

## **In this Issue: JMDE(2)**

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The journal homepage has had over 6,000 hits, and there have been around 2,500 downloads of all or part of the first issue. Our list of 932 people who want to be notified of new issues now includes residents from more than 100 countries. The current issue is a bit longer: it runs over 170pp. but you can download just the parts that interest you. Here are some highlights.

- There is an editorial by Jane Davidson on the perception of evaluation by others, and what we can and should do about it.
- One of the major articles is by Paul Clements, who raises serious concerns about the crucial matter of how the big (U.S. and other) agencies are evaluating their vast expenditures on development programs overseas. He's unlike most critics in two respects: (i) he went to Africa to check things out on the ground for himself, and (ii) he suggests a way to raise the standards considerably. You will no doubt realize that both the problem he writes about, and his proposed solution, have obvious generalizations to other areas of public and private investment.
- The other major article is from Germany, in which Susanne Weber sets out an approach to monitoring and evaluation based on current abstract sociological theorizing. Her approach also bears on systems theory and organization learning, in case those are interests of yours. That article and the other German contribution (on the evaluation of online education) are interesting not only for

their content, but for the sense they provide of how evaluation is seen by scholars in Europe.

- We introduce a new feature—“Ideas to Consider”—for short pieces, selected by the editors and ideally just of memo length, that canvas ideas we think deserve attention by evaluators. There’s a quartet of these to kick the feature off: one on the still-persisting shortage of cost analysis in published articles and reports on evaluation, one on the role of body language in creating and countering evaluation anxiety, one on approaches to evaluating online education, and one on the tricky problem of how to evaluate programs (or drugs) which depend on the motivation of users for their success (should attrition rate count as program failure or subject failure?).
- Our strong interest in international and cross-cultural evaluation continues with an update on several of our previous articles covering evaluations in regions and publications around the world. The review of evaluation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the last issue has already been reprinted in translation, as it well deserved, and its sequel here tells an impressive story of activity in that region. The sixteen articles in this section tell a remarkable story: evaluation is changing the world and the world is changing evaluation!

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