Buddhist evaluation



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What's coming up?





Culturally responsive evaluation











Why Buddhism?

511 million Buddhists by 2030

99% of world's Buddhists live in Asia Pacific region

Buddhist teachings still integral to the way people behave and how social life is conducted today

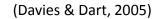




Most Significant Change

Approach to monitoring programs involving generating and analyzing personal accounts of change, deciding which accounts are most significant and why.







MSC steps

- 1. Define domains of change
- 2. Collect significant change stories
- 3. Select most significant & why
- 4. Repeat selection process at higher organisational levels
- 5. Feed back results
- 6. Collect evidence to verify







Comparison of world views







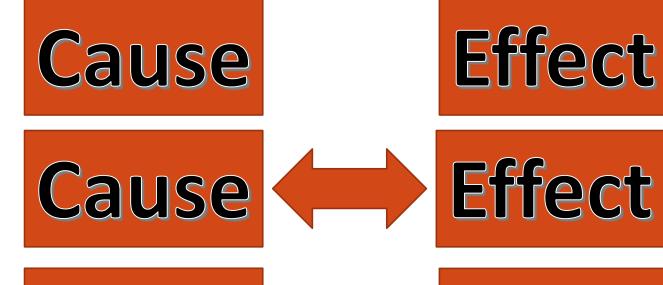
Causality & validation



Causality - Buddhism

Cause and effect are:

- Interdependent
- Recursive
- Contemporaneous



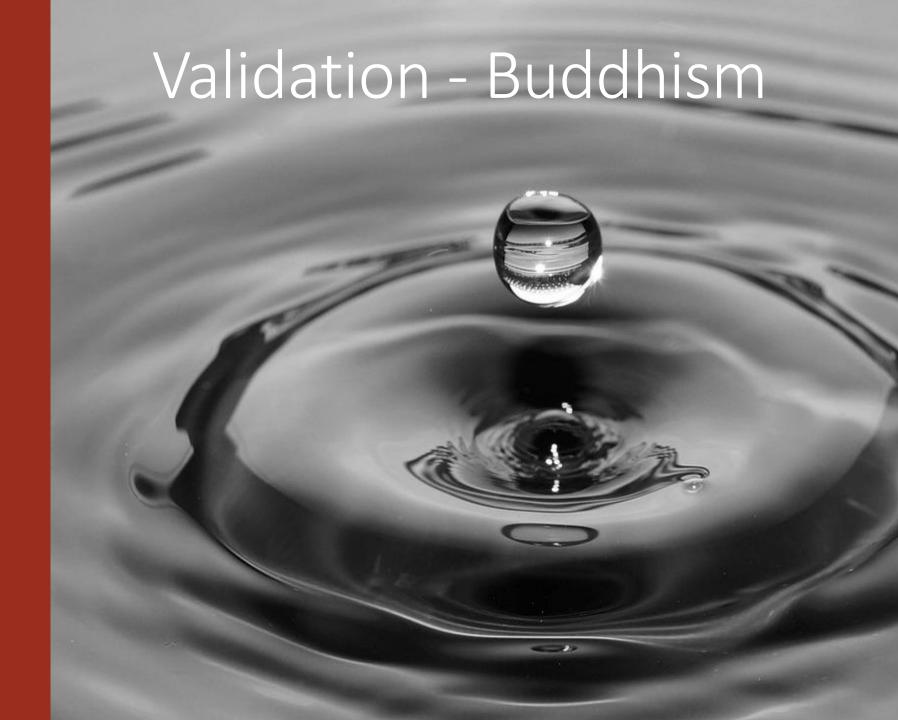
Cause



Effect

Validation of cause and effect is through:

- Intuitive insight
- Introspection
- Meditation



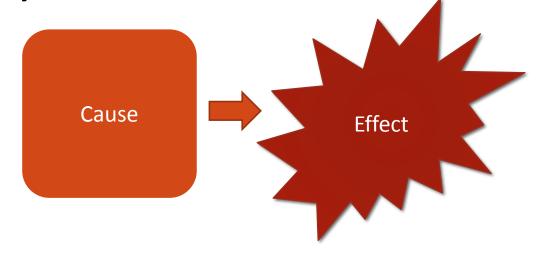
Causality - MSC

Technique

- ✓ Causes influenced by interventions and other factors
- **✓** Non-prescriptive
- ✓ Inductive approach captures novelty

Application

- × Organizational/program interventions
- × Unidirectional causation

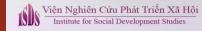


Validation - MSC

- Verify stories by collecting further evidence
- Use of MSC as supplementary tool alongside other methods e.g. quantitative, deductive









Causality & validation: MSC & Buddhism

Story collection template encourage consideration of multiple causes, recursive causality

High value placed on intuitive insights and reflection



Time



MSC - temporality

Application of MSC – focus on immediate causes and recent changes

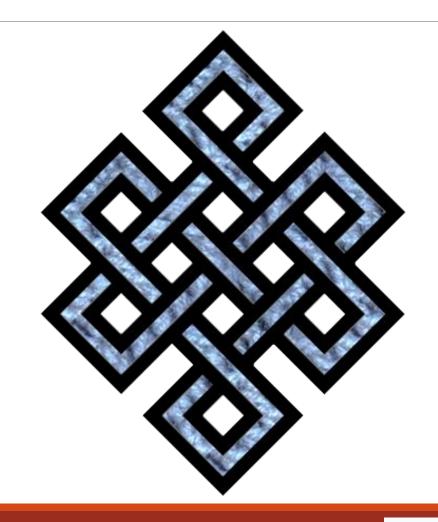






Buddhism – karma & time

- Karma means 'action' or 'doing'
- Law of moral causation
- Space and time non-linear
- Our past intentional actions,
 both moral and immoral,
 impact our present life





Buddhism & MSC - karma

✓ Broader temporal view of causation to past actions within the current lifetime

✓ Evaluators help object of inquiry understand its karma

10 years ago

5 years ago

3 years ago

1 year ago Present





Change



Change - Buddhism

World is in constant state change

Yin and yang – process of balancing dynamic elements in universe to maintain harmony

- Opposing the natural order leads to disaster/destruction

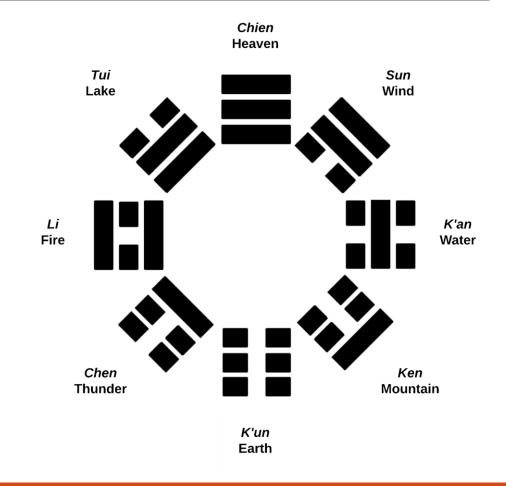




Change - Buddhism

I Ching – combinations of Yin and Yang

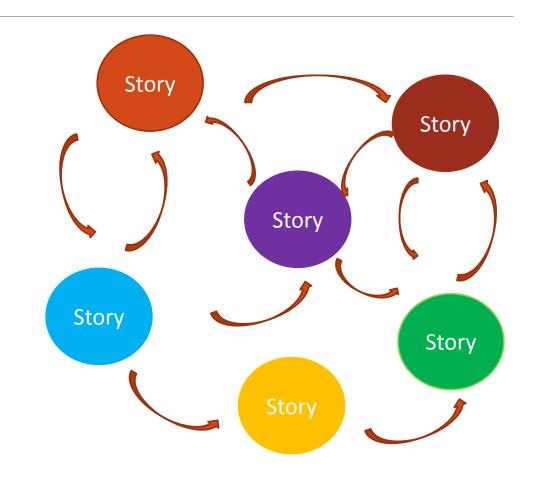
Movements between 8 opposite elements





Change - MSC

- ✓ Continuous change is inherent in its design
- ✓ Stories are snapshots in time, what is significant changes



Change – MSC & Buddhism





Modifying MSC to Buddhist world view





MANY MSC ELEMENTS COMPATIBLE WITH BUDDHIST WORLD VIEW

SUBTLE SHIFTS NEEDED







Implications for evaluation



Implications for evaluation

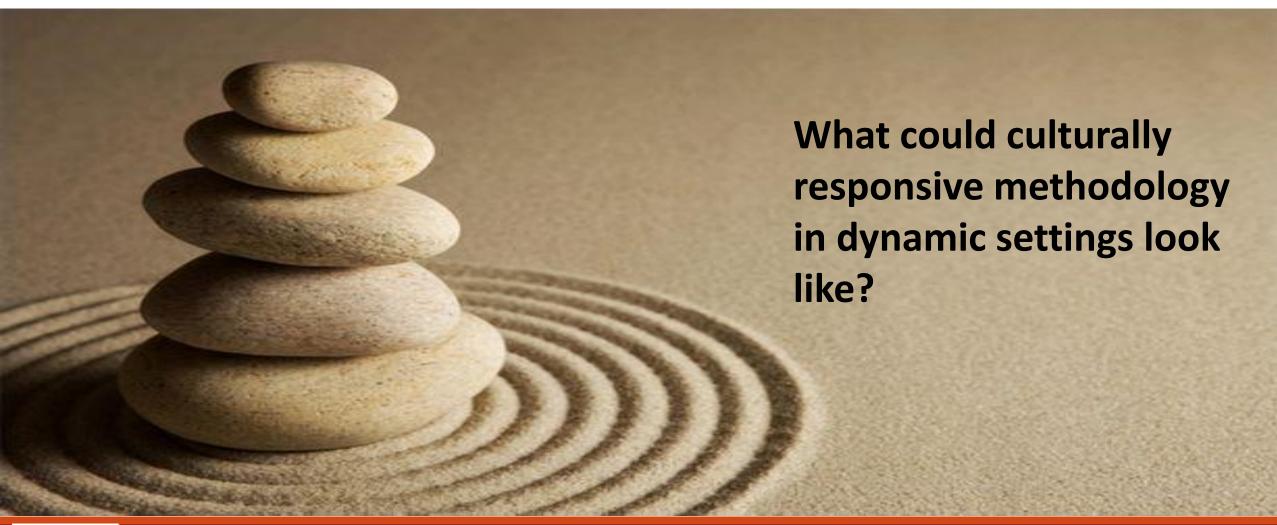


Globalised communities have multiple influences

CRE methods need to reflect this complexity in design and be dynamic



Implications for evaluation







Dinh, K., Worth, H., & Haire, B. (2019). Buddhist evaluation: Applying a Buddhist world view to the Most Significant Change Technique. *Evaluation*. https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389019841654

Dinh, K., Worth, H., Haire, B., & Hong, K. T. (2019). Confucian Evaluation: Reframing Contribution Analysis Using a Confucian Lens. *American Journal of Evaluation*. https://doi.org/10.1177/1098214018813008

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