



# What are the Implications for Those Seeking Equity?

UNDERSTANDING  
EVALUATION ORIGINS

## GUIDE AT-A-GLANCE: Why and How?



*This Reading Reflection Guide is intended to create a deeper understanding of important underpinnings related to the Equitable Evaluation Framework™ and a shared base for exploration and discussion. It includes readings, followed by questions to spark reflection and advance learning and action. This particular Guide is primarily intended for foundations, but others (evaluators, consultants) may find it useful as well. A few things:*

- These concepts stem from a Western frame (e.g., North American, cisgender male, white). We invite and encourage identification of additional readings that will push us to expand our understanding and definitions (e.g., Indigenous, etc.).
- This Guide can be used in different ways and for varying purposes, however most useful, particularly in support of making the case, toward equipping for transformation and Equitable Evaluation principle adoption. This might include personal reflection (e.g., journaling), team discussion (e.g., retreats), staff training (e.g., onboarding), capacity building (e.g., lunch and learns), outreach (e.g., webinars), and/or more.
- Additional Guides are available that explore other relevant and related Equitable Evaluation Framework topics. Be sure to check them out!

## READING MATERIALS



*These readings offer history, context and insights around the ways in which evaluation, philanthropy and equity are in relationship (or not) to each other. Expanding our understanding and approaches can build greater confidence in findings and paint a more complete, meaningful, and accurate picture of the complex world in which we live.*

### What's Race Got to Do with It? Equity and Philanthropic Evaluation Practice

This paper offers an overview of the origins of evaluation and the implications of those origins given 21st century complexity and increasing recognition of the role of race in framing much of what we believe to be true and valid. (Winter 2019)

### Evaluation and the Framing of Race

Authored by Dr. Ernie House, this provocative piece reflects on his own racial framing and its history. House is an American academic specializing in program evaluation and education policy. His recent writings speak to the hidden bias in evaluation practice and ask that evaluators explore the ways in which white racial framing has created the evaluation we predominantly practice in the United States. (Winter 2017)

### Equitable Evaluation Framing Paper

This framing paper is a product of the Equitable Evaluation Project (now the Equitable Evaluation Initiative) and was published in July 2017. Its original intent was to set the stage for an invitational roundtable in August 2017 where findings and implications and potential next steps were explored focusing primarily on philanthropic domestic evaluation practices.

## Deeper Dive into Equitable Evaluation Framework™ Concepts



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

*As you reflect, use the fillable spaces below to jot down and save your thoughts.*

What 2-3 concepts/ideas resonated the most with you? Think particularly about the possible risks of foundations not having a full understanding of the history and origins of evaluation, and implications for the validity of findings. Why?

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What challenged you? Why?

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What did you find especially compelling or thought-provoking? What do you want to learn more about or understand? Why?

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Are there any other ah-ha's that stood out to you? Any thoughts about opportunities (including simple lifts) that might help advance understanding and action?

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Random Bits ...