

## Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 9am-5pm: Realist Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis

Realist evaluation requires that particular kinds of information be collected and that information be analysed in particular ways.

This one day workshop will focus on qualitative data, including both primary data (e.g. interviews and focus groups, qualitative components of surveys) and secondary data (e.g. program documentation and previous research or evaluations).

Key assumptions underpinning different approaches to interviewing will be explored, and Pawson and Tilley's idea of 'teacher learner interviews' will be introduced. Realist interviews are intended to be theory-building and/or theory testing and to be iterative in nature. The implications for evaluation design, research ethics applications, interview techniques and data management will be explored. Exercises will include writing and testing interview questions for different purposes in realist interviews. Techniques for managing data quality in realist interviews will also be discussed.

Two types of qualitative data analysis will be explored. The first will relate to primary (e.g. interview) data. Issues in qualitative data analysis, including circularity and judgements about the status to be afforded to talk, will be considered from a realist perspective. Techniques for coding and analysis will be demonstrated.

The second will relate to secondary data, and its use in theory building and theory testing. Simple data extraction sheets suitable for realist analysis will be demonstrated. Exercises will provide practical experience in analysing both primary and secondary data.

### **Target Audience**

Evaluation practitioners, consultants and academics using qualitative methods will benefit from this program. All participants are expected to have at least a working knowledge of realist evaluation (for example, having attended an Introduction to Realist Evaluation program).