

Evaluation and Other Fields as Reflected in Three IAPE Conferences

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Evaluators and the status of the evaluation field play an important role in assessing the benefit and justification of social intervention programs. Based on Bourdieu's field theory, we examined the evaluation field as reflected by the abstracts and speakers' characteristics in three IAPE conferences (2003-2007). We found that most of the evaluators arrive at the evaluation field from other fields and on a one-time basis; Most abstracts deal with education, welfare, the profession of evaluation and empirical research. A majority of the presenters are women, are without formal education in evaluation, and have little experience. We concluded that the continued development of core knowledge in the evaluation field is crucial, if the field is to play a significant role in assessing the value of social programs.

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