

## In This Issue

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In the last issue we had an account from two brave evaluators of their recent years working in Afghanistan; in this we have some methodological reflections from another valourous (female) evaluator working successfully on the HIV/AIDS front in the darkest reaches of the Amazon jungle, with a largely law-breaking clientele whose general attitude about any breach of confidentiality seems to have been that it would probably cause their death, so why not yours as well. The article is a kind of handbook of hazards for evaluators working ‘in harm’s way’ and hence a good guide to planning for others. Interestingly, it may provide the strongest argument for empowerment evaluation: do it when it’s the only possibility. In the next issue, we should have a report from our own Evaluation Center team, back from Nepal, where they got in the minute the revolution of Spring 06 ended and got out with only one brush with a minor riot.

Physical excitements apart, we have two other articles on cross-cultural evaluation. One of them reaches further, into all evaluation capacity-building, and provides a valuable outline of what has to be covered in that undertaking. Our recent adoption of a strong commitment to disaster evaluation, for which the new AEA TIG and its



listserv are both Evaluation Center efforts, headed by Liesel Ritchie, may be part of the reason for publishing the first known article about evaluating an administrative disaster which, like the danger warnings of the previous paragraph, is a fine guide to the preconditions for doing a good evaluation. And we have two further articles in our series of demonstrations of the basic use of technical tools that are useful in evaluation.

Our usual global reviews—of evaluation publications and evaluation by regions—include important histories of evaluation in the four Nordic countries by our quadrilingual colleague Gunilla Holm, and in Taiwan, plus recent activities in Australasia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. And we cover some new and interesting journals, including the other two online free journals to which we should have paid more homage sooner. Then there are three entries in the “Ideas to Consider” and herewith an invitation to send in comments on all of the above!

The above references are short on identifying details? Yes, it’s a devious ways of encouraging you to look at the articles themselves, even if briefly.

With this issue, whose 200+ pages will take us well past 20,000 hits online, we are switching over to using the extremely valuable OJS software system made available without charge to all online refereed journals by the Canadian government; to whom many thanks. The next issue will take us past 1000 pages online and archived, which will, we hope, provide a valuable resource for future researchers. Your suggestions for improvement are, as always, very welcome and carefully considered.