



LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES

Current trends in Program Logic: Paradigm Wars and Black Swans?

Dr Robert Lake

29 June 2010: 12.15 pm (for 12.30 start) – 1.45 pm

Venue: All Ords Room

Ground floor, Executive Annexe, 102 George Street, Brisbane

Security arrangements at this venue require Queensland Government staff to wear ID tags; others must carry photo ID and register at the security desk. Please allow time for this.

Both AES members and non-members are welcome at this **free seminar**, and to stay on afterwards for an informal discussion.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

To minimise use of disposable cups, please consider bringing your own mug for tea or coffee, and you are welcome to bring your lunch.

As a courtesy to the presenter, please ensure you are seated by 12.30 sharp.

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

In this seminar Robert Lake will look at current trends and developments in the use of program logic, including the 'paradigm wars' being fought about program logic. While war may not have been declared, there hasn't been an outbreak of peace either. Robert looks at the competing approaches to program logic, their strengths and their weaknesses. Proponents would argue that program logic represents the 'gold standard' in evaluation practice. Opponents argue that it's deterministic and simplistic, that it doesn't represent reality, that it's simply a tool to keep executive management happy – the list goes on. Then there are the claimed sweeping changes of evaluation's version of the unified theory of everything: results-based accountability is a recent entrant to the field.

Robert will also talk about the Black Swans of program logic (those world-changing, unpredictable, but wholly reasonable events that occur: in a world where all swans are white, what happens when you encounter a black swan?)

PRESENTER PROFILE

Dr Robert Lake is principal of NovumAVI, a consultancy specialising in performance measurement systems, program evaluation and people insights. Robert has over 20 years experience in research, program evaluation and performance management across a broad range of public sector areas including the military. He regularly contributes to the evaluation field through presentations and papers, and has been a joint winner of two AES awards, including the prestigious Evaluation Study Award. He has worked as a professional practitioner in both corporate and university settings, and undertaken research and evaluation in diverse fields including aviation, health, transport, education and policing.

Please register your interest by e-mail to Ann Maguire ann_maguire@health.qld.gov.au

For information on membership and other Australasian Evaluation Society activities, please visit the website at www.aes.asn.au or contact Diana Beere at diana.beere@communities.qld.gov.au.

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Thanks to Queensland Treasury for supporting this event