

LouEval Notes 11/7/2025

Attendance: Matthew Truwit, Maria Wimsatt, Mary, April, Jason, Olivia, Rebecca, Alisia, Leslie, Stephen Lin, Keith, Jordan

Steering committee: April and Angela have recently stepped off. Thank you for your service. If anyone is interested in joining, let us know. This is a group driven by its members, so if you have any ideas you are welcome to just share them or join the steering committee.

Resources: Remember we have a [google drive](#) with a [member list](#) and a [LinkedIn](#).

AI and Evaluation: Last quarter was dedicated to this conversation and we had a follow up ad-hoc discussion in October. Highlights: continue to debate the merits, how to use appropriately and ethically, developing policies around AI and revisiting every 6 months, current regulatory framework around AI (currently up to state and local). The group will continue to meet given how quickly AI is continuing to evolve, led and coordinated by Alisia McClain and Leslie Taylor. Reach out to them if you'd like to join or feel free to add your name to the list in the [member document](#).

LouEval: In May 2024, we revisited as a group if there was still interest in LouEval and if so, what people wanted to use the group to do. The results are found [here](#).

Structured ethical reflection: Mary created this process, and it can be used for individuals, groups and/or organizations. It helps define a shared set of principles that guide their practice together. Given the group's reiterated interest in collaboration, and the rapidly changing federal landscape that might change the need or types of collaboration, Mary took the group through this methodology for LouEval.

Voting on which aspect of the group people are most drawn to:

Activity	Votes
Networking	5
Work collaboration/partnership	6
Evaluation Practice Improvement	4
Professional sharing and feedback	1
Knowledge/skills sharing	7
Community use/awareness of evaluation	3
Resource/info sharing	5
Data sharing/sources	1
Mentoring students	2

Background on research ethics in context of community-based research and evaluation:

- Duty ethics, utilitarian ethics, feminist, etc.
- Mary uses The Community Covenantal Model often as a starting point
 - “The unconditional responsibility and the ethical demand to act in the best interest of our fellow human beings” Hilsen 2006, p 27
 - Developing caring and committed relationships
 - Respect for people’s knowledge and experience
 - Working with community partners to achieve positive social change

Putting Covenantal Ethics into practice: Structured Ethical Reflection

- Created in the context of an IRB in Ohio that said community-based research wasn’t research because it wasn’t generalizable. Wanted to have guidance on ethics for this work in response to gaps:
 - IRB tends to be focused on specific points i.e. recruitment, informed consent, data storage. Not interested in dissemination or use, or ongoing relationships, or funding.
 - Iterative and ongoing nature
 - Utilize by individual researchers and as a group
 - Reflect values and concerns of participants (IRB identifies autonomy, benefits and justice as values)
 - Not prescriptive – recognize complexity and contradictions
- Has anyone had experience with a review journal requiring an ethics statement/section in your paper?

Process:

- List of values as an example, each person identifies 5 principles/values that are most important to you as a professional/member of LouEval and your definition
- Group together on a whiteboard
- As you think of the values, think about how that shows up throughout the research process and describe it (see matrix)
- Use this matrix actively during the research process. Mary asks her students to include it in their papers and include descriptions of scenarios that arose and how they utilized the matrix to guide decisions

Short on time, attendees made an initial effort to group similar values together on the whiteboard. The “original grouping” sheet in [this workbook](#) is a rough approximation of the whiteboard when the meeting ended. In the workbook’s “reordering” sheet, Keith spent some additional time sifting and sorting the values into those listed in the table below. Photos of the results are in the [meeting notes folder](#) for this month if you would like to see the underlying “data.”

Value/Activity	Knowledge & Skills Sharing	Work Collaboration & Partnering	Networking	Resource & Info Sharing
Transparency, honesty & integrity				
Respecting others & their perspectives				
Being responsible to the community				

Questions:

- How do you get this paid for? Does it appeal to NIH?
 - Include it as part of the proposal for your time as a researcher to develop it.
 - Build it in as part of the CBPR process as a step.
- Is going through the process enough to get people on the same page?
 - Hopefully you keep referring back to it. One student laminated it and brought it to each interview to reinforce the principles.
 - Have held people accountable to the standards we've mutually agreed on. I.e. are we hearing from everyone in the room?
- Next steps?
 - Next quarter – we'll use our meeting to take the next step.
 - Focus on the top several values and top activities and describe what it would look like
 - How does a given value manifest in a given activity?
 - Generate a question you would ask yourself: I.e. how does integrity look during network? For example, opportunities are being given to every member to network
 - Identify where do we foresee potential challenges (in order to address potential issues before they arise and having some guidelines) How do our principles apply?

Announcements:

- Mary interviewing the author Eric Leake – Difficult Empathy. How to see the world through someone's eyes while maintaining our own stance. Article will be coming out soon. There will also be a short and long-form podcast and a cartoon.
- April is on a [research roundtable on IPV and Health](#) next Wednesday at 1pm EST through Johns Hopkins School of Public Health – includes Jackie Campbell and Rachel Robins.
- American Evaluation Association conference is next week.