

ENGAGED PLANNING, ACTION RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

TOOLS AND CONCEPTS TO DESIGN AND FACILITATE IMPACTFUL CHANGE

Starting October 31, 2019



Introduction

This course engages participants in hands-on work with tools and concepts for collaboration and evidence-based learning and change. It is dedicated to advancing professional capacities to design and facilitate authentic dialogue and sound inquiry among people and organizations committed to making a difference.

In a complex world, decision-making needs to be continuously informed by multiple perspectives, and particularly by the people most affected. This means learning to work "with" people and not "for" or "on" them. Engaging people and mobilizing knowledge for informed action is a direct path to the development of better services, policies, programs and projects. Joins us on this journey.

Learning Modules

The 4.5 day agenda is organized into two Modules that can be taken alone or in combination. Cost: \$650/module; \$1,100 for the complete course (HST included)

Module 1: Engaged Planning and Action Research (October 31 and November 1)

Module 2: Evaluating Outcomes in System Change Initiatives (November 4 and 5)

Bonus Session: Process Design Lab (November 6)

[Click here](#) to register, and for pricing.

Module 1: Engaged Planning and Action Research (October 31 and November 1)

Build the skills for design and facilitation of people and evidence-based planning and research on a range of environmental and social equity issues. Practice the use of rigorous tools for engaging people in exploring the problem and assessing options that build on the strengths in the people and situation at hand. Relevant for community-based researchers and for people planning initiatives in complex and multi-stakeholder settings.

Agenda

The building blocks of engagement

- What is the right level of engagement and the level of evidence needed? How complex is the topic to be addressed? Where is the process generally 'heading', and what specific tools are needed to 'handle' it properly?

Stakeholder Analysis

- Getting the right people involved and shifting relationships to support genuine engagement and appropriate decision-making.

Problem Assessment

- Understanding a situation and acting on it is likely to be more effective if it takes into account key factors that may intervene along the way.

Breaking Down Silos

- The problem of working in silos is present not only within organizations but also between groups of people or organizations working on shared goals. Breaking down silos involves refocusing efforts to create synergy between and across activities, stakeholders and systems.

Consensus Building

- Design processes around selected topics where consensus can be built gradually, in light of feedback loops and iterations of an initial idea and a shared vision of the future.

Module 2: Evaluating Outcomes in System Change Initiatives,

November 4 and 5 - Explore systems-informed and people-centred evaluation approaches and the art of mapping outcomes as behavioral changes. Equity and inclusion principles and practices in evaluation are woven throughout. The module examines Outcome Harvesting in detail. It is a method that helps to build understanding of less visible systemic changes in a broad range of initiatives from health and wellbeing to environmental advocacy. Demonstrate hard to measure outcomes in collaborations, partnerships and collective impact initiatives.

Agenda

The building blocks of evaluation

- Principles for people-centred and systems-informed evaluation.
- Choosing evaluation methods and tools for a purpose.

Designing An Evaluation Methodology

- Exploring key concepts and strengths of Outcome Mapping.
- Developing and monitoring behavioural change progress markers and strategies.
- Considerations for advancing collective impact initiatives.

Outcome Harvesting as an Approach to Systems Change Interventions

- Equity-focused Outcome Harvesting steps and principles.
- Combining Outcome Harvesting with other methods.
- Teaching case examples: Monitoring equity and inclusion outcomes with healthcare organizations, visioning the future of cities in Canada, evaluating capacity building investments in collaboration and partnership development.

Bonus Session: A Process Design Lab, November 6 – This half-day session of coaching and peer-to-peer support is open to participants in both modules. Use the art of process design to develop your objectives and plans for upcoming events and network with others doing similar work. RSVP.

[Click here](#) to register, and for pricing.

More About the Course

The facilitators have extensive experience in planning, research and evaluation related to climate change, First Nations community development, healthcare and community health and wellbeing. All sessions include practical examples from their experience, which can be adapted to work with different cultural communities and sectors.

Registration includes a printed copy of a Handbook of more than 100 tools for collaborative problem-solving, also available as a free pdf at www.sas2.net

Your Facilitators



Daniel Buckles is the co-founder of SAS2 Dialogue and an Adjunct Professor at Carleton University. He is currently focused on public engagement in responding to the climate emergency, especially at the municipal level, and is an advocate of social justice issues. Dr. Buckles was senior staff at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for 10 years and previously worked as a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) based in Mexico. He has published 8 books including *Participatory Action Research: Theory and Methods for Engaged Inquiry* (2nd edition 2019), and facilitated hundreds of learning events.



Heidi Schaeffer is the principal consultant with Advancing Change Together (ACT), focused on facilitating multi-partner collaboration, governance, co-design and outcome evaluation. Heidi has an M.Ed. in transformative adult learning and over 15 years of experience facilitating equity-focused strategy and performance measurement with organizations in community health and determinants of health. She managed knowledge mobilization, learning and evaluation initiatives with the Alliance for Healthier Communities (Association of Ontario Health Centres) from 2010-2018. Heidi has facilitated Outcome Mapping and/or Outcome Harvesting workshops in Canada, Tanzania, Belgium, Lebanon, Switzerland, Sri Lanka and Kenya.

Thank you to www.outcomemapping.ca for supporting this event.

