

Time	Title	Organiser / Chair	Presenters	Breakout description
AM	Future of Evaluation in Global Health	Dr Meghan Kumar	Dr Meghan Kumar; Dr Ferdinand Mukumbang	In this session, we will examine the future of health evaluation in the global south/majority world through an epistemic justice lens. Using a few narrative and visual provocations, we propose that the future of evaluation should also focus on reducing inequalities by addressing epistemic injustice and overcoming resource constraints regardless of country classifications. We will focus on participatory evaluation approaches to harness their potential to enhance meaningful engagement and consider participants' perspectives toward a more just future.
	Future of Evaluation: Where have we been and where are we going?	Dr Angela Bate	Professor Sonia Dalkin; Professor Angela Bate	The need for comprehensive evaluation of complex innovations (services, interventions, policies) continues to grow in health and social care. The NIHR has commissioned three National Evaluation Teams to inform on the organisation and delivery of health and social care services. IDEAS is the interdisciplinary evaluation of complex innovations in health and care social Team, located at Northumbria University, launching in February 2025. This interactive workshop will use the Three Horizons technique to think about the future of evaluation in health and social care and inform the goals of the IDEAS team. To do this, we will consider/establish (1) the current 'norms' in evaluation (i.e. business as usual) (2) innovations which, if appropriately developed, may bring about change in evaluation, and (3) the desired future of evaluation (the 'new' normal). This workshop will help us to consider and synthesise as a group, the current state of evaluation in health and social care, what the future of evaluation in health and social care may look like, and how we can move toward that theoretically, practically, and pragmatically. Please note that this session will involve some movement around the room so do let us know if we can support you should you have any access requirements.
	Rethinking Rapid Evaluation: Challenges in Scoping and Decision-Making.	Dr Manbinder Sidhu	Dr Manbinder Sidhu; Dr Sophie Spitters	<p>The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has commissioned five rapid evaluation centres to produce evidence to inform healthcare policy, commissioning, and healthcare delivery in the United Kingdom. To encourage the uptake of evidence in practice, rapid evaluations are designed and commissioned following a process of consultation and/or co-design between policymakers (research users), researchers (research producers) and commissioners (research funders), in parallel to scoping with wider stakeholders.</p> <p>We will explore how rapid evaluation commissioning decisions evolve during scoping and stakeholder consultation with a focus on the role of data in the context of decision-making. Specifically, assessing the value of evaluability assessments, availability and feasibility of collecting data, and how best to engage with local case study sites/teams. We add to this by exploring how different stakeholders understand, assess and value these and other issues related to data when making decisions about rapid evaluations.</p> <p>Using the approach developed by NIHR Birmingham, RAND, and Cambridge Evaluation (BRACE) Centre, we will deliver an activity-focused workshop using vignettes asking attendees to enact three case examples of rapid evaluation commissioning. We will narrate the evolution of scoping and stakeholder negotiations and ask the audience to share their considerations at key points. We will synthesise lessons to further inform scoping of evaluations.</p>

PM	Managing big data sets and data linkage in evaluation: challenges, lessons learned and solutions	Professor Jo Gray	Professor Jo Gray; Professor Darren Flynn, Dr Alan Bagnall, I-Lin Hall	This workshop will explore the current developments in terms of researchers accessing large data sets. This can be daunting for all researchers regardless of experience, not least because it is an evolving landscape with multiple options and organisations at play. We will start the workshop with an overview of one of the latest developments available to researchers: The Secure Data Environment. This will be followed by a Q & A session exploring the benefits, challenges and limitations of the SDE in order to identify the future needs, skills and resources to enhance evaluation within this space.
	Managing complexity in Evaluation	Dr Jason Scott	Professor Brian Castellani; Dr Jason Scott; Dr Efundem Agboraw; Dr Morgan Beeson	Managing complexity in evaluation involves effectively navigating and addressing the intricate and interconnected factors that influence innovations, including understanding the dynamic, non-linear, and multifaceted nature of the system(s) being evaluated. In this session we will explore in three presentations the use of tools and techniques for managing complexity. These presentations will focus on how the use of an online platform (COMPLEX-IT) can be used to explore complex data from a case-based perspective, how a bespoke web-app that models and maps implementation outcomes for mobile stroke units facilitated an understanding of complexity and uncertainty in commissioning decisions, and how complexity is managed in a health economic evaluation of social prescribing. Through these presentations, participants will gain actionable insights into tools and techniques for managing complexity. A facilitated discussion will follow, allowing attendees to reflect on lessons learned and apply these tools and techniques to their own contexts.
	Mobilising knowledge from complex intervention evaluations into policy and practice: how to deal with lazy academics and stubborn policymakers	Dr Peter Van der Graaf	Dr Peter Van der Graaf; Dr Mandy Cheetham; Dr Sebastian Potthoff	<p>Knowledge mobilisation describes the work required to close or bridge the gaps that exist in translating ideas from research into new approaches and putting those approaches into practice. It is widely acknowledged that this is not a straightforward or linear process. Instead, it is increasingly seen as both a process and outcome resulting from dynamic collaboration between knowledge producers and users. Research that takes account of the needs, knowledge and context of users is more likely to be considered relevant, useful, and used.</p> <p>This is not simply about overcoming implementation barriers but understanding each other's perceptions. Scientists blame the stubbornness of practitioners for insisting on doing it their way, believing they know their patients best, while practitioners lament the smugness of scientists who believe that if they publish it practitioners will use it. These misperceptions signify emotions at work in the knowledge gap that need to be addressed before we can start mobilising knowledge.</p> <p>This workshop will be facilitated by experienced academics with many years of experience of translating research into practice. We will present the Fuse Knowledge Mobilisation Model, which emerged through reflections on 10 years of collaborative research. We will also draw on specific participatory and embedded research examples and toolkits to draw attention to the importance of collaboration in attempting to maximise research impact. Various activities will be used to help workshop participants plan their own knowledge mobilisation efforts and provide hands-on experience of learning in relation to knowledge translation.</p>