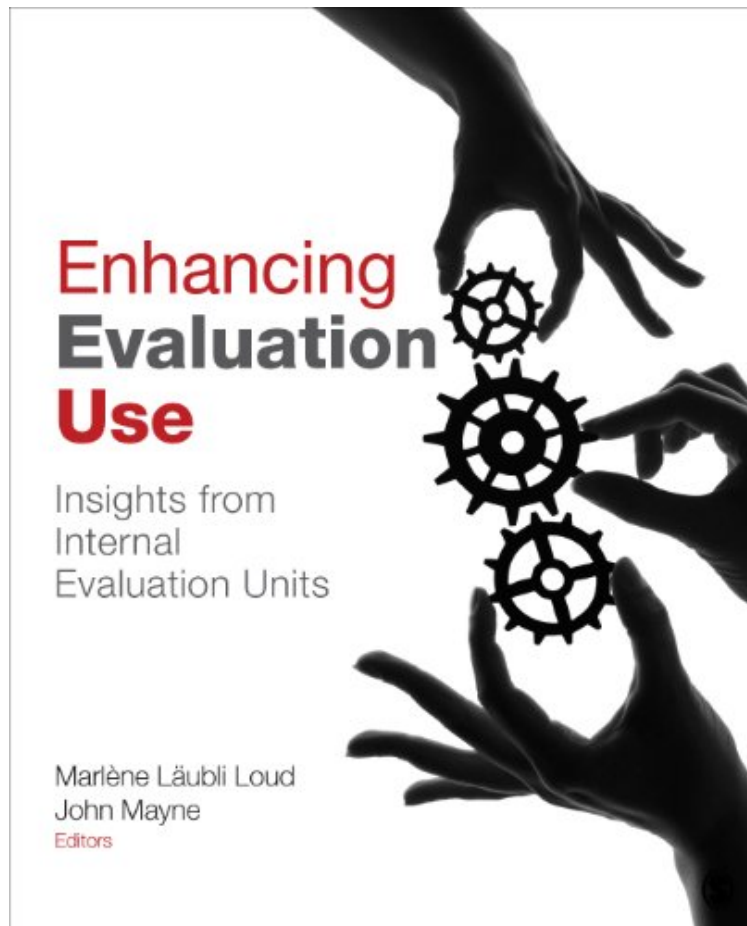


Enhancing Evaluation Use: Insights from Internal Evaluation Units

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From SAGE Publications, Inc : Enhancing Evaluation Use: Insights from Internal Evaluation Units before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Enhancing Evaluation Use: Insights from Internal Evaluation Units:

Enhancing Evaluation Use: Insights from Internal Evaluation Units offers invaluable insights from real evaluators who share strategies they have adopted through their own experiences in evaluation. Readers will learn about the challenges, solutions, and lessons drawn from the experience of evaluators working in a wide range of organizations. Referencing the latest literature, contributors discuss factors that help or undermine attempts to foster an evaluative thinking and learning culture within an organization. Applicable in a wide range of situations, their accounts demonstrate the initiative and innovative thinking they use to address challenges in various, sometimes complex, evaluation settings. Questions at the end of each chapter stimulate thought and discussions about the issues raised and allow readers to apply their findings to their own situations. "This book speaks to a cutting-edge topic, that is, the potential to generalize program evaluation expertise to larger organizational questions, and the cases from multiple

international contexts represent a unique feature."--John Clayton Thomas, Georgia State University

"The use of actual cases to highlight major concepts in evaluation in the public sector is a great feature."--Danica G. Hays, Old Dominion University

"The text provides practical information from a variety of organizational contexts and the integration of international experiences provides for expanded discussion of evaluation theory and practice."--Kathleen Norris, Plymouth State University

"The key strengths of this book lie in its national, supra-national and international organizational contexts, its consistency in insider perspectives, and the detailed examples provided."--Donna Haig Friedman, University of Massachusetts, Boston

EVALUATION IN ORGANIZATIONS: A BOOK REVIEW by Robert Picciotto, UKES Council Members

(Excerpted)"The book of essays reviewed here was edited by two eminent evaluators. It fills an important gap in the literature: in pursuit of improved quality of evaluation products, evaluation thinkers have lavished attention on evaluation methods, ethics and use but they have sorely neglected evaluation governance issues and have largely failed to probe the workings of evaluation within organizations. All contributors to the book are seasoned practitioners. They hail from national, supranational and international organizations and many of them have trespassed across these thematic and organizational boundaries. They all are equipped to draw on a vast reservoir of hands-on experience as evaluation commissioners, managers, internal evaluators or external practitioners. Given its pragmatic focus the book is bound to elicit broad based interest among evaluation practitioners. While it addresses familiar dilemmas and challenges (evaluation independence, evaluation utilization, organizational learning, nurturing of an evaluation culture, etc.) it does so from the distinctive perspective of 'insiders' who have had to contend with a variety of organizational constraints and management pressures. [It] should be of practical value to teachers, students, professional evaluators as well as evaluation commissioners and programme managers. All in all, this is a book that belongs on your shelf if you are intent on enhancing the role that evaluation plays in your organization."

Overall, this is a good book that is neatly organized. The book can be used in teaching because the examples provide realistic flesh and blood to supplement new students' learning of dry evaluation theory.--Peter Dahler-Larsen, American Journal of Evaluation

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About the Author

Marlene Loud (DPhil) is currently an independent consultant and trainer in public sector evaluation. She has worked with a range of organizations, small and large, including the European Commission, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Evaluation Group, the UK Department of Employment, UK Health Promotion Agency (now merged and become NICE), and the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting. She was head of the Research and Evaluation Unit at the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (SFOPH) for nearly twenty years where she gained much experience in evaluation management, and especially in the ways and means for improving the use and utility of evaluation in organizations. She continues to have a keen theoretical and practical interest in this area and is now leading a working group for the Swiss Evaluation Society (SEVAL) on competencies for evaluation managers. Prior to her work with the SFOPH, she was an independent evaluator in the UK, specializing in the evaluation of developmental programs in health and general education. She was also a research fellow at the Department of Education, University of Surrey, and in the Social Science Faculty, University of Oxford, UK. Marlene has facilitated several workshops on public sector evaluation for a range of health and other practitioners. She was a session lecturer in the University of Fribourg's Sociology and Social Policy masters program for more than 10 years, and a guest lecturer at several other Swiss universities. She is a member of the European Evaluation Society and the SEVAL Executive Committee for more than 10 years with special responsibility for professional development. Marlene has many years international experience too. She has worked in several countries including Algeria, Switzerland, the UK, and Italy. She was also part-time Director of the European Office of International Physicians for the Prevention of

Nuclear War?winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. John Mayne (PhD) is an independent advisor on public sector performance. He has been working with a number of organizations and jurisdictions around the world, including several agencies of the UN and development banks, a number of governments and international NGOs, the European Union, the OECD and several Canadian federal departments on results management, evaluation, and accountability issues. Until 2004, he was at the Office of the Auditor General where he led efforts at developing practices for effective managing for results and performance reporting in the government of Canada, as well as leading the officers' audit efforts in accountability and governance. Prior to 1995, John was with the Canadian Treasury Board Secretariat and Office of the Comptroller General. He has authored numerous articles and reports on results management, evaluation, and evaluation methodologies and edited five books in the areas of evaluation, public administration, and performance monitoring. In 1989 and in 1995, he was awarded the Canadian Evaluation Society Award for Contribution to Evaluation in Canada. In 2006, he became a Canadian Evaluation Society Fellow.