

# Indigenous/realist evaluation

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# What we're doing

- After a brief discussion, we will collectively seek to identify what an Indigenous Realism would look like
- Look at understandings of reality, knowing, causation and implications for evaluation - plus other issues you note
- We will work in groups - how many depending on size - and then share insights
- Kevin and Emma will be around at all times for questions and comments

	Positivism	Realism	Indigenous realism?	Constructivism
Ontology	There is an objective reality, which exists independent of us.	Material & social reality - we interact with reality.		Subjective reality - we ‘create’ reality
Epistemology	Truth and final knowledge exists.	No final truth or knowledge, but improvement in knowledge is possible.		No way to choose between interpretations. What we jointly believe is true.
Causation	Constant conjunction, linear causation. Programs cause outcomes.	Mechanisms operating differently in different contexts generate patterns of outcomes.		Co-constructed interpretations lead to actions and outcomes.
Implications for evaluation	Evaluators ‘tell facts’.  Context factors should be eliminated: Randomised Control Trials/ Quasi-experimental methods.	Evaluators explain how and where programs generate outcomes. Mixed methods (qualitative and/or quantitative).		Evaluators describe stakeholder interpretations.  Qualitative methods