Healthy Start
Virtual Grantees' Meeting

# Transformative Evaluation for Healthy Start

Donna Mertens, PhD
Gallaudet University

June 24, 2020

HEALTHY
start
TA & SUPPORT CENTER

NICHQ
National Institute for
Children's Health Quality

# Agenda

| | |
|---|---|
| Housekeeping | Jordan-Tate Thomas, NICHQ |
| Introductions | Lina Barrett, MCHB, DHSPS |
| Transformative Evaluation | Donna Mertens, Gallaudet University |
| Q&A | All |
| Closing | Jordan-Tate Thomas, NICHQ |

# Meeting Logistics

**Please note the following:**

- This session is being recorded, and will be archived for future viewing.

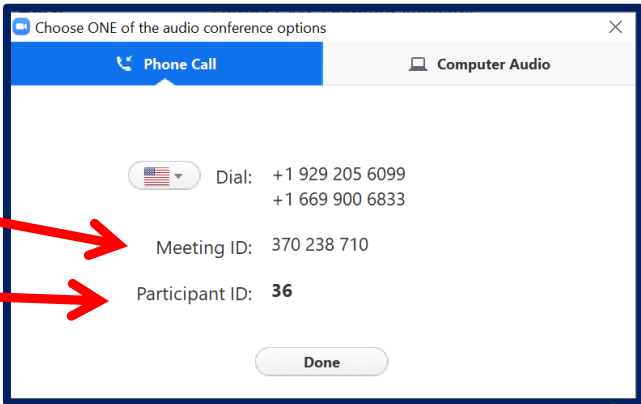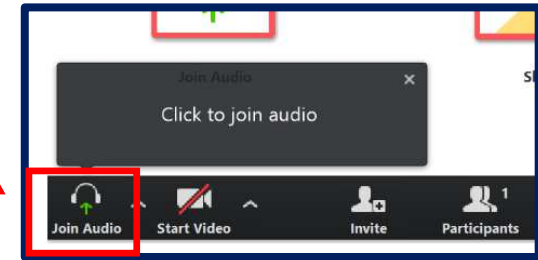- All participants are muted upon entry. We ask that you remain muted to limit background noise.

- Members are encouraged to participate in the discussion by typing your comment/asking questions using the chat box.

# Connecting to the Audio Conference

- Join Zoom Meeting by **clicking Zoom Meeting link** & launching the Zoom application

**Join Zoom Meeting:**
https://zoom.us/j/237206404

- An audio conference box will appear
  - If you do not see the box click the **'Join Audio' button**

Join Audio
Click to join audio

Join Audio    Start Video    Invite    Participants

- From the audio conference box: Select to **"Phone Call"** or **"Computer Audio"**

- If using the phone:
  - dial the number next to "Dial"
  - You will be prompted to enter the **"Meeting ID"**
  - Then you will be prompted to enter the **"Participant ID"**

Choose ONE of the audio conference options

📞 Phone Call          💻 Computer Audio

Dial:    +1 929 205 6099
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Meeting ID:    370 238 710

Participant ID:    **36**

Done

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# Ways to Participate: Chat



After you click the 'Chat' button, a sidebar will appear where you can chat to all participants

Chat here to everyone!

At the bottom of the Zoom window, you will see a 'Chat' button

# Need Help or Have a Question?

- Use the chat box to message a NICHQ staff member
- All staff have this picture as their Zoom thumbnail

2020 **Healthy Start Grantees' Meeting**

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# #HealthyStartStrong

- Spread the word about #HealthyStartStrong on social media

- Throughout the meeting, post about what you're learning/enjoying about the meeting

-  Include the hashtag #HealthyStartStrong and be sure to tag @NICHQ



We Are #HealthyStartStrong

# Poll #1

Donna Mertens, PhD,
Gallaudet University

# Donna M. Mertens

- Author of best-selling evaluation textbook
- Past President of AEA
- Former editor of the Journal of Mixed Methods Research
- Professor Emeritus, Gallaudet University

# "*Transformational change* is needed for our societies, economies and our relationship with the environment to become sustainable"

## IDEAS: THEME FOR 2019 GLOBAL CONFERENCE

- On many fronts the world needs transformational change to be able to reach the aspirations expressed in the SDGs and the Paris Agreement: a world free of poverty; leaving no one behind; and ensuring a prosperous and equitable future in diverse and inclusive societies, with economies that increase wealth but not while undermining our food, clean air and living circumstances, with a climate and biodiversity that safeguards the future of humankind. A transformational change is one that reshapes models, policies, structures, practices, culture and management."

# Chat Box: What are your thoughts about transformation in your project?

- What do you understand the term transformation to mean in your project?

- What are your thoughts regarding how evaluation can contribute to transformative change?

# Answering the Challenge: Transformative Evaluation

- Underlying assumptions that rely on ethical stances of inclusion and challenging oppressive structures;
- An entry process into the community that is designed to build trust and make goals and strategies transparent;
- Dissemination of findings in ways that encourage the use of results to enhance social, environmental and economic justice and human rights
- Addressing intersectionality when culturally responsive, feminist, critical race, equity-focused, and Indigenous theories are relevant in the evaluation context

http://zendaofir.com/the-etcetera-of-transformative-evaluation/
Stephen Porter and Donna Mertens (2019)

# Poll #2

# Definition of Mixed Methods

(Mertens & Wilson, 2019)

- Collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data
- Integrate the data at various levels and stages of the study
- In a single study or a sequence of studies
- Methodologically eclectic
- Synergy between quantitative and qualitative aspects of the study

# Evaluation Assumptions

Guba and Lincoln

- Axiological: Nature of Ethics

- Ontological: Nature of Reality

- Epistemology: Nature of Knowledge & Relation Between Knower & That Which Would Be Known (Evaluators and Stakeholders)

- Methodology: Nature of systematic inquiry

# Transformative Paradigm

| Assumptions | Beliefs |
|---|---|
| Axiology | Cultural respect; promote social, environmental and economic justice & human rights; address inequities; reciprocity; resilience; interconnectedness (living and nonliving); relationships |
| Ontology | Multi-faceted; consequences of privilege; historically situated |
| Epistemology | Interactive; trust; coalition building |
| Methodology | Transformative, dialogic, culturally responsive, mixed methods; policy change |

# Health Disparities

Case: Reduce health disparities

How does the transformative lens open up our understanding of health disparities

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*Photo via USAID*

# Versions of Reality: Ontology

Oppressive:
If only they would make better choices....

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Transformative:
Poverty, unemployment, educational attainment, wealth
Access to grocery stores and healthy food and safe places to exercise
Stress associated with lower SES and systemic discrimination
Residential segregation
Access to affordable health care
Culturally responsive health care

# Transformative Ethics

- Cultural Respect
- Build relationships
- Design to address social, economic and environmental justice
- Address inequities
- Reciprocity
- Resilience

## Three types of Justice



Social    Economic    Environmental
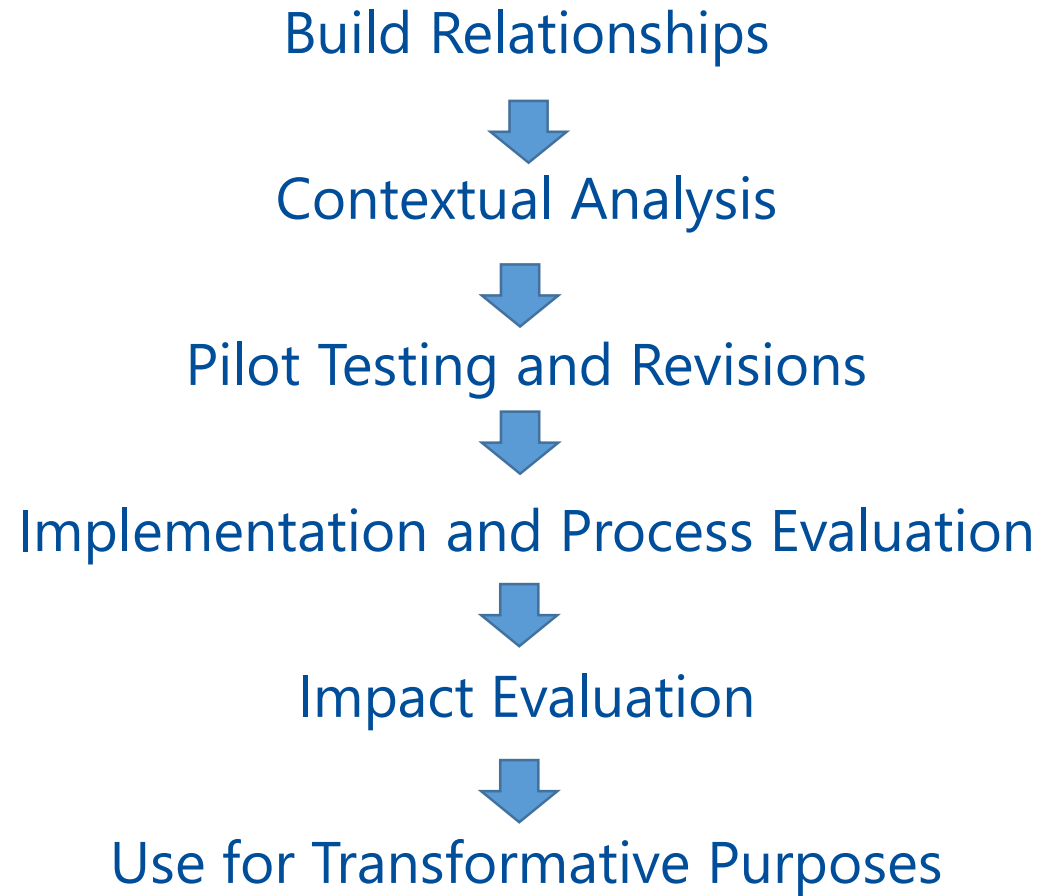
Merens Bath Keynote
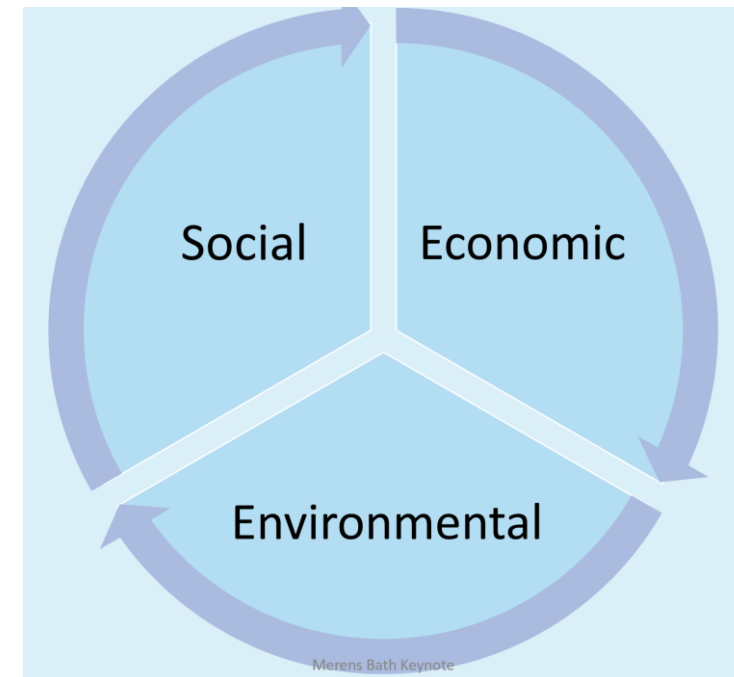
# Relationships with Stakeholders

Distant from, neutral, "objective"

Oppressive

Transformative

Interactive

Culturally responsive

Recognizing heterogeneity

Develop trust

Build coalitions (Fight for Fifteen)

# Transformative Mixed Methods Design

Build Relationships

↓

Contextual Analysis

↓

Pilot Testing and Revisions

↓

Implementation and Process Evaluation

↓

Impact Evaluation

↓

Use for Transformative Purposes

# Generic Transformative Mixed Methods

| Build relationships | Contextual analysis | Pilot intervention | Implement intervention | Determine effectiveness | Use findings for transformative purposes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Review literature | Focus groups, survey, extant data, literature, GIS mapping | Observations, interviews, photo voice, focus groups, surveys, pre/post data collection, team meetings | Similar data collection as for pilot | Post data collection (indicators, art work, poetry, photos, mapping) | Use for policy change |
| Individual and group consultation | Identify value positions | | Add process evaluation of implementation | | Use to refine intervention |
| Develop relationships and coalitions | Develop intervention | | Collect data on unexpected outcomes | Examine relationship quality | Use to improve and expand relationships |
| Develop working strategies | | | | | |

# Transformative Mixed Methods Design: Reducing violence in immigrant communities

| Build relationships | Contextual Analysis | Development of Intervention | Pilot Intervention and process evaluation | Use for transformative purposes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Develop a team that includes community members and agency staff Establish strategies for working together | Social assessment Epidemiological assessment Behavioural and environmental assessment Education assessment Policy assessment | Build capacity of providers Develop culturally and linguistically relevant information Provide opportunities for discussion about family violence | Implementation and process evaluation: Synthesize monthly discussions; focus groups Provide opportunities to share experiences of success or challenge | Impact and outcome evaluation Document strategies that build cohesiveness and trust Begin tracking family violence cases by the justice system differentiated by cultural group |

# Evaluating Coalitions

Susan M. Wolfe, Ann Webb Price and Kyrah K. Brown Eds. (2020)

# Relationship building

- Identify existing community action groups and understand the history of their efforts;
- Identify existing formal, informal, and potential leaders;
- Identify community needs and gaps in services;
- Identify community strengths and opportunities;
- Understand your target population (both needs and assets) in order to improve, build, and secure project credibility within the community; and
- Create a momentum for project activities by getting community input.

# Chat Box: Transformative Ethics - Relationships

- Who are the major stakeholders and what do you think you know about the cultural norms and beliefs of these groups?

How could you use mixed methods to:

- Identify the cultural norms and beliefs that might be operating in the community?

- Appropriately engage members of the community?

- How would you take into account the expertise, knowledge, and strengths of the community in order to provide a platform for authentic engagement between the evaluator and the community?

- Sketch out the relationship building stage of your evaluation study

# Chat Box: Evaluating Collaborations and Coalitions

- Transformative lens:
  - Who sets the coalition agenda?
  - Who is engaged?
  - How are they engaged?
  - What evidence is there that the coalitions include members of marginalized communities in culturally respectful ways?
  - How are power differences addressed?
  - How do you connect program outcomes with functioning of the collaborative or coalition?

# Poll #3

# Generic Transformative Mixed Methods

| Build relationships | Contextual analysis | Pilot intervention | Implement intervention | Determine effectiveness | Use findings for transformative purposes |
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| Individual and group consultation | | | Add process evaluation of implementation | | Use to refine intervention |
| Develop relationships and coalitions | Identify value positions | | Collect data on unexpected outcomes | | Use to improve and expand relationships |
| Develop working strategies | Develop intervention | | | Examine relationship quality | |

# Contextual Analysis

- Cultural
- Historical
- Political
- Environmental
- Legislative
- Power structures



ART BY DEVIN HUNT

# Purpose: Context Analysis To Gain Insights/Determine Necessary Inputs

- Evaluation Purposes:
  - Context
  - Capacity building/Organizational assessment
  - Needs and Assets Assessment
  - Relevance of current services/structure

# Chat Box: What mixed methods could you use to gather data about the context?

- Propose both quantitative and qualitative methods to gather data about the context.

# Utilization for Transformative Purposes

- The value of sharing information throughout the course of the evaluation is emphasized to facilitate midcourse corrections if an intervention is not moving toward the desired goal.

- Planning for utilization is essential during the initial design of the study; the topic of the study must be presented to participants in order to ensure that the data are gathered and disseminated in a way that they can be used to achieve the goals of social change and social justice.

- Policy analysis and advocacy are avenues to social change from the perspective of grass-roots organizations.

# Reporting Formats

- Written formats: voice and privilege
- Focus groups & interviews
- Visual presentations
  - Drawing pictures
  - Photos, videos, slide shows
- Ethnodrama
- Web-based
- Community-based

# Chat Box: Data Reporting & Use

- Who would you include in the preparation and dissemination of findings?
- How would you include members of the community in this process?
- What challenges might you anticipate encountering at this stage of your study?
- How would you deal with power differences among those involved in these activities?
- What is your thinking about ownership of the data and how would you handle this issue?
- What aspects of the transformative paradigm are most salient at this point in the study?
- How would you include constructive action for improved relationships, coalitions, intervention, and policy?

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# Interventions: Culturally Responsive and Transformative
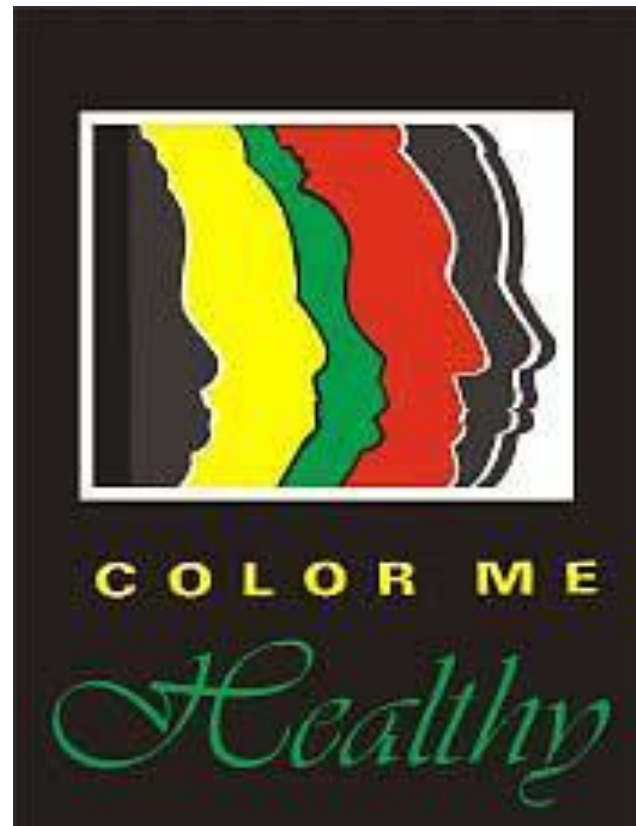
# Conclusions: Transformative Mixed Methods

- Raises new kinds of questions
- Innovations to address complexity in addressing wicked problems
- Focuses on relationship building with policy makers and members of marginalized communities
- Cautions us to consider how to support constructive change and avoid introducing additional harm

# Final Words

- Courage
- Mixed Methods: Capture complexity, address social justice, and ethics
- Teams – researchers/evaluators and

coalitions

- Capacity development
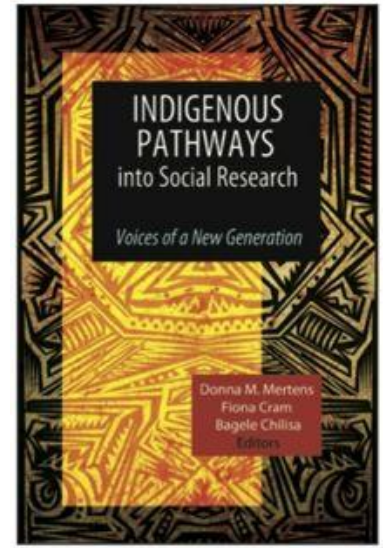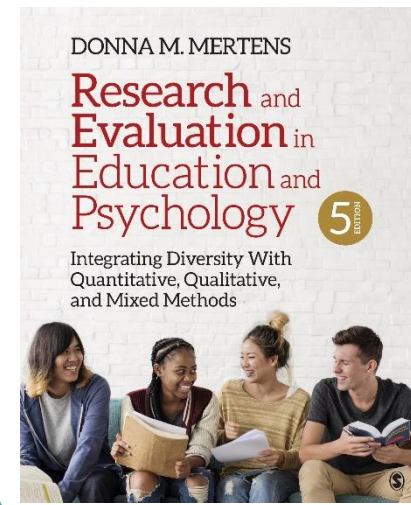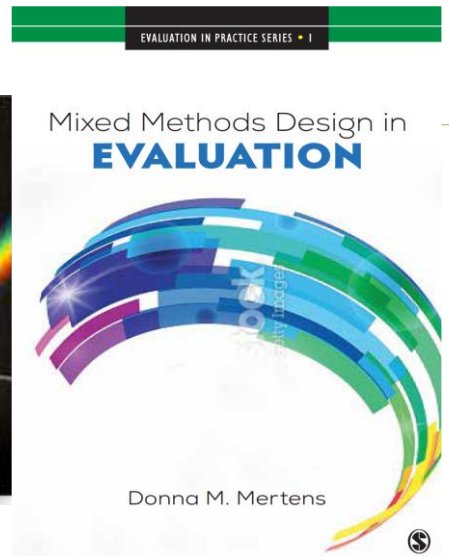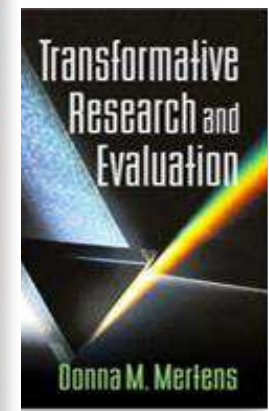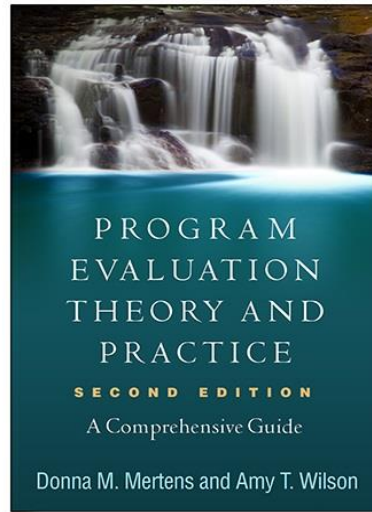
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- Mertens, D. M. & Wilson, A. (2019). *Program Evaluation Theory and Practice: A Comprehensive Guide. 2nd ed*. NY: Guilford.

- Mertens, D. M. (2020). *Research and evaluation in education and psychology: Integrating diversity with qual, quant and mixed methods*. 5th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

- Mertens, D. M. (2009). *Transformative research & evaluation*. NY: Guilford..

- Mertens, D.M., Cram, F., & Chilisa, B. (Eds.) (2013). *Indigenous pathways*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.

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# Resources

- Transformative Research and Evaluation, Research and Evaluation in Education and Psychology 5th ed. and Program Evaluation Theory and Practice 2nd ed. Website: http://transformativeresearchandevaluation.com/

- Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA)

- Bagele Chilisa, Professor at the University of Botswana, Indigenous Research Methodologies

- Maori community in New Zealand: Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples

- AEA TIGs (www.eval.org ): Feminist, Disability, LGBTQ, Multi-Cultural Issues in Evaluation, and Indigenous

# Homework

- What will you do differently as a result of having participated in this session?

- It takes all of us working together (Eleanor Roosevelt)

- Donna.mertens@gallaudet.edu

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Questions?

Closing

Jordan Tate Thomas,
NICHQ