

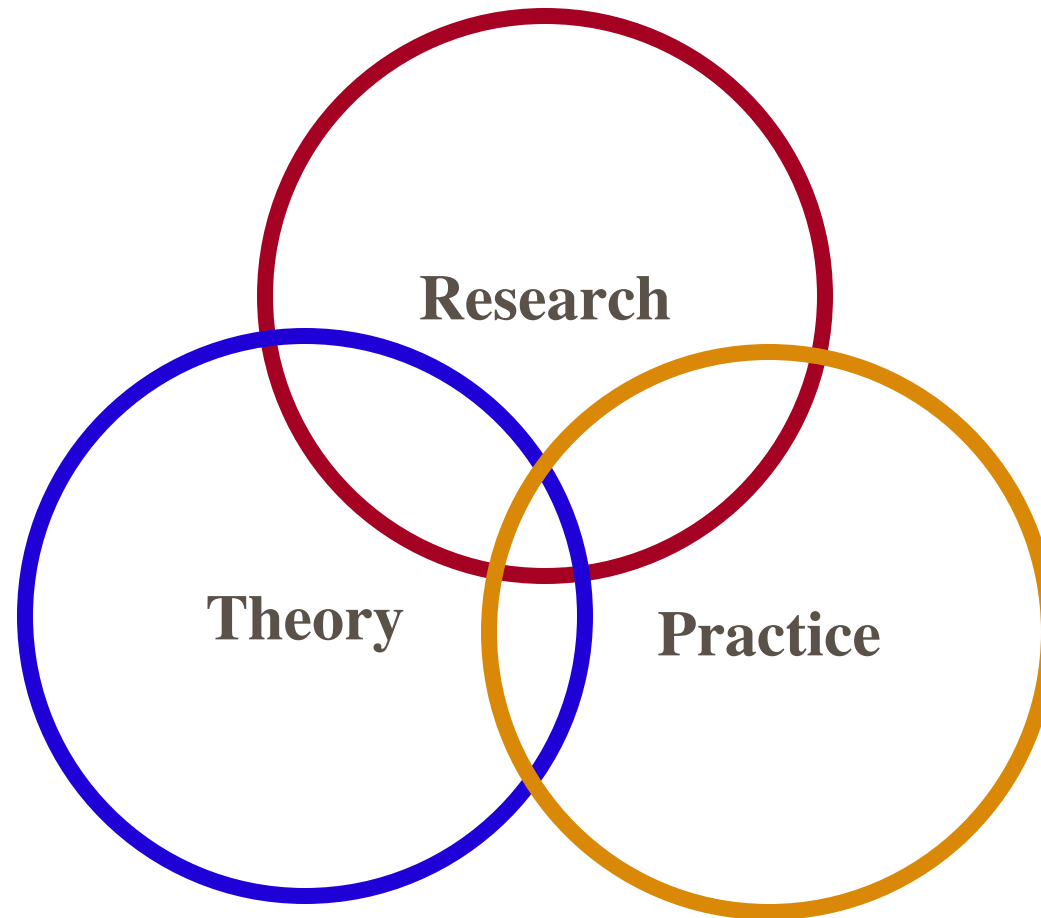
Past, Present and Future of Evaluation



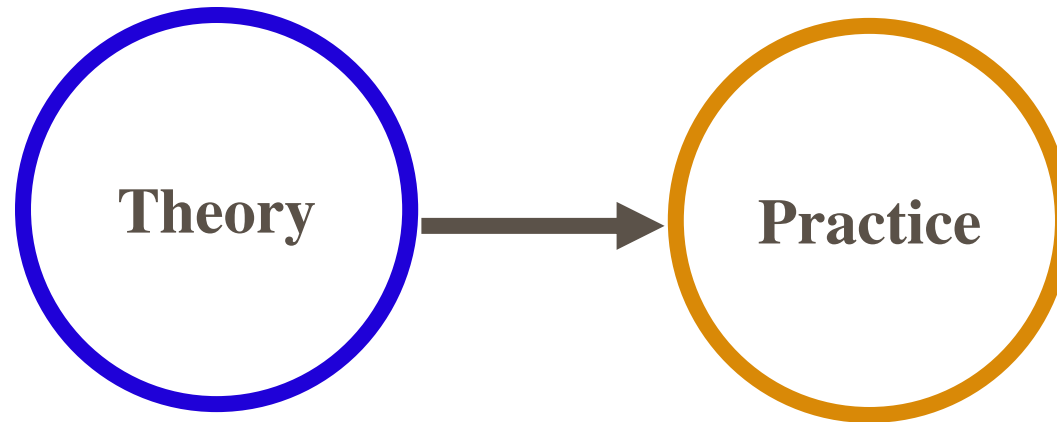
Brad Cousins, University of Ottawa

CES Ontario, Toronto, September 2006

Theory in context

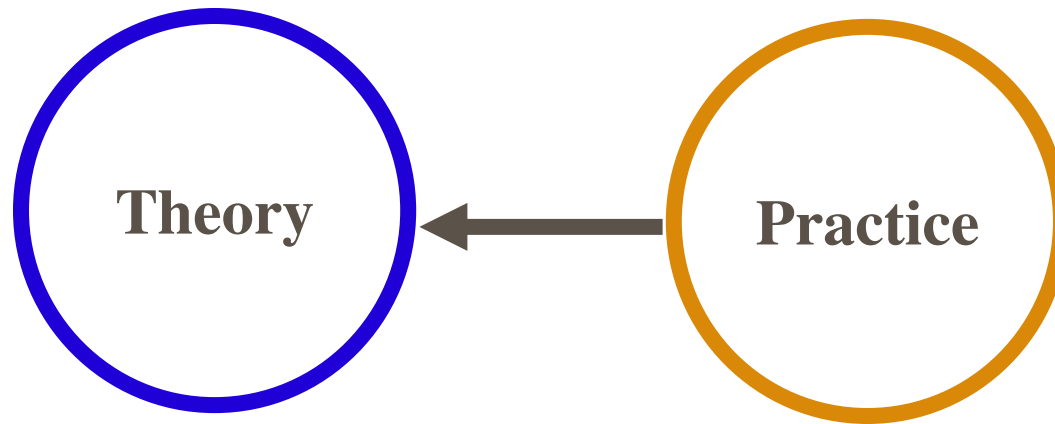


Theory to practice



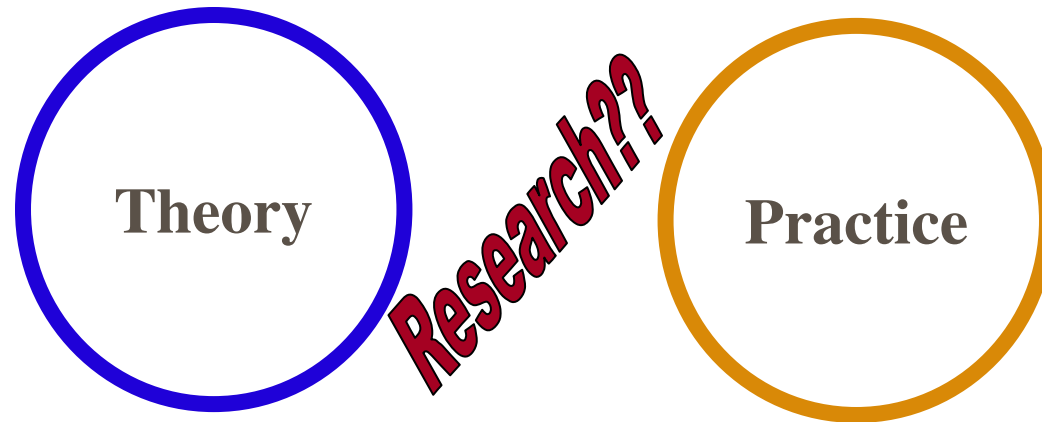
- Understanding informs practice
- Helpful to the novice?
- Model-driven vs. exigency-driven behaviour

Practice to theory



- Practice informs theory
- Perfect practice makes perfect
- Epistemological challenges to the dominant paradigm

Research: The missing link?



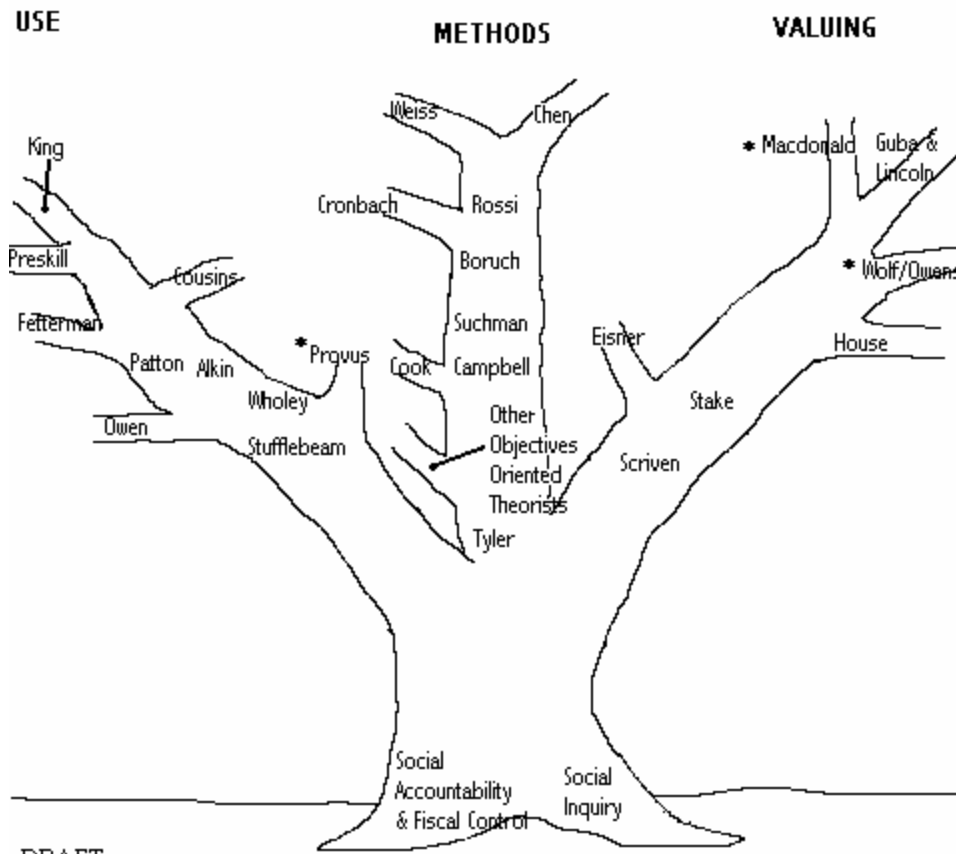
- No awards
- Emergence of the reflective narrative
- Limitations on research funding
- Journal policy



Canadian context

- Bilingual
- First Nations / Inuit Peoples
- Multicultural
- Geographically challenged
- Atlantic ocean country (vs. North American country)
- Government as an evaluation driver

EVALUATION THEORY TREE REVISITED



DRAFT

* Not included in chapters

Alkin and Christie's (2005) Evaluation Theory Tree



Evaluation in Canada

- Government as an evaluation driver
- Evaluation as a management function
- Turf wars among
 - Audit
 - Performance measurement
 - Evaluation
- Tension: Accountability function vs. Improvement function



Hot Button Issues in Evaluation

- Minimalist Theory of Evaluation
- Evaluation Use and Influence
- Social Justice Perspectives
- Participatory/Collaborative/Empowerment Approaches
- Evaluation Capacity Building
- Culturally Competent Evaluation



Hot Button Issues in Evaluation

- Ethics in Evaluation
- Evaluator Competencies and Professionalism
- Mixed-methods in Evaluation
- Performance Measurement / Audit / Evaluation



Thesis:

Data use leads to data valuing

- Belief follows practice
- The problem of evaluation non-use
- New insights from theory and research
 - Use and Influence
 - Evaluation Capacity Building



Challenges ahead

- Enhancing the capacity to USE evaluation in addition to the capacity to DO evaluation
- Integration of evaluation into management framework
 - Resolving the turf wars
 - Essentiality of the learning function of evaluation



Challenges ahead

- Professional Identity for Evaluation
 - Credentialing
 - Professional development
- Embracing the Collaborative Model
- Promoting and Sustaining Research ON evaluation