

## In this Issue

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This is a particularly exciting issue, for several reasons. First, we have an important paper by Tom Cook (describing what is special about the role of experiments, etc.) which goes a long way towards defining a compromise on the ‘causal wars’ issues, as I try to spell out in a few comments, and Jane Davidson discusses in her editorial. We hope Professor Cook will reply to both comments in the next issue if he disagrees with them. And we hope readers will consider adding their input to this important discussion.

Second, we are delighted to have two major papers by leading European evaluators, one of which spells out a twin role for evaluation and planning, complete with a metaphysical foundation! The other provides “A European Perspective” on evaluation standards and the role of evaluation in democracies, a topic on which the Europeans have been doing a great deal of work. Jim Sanders spells out the Top Ten Things that Evaluation Needs, a noble cause indeed. And Richard Hake takes on the criticisms of pre/post testing as a gold standard for educational innovations.

There is a second review of a book on collaborative evaluation, complementing the one in the last issue by Brad Cousins, and a review of the New Directions issue on network analysis. And maybe you’ll get a smile out of the Ideas to Consider piece!