

## EDITOR'S REMARKS 27(2)

Articles in this issue of *CJPE* address two of the most important topics on the current agenda of the evaluation community. Two articles focus on the role of evaluation in economic analysis to determine the value for money of programmatic interventions. Other articles deepen our understanding of how to account for processes and mechanisms in evaluative efforts.

Smith et al. studied the extent to which resource allocation processes are subject to evaluation in Canadian healthcare institutions. Their findings suggest a need for both procurers of evaluation and evaluators to pay more attention to this critical part of assessing the success of interventions. There is a hint that evaluators may be shying away from anything that smacks of economic or financial analysis, perhaps because it is outside their comfort zone of expertise. There may be good reason for such caution. Mason et al. lay out the immense challenges of conducting cost-effectiveness evaluations in the real world of data, time, and resource constraints. In an article that may prove controversial, they describe an approach to conducting cost-effectiveness evaluation in the face of substantial barriers. The authors acknowledge the flaws in this approach, but conclude that it is preferable to avoiding the murky waters of cost-effectiveness evaluation altogether.

I wanted to clap when I first saw the title of Langlois et al.'s article "The Art of the Nudge: Five Practices for Developmental Evaluators." It seems that everywhere I turn in the evaluation world, somebody is talking about a developmental evaluation that they have completed or are working on. Langlois et al.'s piece puts forth some extremely valuable practice-oriented and evidence-informed advice to would-be developmental evaluators. The article raises the question of how well evaluation training opportunities provide the skill set necessary for the conduct of good developmental evaluation work. The in-depth study on mechanisms of change offered by Tougas and Tourigny complements the practical orientation of "The Art of the Nudge." Learning from this careful study will certainly be of added benefit to those wanting to engage in developmental evaluation as well as to more traditional evaluators who sometimes struggle with understanding the context, mechanism, and outcome configurations of realist evaluation.

This issue is capped with a practice note on the intriguing undertaking of collaborative logic modelling. Having had recent personal experience with such a venture, I truly appreciated the insights offered and expect that this short piece will resonate with many readers.

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