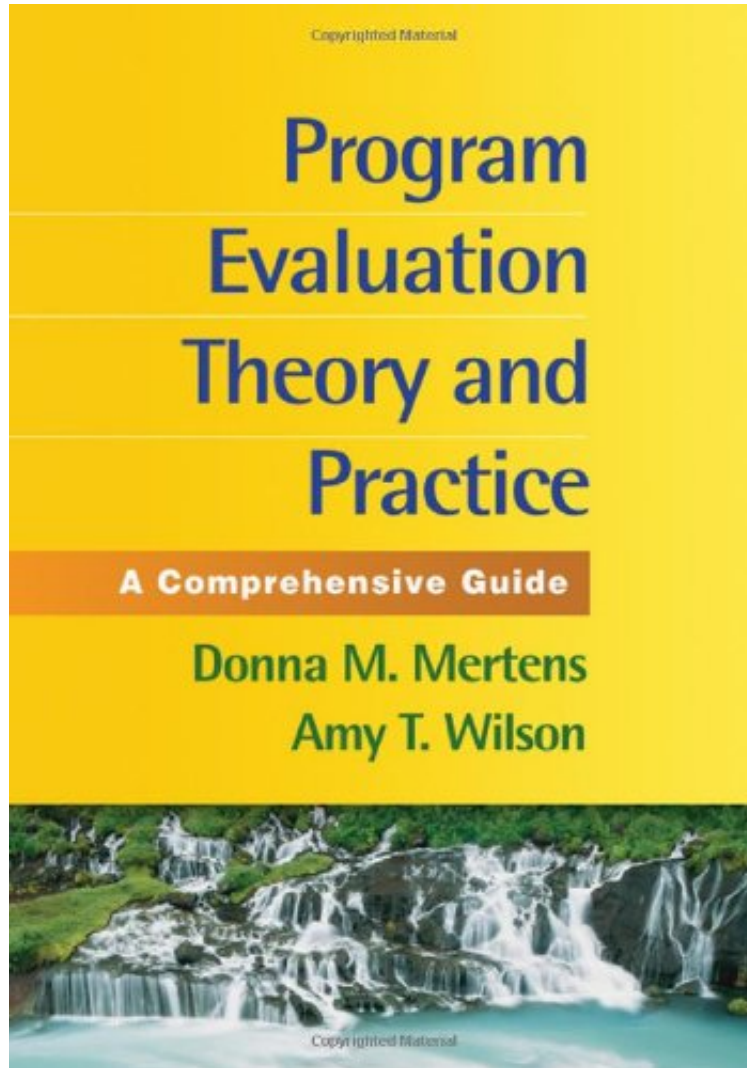


(Download pdf ebook) Program Evaluation Theory and Practice: A Comprehensive Guide

Program Evaluation Theory and Practice: A Comprehensive Guide

Donna M. Mertens PhD, Amy T. Wilson PhD

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Donna M. Mertens PhD, Amy T. Wilson PhD : Program Evaluation Theory and Practice: A Comprehensive Guide before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Program Evaluation Theory and Practice: A Comprehensive Guide:

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theory as it does on practice. I was hoping for something more practical though.

This engaging text takes an evenhanded approach to major theoretical paradigms in evaluation and builds a bridge from them to evaluation practice. Featuring helpful checklists, procedural steps, provocative questions that invite readers to explore their own theoretical assumptions, and practical exercises, the book provides concrete guidance for conducting large- and small-scale evaluations. Numerous sample studies many with reflective commentary from the evaluators reveal the process through which an evaluator incorporates a paradigm into an actual research project. The book shows how theory informs methodological choices (the specifics of planning, implementing, and using evaluations). It offers balanced coverage of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches.

"Written in clear, jargon-free prose, this is a coherent and pragmatic guide for students and practitioners in any discipline who are involved in evaluation theory and practice. Doing justice to the various branches and theories informing evaluation practice, the text presents real-world evaluation examples and lessons with an acute understanding of the limitations and politics that evaluators must navigate. Its strong pedagogical apparatus encompasses graphic organizers, application exercises, Web resources, and self-reflection questions, all grounded in concrete examples and applications from across fields and disciplines. Mertens and Wilson's book is a boon for graduate students and teachers."--Sharona A. Levy, DPhil, Chair and Director, SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge) Program, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

"I was pleased to see the broad scope of this book, which sets it apart from many others that focus on a single aspect of evaluation. The authors put evaluation in its proper historical context before moving on to methodology and the planning and implementation phases of this unique type of research. The book stimulates critical thinking while helping readers become more savvy producers and consumers of research."--Wendy L. Hicks, PhD, Department of Criminal Justice, Loyola University New Orleans

"This text provides a comprehensive, thorough presentation of program evaluation as an enterprise with a rich history, diverse perspectives, and widely varied applications. Among the best features of this text is the consistent use of well-conceived questions to transition readers' thinking between chapters and constantly challenge them to consider multiple perspectives. The text strikes a good balance between epistemological and theoretical understanding and practical applications."--Steven R. Rogg, PhD, Lesson Study Alliance, Chicago, Illinois

"Standing out in a sea of evaluation texts, this book takes evaluation training to another level. It provides a solid, coherent discussion of the field in the 21st century. Mertens and Wilson address step-by-step methodological considerations in conducting evaluations, with special attention to the transformative paradigm. Illustrating how mixed method evaluations are conducted in a variety of settings, the book goes beyond buzzwords to demonstrate concrete strategies that are used in the field. What really sets this book apart is the opportunity it affords students and practicing evaluators to think through their evaluation practices more deeply, considering not only the methods they use but also the general philosophy that drives every evaluation they conduct. A 'must have' for students, scholars, and practitioners."--Katrina L. Bledsoe, PhD, Education Development Center, Inc., Washington, DC