An Ethical Approach to Evaluation Practice: Issues and Application

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AND ASSOCIATES

Basis for Australasian Evaluation Society Ethics

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Guidelines

Code of ethics

NZ Social Policy Evaluation and Research (SPEaR) Committee Good Practice Guidelines involving Pacific People

NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research

AES Revised July 2013

○ Guidelines
○ Code of Ethics
○ Policy on Application of Code of Ethics

Te Ara Tika (Guidelines for Conducting Evaluation for Maori research)

Canadian Evaluation Society Guidelines for Ethical Conduct

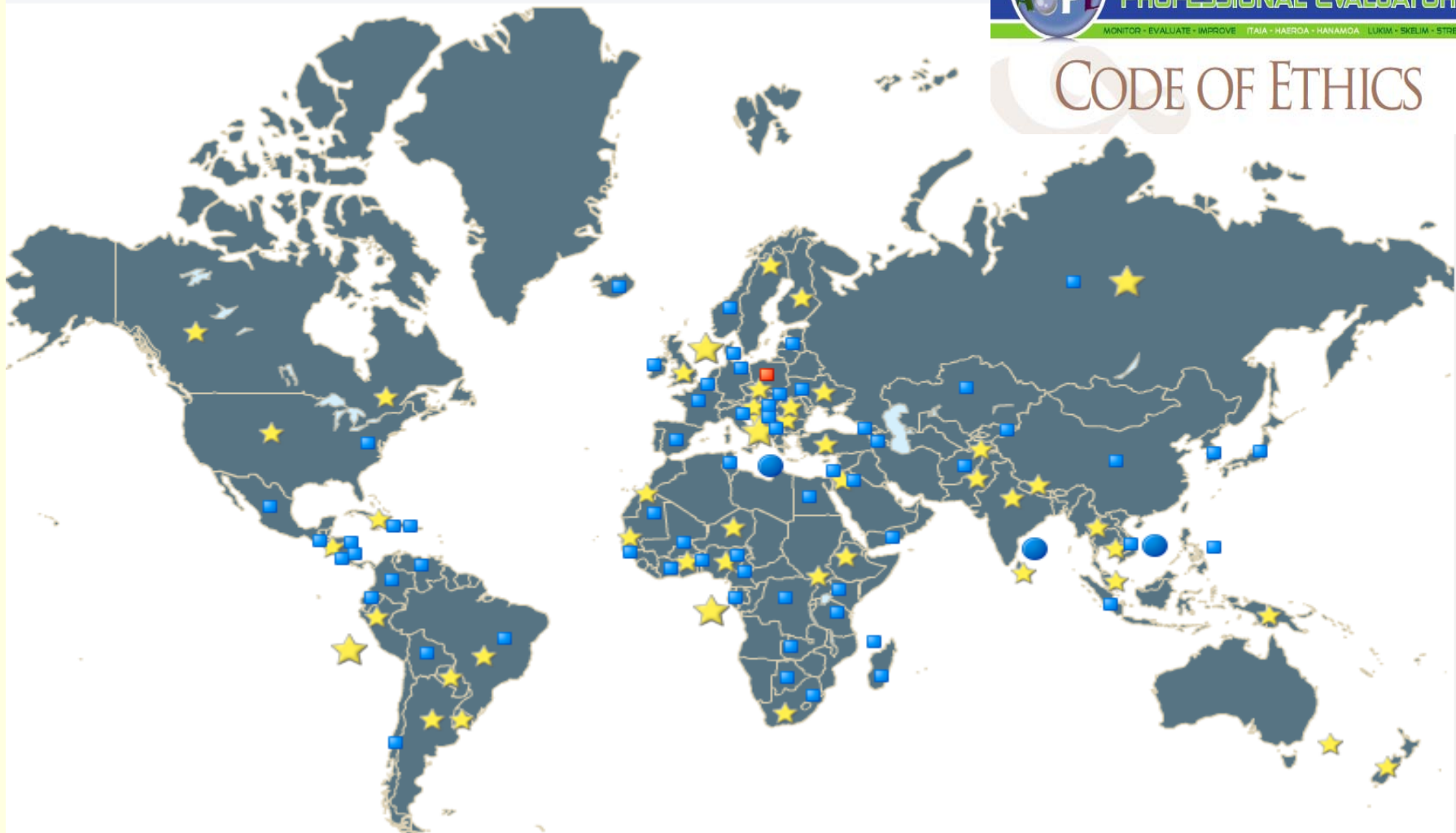**American Evaluation Association Guiding Principles for Evaluators**

Canadian Evaluation Society
Société canadienne d'évaluation

AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION

Evaluation Codes of Ethics other Contexts
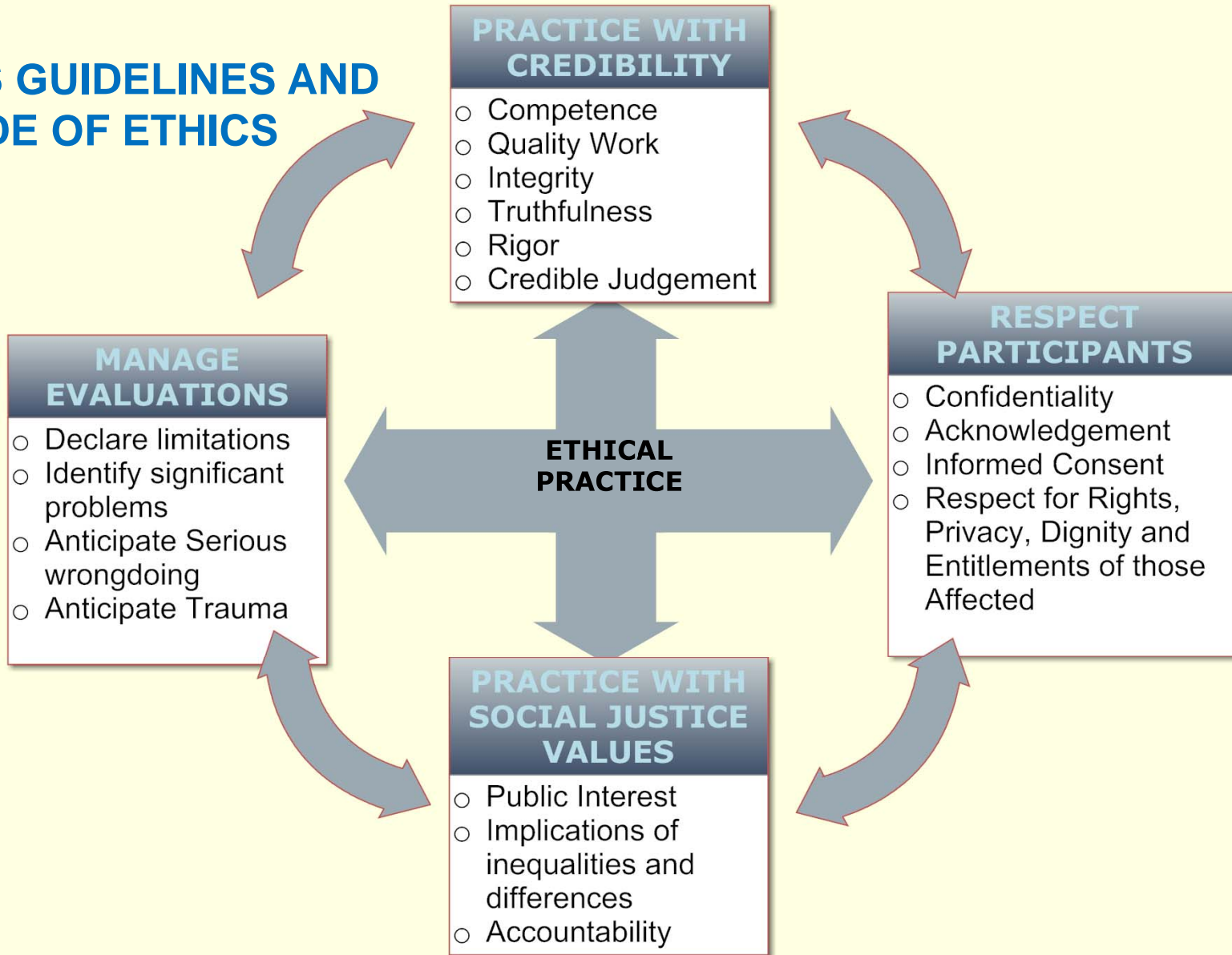
AES Ethical Principles: Conducting Evaluation

- **Respect:** Evaluation designed, conducted, reported respecting rights, privacy, dignity, entitlements of those affected by & contributing to the evaluation

- **Reciprocity:** Participants reap some benefit: Principle of 'Benefit Sharing'

- **Credibility:** Judgements based on sound & complete information: important for evaluations with capacity to change total quantum and/or distribution of program benefits or costs to stakeholders
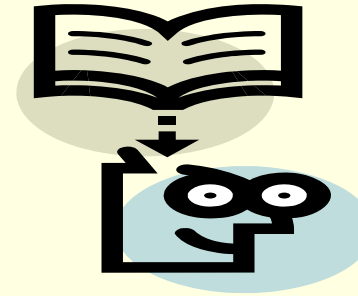
AES GUIDELINES AND CODE OF ETHICS

PRACTICE WITH CREDIBILITY
- Competence
- Quality Work
- Integrity
- Truthfulness
- Rigor
- Credible Judgement

MANAGE EVALUATIONS
- Declare limitations
- Identify significant problems
- Anticipate Serious wrongdoing
- Anticipate Trauma

ETHICAL PRACTICE

RESPECT PARTICIPANTS
- Confidentiality
- Acknowledgement
- Informed Consent
- Respect for Rights, Privacy, Dignity and Entitlements of those Affected

PRACTICE WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE VALUES
- Public Interest
- Implications of inequalities and differences
- Accountability

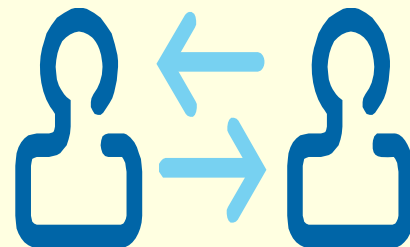# Four "R's" What they Mean for Evaluators
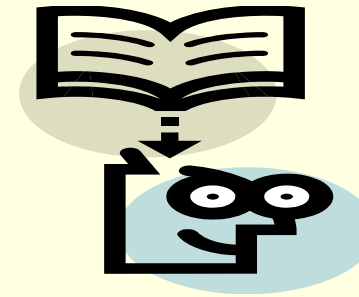
Respect

Relevance

Responsibility

Reciprocity

Respect

- Understanding history, culture, social context, narratives, whilst recognising diversity
- Reflect understandings in evaluation designs, data collection, evaluation results
- Capacity of evaluator to create a non-judgemental, sensitive and empathic context
- Interpersonal & interpretive skills of evaluator
- Challenges in time & budget constraints
- Challenges representing differences between communities & within a community
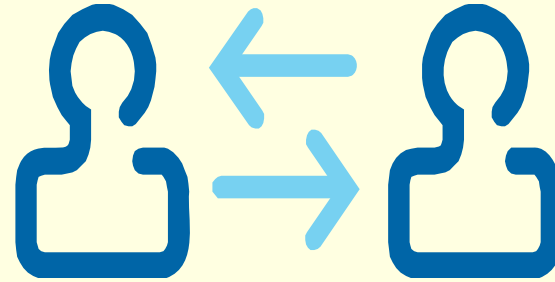
Relevance

- Consultation, negotiation re focus of evaluation with those affected by the evaluation
- Positioning evaluations to guide good practice
- Informing program design and implementation
- Positioning evaluations to inform and influence policy and strategy development
- Challenge to build partnerships with commissioners to produce useful evaluations

Responsibility

- Participants fully informed
- Informed consent & confidentiality
- Careful consideration of implications of questions and data collection methods used
- Dealing with disclosures
- Transparency of methods and use of findings
- Commitment to doing 'no harm'
- Some projects approved by an Ethics Committee, others will not have been through such scrutiny

Reciprocity

- Appreciation for contribution made: appreciation fees, gifts or donations, meeting expenses

- Results able to advance people's interests and be of benefit to them

- Dissemination of results important but can be difficult for evaluator to control or achieve

- Evaluation able to inform improved policy and practice wherever possible & achievable