

The South Australian Community Health Research Unit is delighted to host a seminar by Professor Louise Potvin, a leading figure in the evaluation of health promotion.

A Realist Approach to Evaluating Health Promotion Interventions

DATE: Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd April 2010

TIME: Thursday 9.30am – 5pm, Friday 9.00am to 4pm

VENUE: Flinders in the City - 182 Victoria Square (the old Reserve Bank Building)
Enter from Flinders Street or Victoria Square



Professor Louise Potvin

A professor in the department of social and preventive medicine at the Université de Montréal, **Louise Potvin** holds a PhD in community health and has done extensive work on evaluating community health programs. As a Canadian Health Services Research Foundation chair, Dr. Potvin is leading a program of education and research into how people's health is shaped by social circumstances and how public health programs can affect the health of socially disadvantaged people. Her chair program is called *Community Approaches to Inequalities in Healthcare*.

The main objective of the chair is to train new researchers and facilitate exchanges and collaboration between different partners in the area of community health, with a view to developing new strategies for reducing health inequalities and maximizing health benefits for marginalized populations. She was a member of the WHO Working Group on the evaluation of health promotion. She is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

The Workshop

Health Promotion workers in Australia, and internationally, are being asked to demonstrate their effectiveness, a task complicated by debates regarding the nature of evidence required and the methods required to produce such evidence. In particular, health promotion practice based on collective strategies offers particular theoretical and methodological challenges for evaluators.

This 2 day workshop will present a critique of biomedical and constructivist approaches to health promotion evaluation, offering critical realism as an approach to meet the challenges the challenges of contemporary health promotion practice. A critical realist approach asks not only 'what works' but also 'for whom and under what conditions'. It unpacks the mechanisms through which programs work or fail and the role of context and settings.

The workshop will be of interest to a range of people working in health promotion, community based services and evaluation. Health Promotion practitioners will learn more about how to evaluate their work in ways which align evaluation practice with the values and principles of health promotion. Those involved in policy and programme development will be interested in the rigour critical realism brings to evaluation practice and the ways in which evaluation can inform future planning and development. Evaluators involved in undertaking community based evaluations will be interested in the exploration of the evaluator's role and evaluation practice.

The goal of this two-day seminar is to trigger a reflection on the nature and functions of programs and of their evaluation as developed and implemented following the strategies and principles of the Ottawa Charter.

Day 1: Presentation, discussion and small group work
The nature of programs: programs as systems of action

Day 2: Presentation, discussion and small group work
If programs are made of networks, then what are the implications for evaluation?

At the end of the course participants will:

- Understand the main principles of critical realism as applied to program evaluation
- Understand programs as systems of actions and the implications of this for program planning and implementation
- Have the opportunity to discuss real-life examples

Registration details

Staff of SA Health funded units \$175.00

All others: \$225

Registration includes course materials and lunch during the two days of the seminar.

Registration contact:

southgate.admin@flinders.edu.au

Tel: (08) 7221 8411 Fax: 7221 8424

Further seminar information:

angela.lawless@flinders.edu.au

Telephone: (08) 7221 8474



Registration Form

A Realist Approach to Evaluating Health Promotion Interventions Workshop

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd April 2010

Your booking will be secured when you return this registration form with either a deposit or full payment to:

Southgate Administration
SACHRU
GPO Box 2100, ADELAIDE, SA, 5001

Telephone: +61 8 7221 8411
Fax: +61 8 7221 8424
Email: southgate.admin@flinders.edu.au

TAX INVOICE ABN: 65 542 596200

Preferred name: _____

Position: _____

Mailing address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

Email: _____

Cheque enclosed: A\$ _____ Deposit: Y/N

Credit Card.....Bankcard Mastercard Visa Name on Credit card.....

Credit card number..... Expiry Date/.....

Signature..... Date:.....

Any other help or special requirements needed?

Registration details:

Cost: (GST inclusive) Staff of SA Heath funded units \$175.00 All others: \$225

Registration includes course materials, morning and afternoon tea, and lunch during the two days

Cheques should be payable to: **SACHRU**.

