



Dialogue Across Disciplines

a seminar series on meanings and methodology

John Yun

Department of Education

The Increasing Relevance of Educational Evaluation: Methods, Meaning, and Madness

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

12pm-1pm

4108 Education Building

bring your lunch - drinks and dessert will be served

Abstract: The importance of evaluation at state and federal funding agencies is increasing each year, with new proposal requirements emphasizing the need for evidence to support the continued funding of programs. In fact, in 2009 then-Director Orszag of the federal Office of Management and Budget announced a change to a more evaluation-based approach to setting funding priorities stating that, "Some programs have persisted year after year without adequate evidence that they work." This change in policy emphasis at the federal level is reflected in new evaluation requirements at key grant making agencies such as NSF, NIH, and IES. In this talk Dr. Yun will examine how strong evaluation frameworks can enhance the educational and other scientific work funded by these programs across many disciplines. In addition, he will describe some useful evaluation designs, as well as good practices for scientists and evaluators to work together effectively.

Bio: John T. Yun (Ed.D. in Administration, Planning and Social Policy Research from Harvard) is an associate professor in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at UCSB and director of the University of California Educational Evaluation Center (UCEC). Dr. Yun's research focuses on issues of equity in education and the uses of educational evaluation, specifically: patterns of school segregation; the effects of school context on educational outcomes; the importance of integrating evaluation into everyday school practice; and the educative/counter-educative impacts of high-stakes testing.