

## In This Issue

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This is a particularly interesting issue, which is just as well since it's also our longest to date—over 220 pages, and I doubt you can find a way to shorten it without a hundred readers feeling seriously deprived!

Remember that you can arrange to be notified when a new issue comes out by registering at our website (<http://evaluation.wmich.edu/jmde/subscribe.html>); the next issue will be out in a month or so, with some heavy coverage of the 'causal wars'. And we are now officially registered with an ISSN number—can't be done without two issues on record—so that we're in the scientific journal databases, which gives us more status in scholarly circles. In popular circles, we have over 11,000 hits on the two issues that came out before this one, which suggests (but does not prove) that more people look at our pages (perhaps briefly) than all other evaluation journals put together. Keep that in mind as you're thinking about where to publish!

As usual, we continue our coverage of the international evaluation world, with no less than two reports on evaluation in China, a very interesting one on evaluation in Japan, a new correspondent writing about the scene in Germany, and one on New Zealand (where my co-editor runs a consulting business), plus an update on Canada. Our coverage of journals and events of note includes a report on the First International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry, which almost burst the seams at the

University of Illinois last (northern) spring; and a complete list of all international associations from the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation, about which we expect to have an article in the next issue.

The major articles are by major authors: the architect of evaluation at the World Bank, Robert Picciotto, writes on “The Value of Evaluation Standards”; Paul Brandon, the standards guru, addresses the great problem of high-stakes testing—how do you set the lines between the grades—and there’s a study of evaluation capacity-building in Afghanistan by two who did it there. That paper illustrates our policy of ‘naturalistic editing’—editing that leaves the flavor of the writing intact, at some cost to the grammar of Standard English—and the description of conditions in Afghanistan will bring tears to many eyes.

A serious paper on ethnography for evaluation by Brandon Youker looks at three anthropological models of evaluation, and Chris Coryn, one of our associate editors who did more than anyone to pull this issue together, reviews *Realistic Evaluation*. The latest issues of the major journals are also reported on by our best reporters.

Next issue we switch over to the Canadian software for online free journals, a very nice package paid for by the Canadian government, to whom our thanks. It will improve our operations considerably. And don’t forget: this is an evaluation journal, run by evaluators, so *we like to hear criticism*. Tell us how to improve!