



LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES

Life Drama: Assessing the impacts of a Participatory Action Research project in Papua New Guinea

Dr Andrea Baldwin

Tuesday 25 May 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

Dr Andrea Baldwin will outline some of the challenges presented by Life Drama, a three-year ARC Linkage project designed to develop and test a new model of applied drama for sexual health education in Papua New Guinea. She will explain how the initial evaluation framework attempted to enable the Participatory Action Research (PAR) process – the iterative, evolutionary nature of which presents major challenges. Project objectives, and therefore indicators, evolve with the project. The role of research participants as active co-researchers expands both the range of theoretical, philosophical and ethical perspectives within the research team and the expectations for the project. In a development context, the need to negotiate shared languages and reach understanding across cultures adds layers of complexity. Initial ideas about the project evaluation are quickly overtaken by real-world developments.

In this seminar, Andrea will discuss how the evaluators sought to respond flexibly to the project's "life" while maintaining rigour in assessing impacts. Strategies for conceptualising a complex, multi-year, multi-partner PAR project, and for planning the evaluation, will be explored.

PRESENTER PROFILE

Andrea Baldwin is a senior research fellow in the Creative Industries Faculty, Queensland University of Technology. With a PhD in Psychology and MA in Drama, she has used applied theatre techniques in clinical and organisational psychology over the past 20 years. Since 1991 she has pursued an interest in improvisational drama as a tool for health promotion, and now works in the area of behaviour change communication in developing countries.

Please register your interest by e-mail to Ann Maguire ey24am@aapt.net.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.

Podcasts of past AES seminars are available (with the permission of the presenter) at <http://www.aes.asn.au/regions/QLD/>.

Thanks to Queensland Treasury for supporting this event