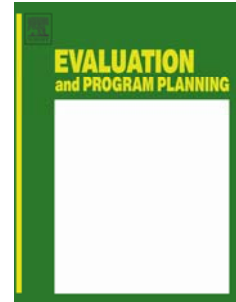




## Call for Papers for *Evaluation and Program Planning* – Special Issue on the Intersection of Immigration and Child Welfare



The international journal *Evaluation and Program Planning* invites submissions for a special issue on the intersection of immigration and child welfare. The co-editors invite submissions on this topic from a national, transnational and interdisciplinary perspective.

This special issue will explore the intersection of immigration and child welfare practice, with an emphasis on issues affecting evaluation and program planning with this special population of vulnerable children. The co-editors are seeking articles which discuss fiscal, legislative, legal, ethical and practice issues affecting evaluation or planning with immigrant children and families, and the implications for public and private service providers and policymakers who work with this population.

The primary goals of the journal are to assist evaluators and program planners improve the practice of their professions, to develop their skills, and to improve their knowledge base. The audience for this journal is evaluators and planners (e.g. child welfare, law, health, mental health, education, development), policy analysts, program developers, management consultants and social scientists with professional interests in assessing the impact of innovations in government and private sector settings.

### Comments by the Guest Editors

Child welfare practice in the U.S. is based on the guiding principles of permanency, safety, and well being of children. The development of child welfare policies and practices have primarily focused on U.S.-born populations and previous discussions on cultural aspects have primarily focused on U.S.-born ethnic groups (i.e. African American, Asian American). Similarly, the evaluation of child welfare outcomes has primarily been approached from a nationalistic perspective, with the achievement of positive outcomes guided by predominant U.S. values and norms of child and family well-being. There are numerous examples from child welfare regulations, which are influenced by cultural interpretation that may conflict with cultures with differencing values concerning the role and responsibility of the individual versus those of the larger extended family, community, or tribe. Given the rapid growth of the immigrant population in the United States, it is important to explore the complexity of immigration issues and its affect on child welfare principles and outcomes.

For example, questions that can arise in an immigrant child welfare case could include:

- How does the impact of language, culture and religion impact the treatment and services an immigrant family receives? Is there bias in the evaluation of service outcomes?
- Do different cultures define child well being different from the U.S. norms and if so, how will this impact the parent's engagement and success in the reunification plan?
- How does the immigration status of the child and family, the "fear factor" of deportation, impact the family's engagement in accessing needed social services?

- What are the potential risks and benefits of an international placement in a permanency decision? Is it better for a child to be reunified with a parent or relative outside of the U.S. or to be placed with non-relatives in the United States?
- How should multilateral agreements, international laws and conventions inform the decision making process for child welfare agencies? What happens when the international “best interests of the child” principle conflicts with U.S. immigration law that does not take into consideration this best interest principle?

It is the difficult task of a child welfare evaluator in answering the questions “did it work?” and “how did it work?” It is important to define exact what is the “it” in the evaluation and how these definitions may be vastly different when working with immigration populations.

## Timeline and Instructions

Short abstracts (approximately 200-500 words) should be submitted to Dr. Alan Dettlaff at [aland@uic.edu](mailto:aland@uic.edu) by **September 19, 2008** in order to ascertain suitability for the special issue; full manuscripts (approximately 3-5,000 words) by December 11, 2009; blind peer review results by February 6, 2009; submission of corrected version by March 20, 2009.

For more information about the journal *Evaluation and Program Planning*, please see the journal [homepage](#).

## Peer Review Panel Process

Special Issue articles published in *Program Planning and Evaluation* are peer-reviewed by the two Guest Co-Editors and two peer evaluators identified by the Guest Co-Editors to have expertise in the content of the particular issue. Articles are judged on accuracy and organization, and whether they are relevant, helpful, and important. The journal will employ a double blind review process, where both the reviewers and author remain anonymous throughout the process. Publishing and editorial decisions are normally based on the evaluation of the Guest Co-Editors, though the Editor-in-Chief retains ultimate authority in all publishing questions.

## Co-Editor Bios

- **Yali Lincroft, MBA** is a policy expert on immigration and child welfare. She is currently a consultant to the Annie E Casey Foundation and provides program and policy staffing for Family to Family, a national child welfare reform initiative located in 15 states and 25 California counties. She is the author of “*Undercounted, Underserved*,” a public policy report on immigrants in the child welfare system published by the Annie E Casey Foundation. Prior to working as a consultant, Yali was a city planner for the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Family and program coordinator for the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. She is the founding board member of the Migration and Child Welfare National Network, founding board member of the Infant/Toddler Consortium, board member for Action Alliance for Children, past President of Neighborhood Parents Network, and past appointed member of the Alameda County Local Child Care Planning Council.

- **Dr Alan Dettlaff** is a leading expert on the disproportionate representation of children of color in the child welfare system. His practice experience includes six years as a practitioner and administrator in public child welfare. Dr. Dettlaff is actively involved in research addressing the needs and experiences of immigrant children and families in the child welfare system, as well as developing strategies to reduce racial disparities. Dr. Dettlaff is the Principal Investigator of a grant designed to develop and evaluate strategies to reduce racial disproportionality in the Texas child welfare system, and evaluator of a federal grant from the Administration of Children, Youth, and Families that provides training to child welfare staff on effective practice with Latino children and families. He also provides training and consultation to several state child welfare agencies on cultural competence and promising practices with children of color. He is currently a faculty member of the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago.