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Evaluation Ethics for Evaluators: Controversial Issues and Codes

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Abstract

Ethic guidelines for college and university evaluation did not exist until 2005, but the content has mostly related to interpersonal relationships. However, some foreign professional evaluation associations or societies have proposed evaluation ethic codes. These might differ in culture and value from Taiwan, so it would be better not to simply adopt these ethic codes. This study therefore discusses the controversial issues surrounding evaluator's ethics to construct ethic codes for evaluators. To achieve this, the current study first conducts a literature review and emphasizes three issues, including the meaning of professional evaluation ethics, evaluator ethic principles developed by the evaluation professional community, and the challenge of evaluators' ethic in evaluation practice. This research used a semi-structured interview to collect information from twenty experts (including six educational administrators, two representative agents in the evaluation association, seven experienced evaluators and five staff who never served as evaluators). The records were sent to interviewees by mail to confirm the content. The records were then coded using Atlas.ti version 5.2. and five experts were invited to review and refine the correspondence about controversial issues and ethic codes to overcome the controversial issues. After defining the ethic code, another thirty-two

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