

DOING RIGOROUS EVALUATION WORK IN COMPLEXITY:

AN AVANT GARDE PROPOSAL




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Over 100...

- Formative evaluation
- Summative evaluation
- Process evaluation
- Outcome evaluation
- Utilization-Focused evaluation
- Empowerment evaluation
- Culturally-responsive evaluation
- Participatory evaluation
- Principles-focused evaluation
- Realist evaluation...

Panorama of Evaluation Approaches




Michael Quinn Patton

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Just one more...?

Cubist Evaluation



Bust of a Woman 1944 tate.org.uk
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Contribute new meaning

Analysis & (re)-synthesis

Subjects & objects are broken up and reassembled

Not just another photorealistic picture of 'what is' but an abstraction that challenges the beholder to see things in a new way

Gino Severini, 1919, Bohémien Jouant de L'Accordéon (The Accordion Player), Museo del Novecento, Milan wikipedia.org

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Honour multiple perspectives

Seek diversity

Instead of depicting something from a single perspective, the artist depicts it from multiple perspectives to represent the subject in a greater context

Albert Gleizes, 1912–13, *Les Joueurs de football (Football Players)*, oil on canvas, 225.4 x 183 cm, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)



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Pablo Picasso, 1921, *Nous autres musiciens (Three Musicians)*, oil on canvas, 204.5 x 188.3 cm, Philadelphia Museum of Art [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)

Challenge dominant narratives

Be brave

Cubists challenged conventional and prevailing narratives and perspectives

So should we – especially where they serve to marginalise people, ideas or inconvenient pieces of evidence

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Open up possibilities

Empower and encourage emergence

Cubism opened up almost infinite new possibilities for the treatment of visual reality in art

Enduring impact - influenced later abstract styles (e.g. constructivism), architecture and film

Similarly, evaluation can leave people with a greater sense of what's possible, empowered and equipped to make meaning and communicate value

Marcel Duchamp, 1911, *La sonate (Sonata)*, oil on canvas, 145.1 x 113.3 cm, Philadelphia Museum of Art [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)



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Cubist evaluation

Rigour through...

Thinking beyond measurement
(qual & quant, mixed methods)

Thinking beyond methods
(evaluative reasoning and evaluative thinking)

Thinking beyond objectivity
(inter-objectivity, subjectivity, inter-subjectivity,
& collective sense-making)

In order to...

Contribute new meaning
Honour multiple perspectives
Challenge dominant narratives
Open possibilities and empower emergence

A Rubik's cube and a question mark in the style of a cubist painting
Collaboration between Julian King & DALL-E
openai.com



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