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The *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation's* (CJPE) most recent issue contains 7 articles (5 in English and 2 in French), a research and practice note, and 3 book reviews.

The first article in this issue—*The Role of the Evaluator in a Political World*—is by Ernie House, and loosely based upon his keynote speech from last year's CES conference (*Evaluation 2004*) in Saskatoon, Canada. House focuses his attention on the political struggles faced by evaluators under the current Bush administration in the United States as well as the difficulties in balancing often conflicting, highly variable values and interest.

Following House's contribution is *Using Multi-Site Core Evaluation to Provide "Scientific" Evidence* by Frances Lawrenz and Douglas Huffman. The authors describe how to incorporate other evaluative purposes into evaluations in which the client's central concern is effectiveness (usually goal-based evaluation requiring experimental designs, for example). Lawrenz and Huffman argue that the prevalent standards of "scientific" evidence (such as the U.S. Department of Education's priority on "scientifically-based evaluation methods" (p. 18)—i.e., RCTs) have not been proven superior to other approaches. The authors demonstrate, through a case study, that scientific rigor can be maintained while including other evaluation approaches (in this case a participatory, collaborative approach) and purposes (to not only evaluate "what" happened, but "how").

Mary Sehl's piece entitled *Stakeholder Involvement in a Government-Funded Outcome Evaluation: Lessons Learned from the Front Line* describes involving project stakeholders in the planning and decision making process and the strengths and limitations associated with this approach.

Le Benchmarking Et L'amélioration Continue by Marthe Hurteau describes the benchmarking process and its use to identify relevant performance indicators. Hurteau uses this article to explore the "current preoccupation in evaluation literature: the impact of organizational context on the evaluation process" (p. 57).

L'évaluation des Technologies de la Santé: Comment L'introduire dans les Hôpitaux Universitaires du Québec? by Oliver Sossa and Pascale Lehoux describes the implementation of health technology in Quebec university teaching health centers and the structures that facilitate its development.

J. Bradley Cousins, Swee C. Goh, Shannon Clark, and Linda E. Lee explore the "conceptual interconnections and linkages among developments in the domains of evaluation utilization, evaluation capacity building, and organizational learning" (p. 99) in their article entitled *Integrating Evaluative Inquiry into the Organizational Culture: A Review and Synthesis of the Knowledge Base*. The implications for future research efforts and practice are also discussed.

In *The Analysis of Focus Groups in Published Research Articles* Geoffrey S. Wiggins critically assesses the use of analytic methods employed in published literature from several disciplines. The author found that fewer than half of these research articles utilized systematic analytic techniques (emergent or pre-ordinate) in assessing focus group transcripts. Even fewer utilize measures of reliability when analyzing transcripts.

The *Research and Practice Note* in this issue of CJPE is a piece by Allison Nichols, entitled *Pre- and Post-Scenarios: Assessing Learning and Behavior Outcomes in Training Settings*. Nichols frames her discussion of documenting training outcomes in learning and behavior using two case study examples.

The final section of this issue of CJPE is devoted to reviews of three books. The first is *Organizational Assessment: A Framework for Improving Performance* (Lusthaus, Adrien, Anderson, Carden, & Montalvan, 2002) reviewed by Stephen M. Morabito. The second, *Evaluating Social Programs and Problems: Visions for the New Millennium* (Donaldson & Scriven, Eds., 2003) is reviewed by Jennifer Carey. The final review, of the book entitled *Institutionalizing IMPACT Orientation: Building a Performance Management Approach that Enhances the Impact Orientation of Research Organizations* (Smith & Sutherland, 2002) is reviewed by Ronald Mackay.