members of EES: 325 EUR or 2.440 DKK

Non-members of EES: 425 EUR or 3.200 DKK

The conference fee covers the cost of all conference documentation, 2 lunches, coffee, one reception, and one dinner. Tokens valid for public bus transportation from central Odense to the conference venue will be given to all participants who pay for accommodation. Accommodation is not included in the conference fee but can be booked at [www.evaluation.sdu.dk](http://www.evaluation.sdu.dk).

## Special admission

A special rate is given to members of the European Evaluation Society. To become a member, see [www.europeanevaluation.org](http://www.europeanevaluation.org). Participants from Eastern Europe may apply for free membership of the EES.

Special rules apply to students at the University of Southern Denmark. See registration material.

## Bursaries

Participants may apply for bursaries. A written application should be sent to the conference secretariat before June 1, explaining the reasons why bursaries are applied for. Bursaries may be given on a case-by-case basis, and they may cover the full conference fee or part hereof. Financial support cannot be given to accommodation and travel costs.

## Conference secretariat

SDUE (Centre for Continued Education)  
Att. conference secretary Lene Madsen  
Engstien 1  
DK-6000 Kolding  
Tel.: +45 6550 1074  
E-mail: [lbn@adm.sdu.dk](mailto:lbn@adm.sdu.dk)

## Timetable

### **NEW DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: 25 MAY**

Abstracts (up to 600 words) can be submitted online at the conference website.

#### **15 June**

Acceptance of abstracts  
to be received by presenters.

#### **1 July**

Full program available on the website.

#### **15 August**

Closing date.

