

***International Conference on Social Work and Counselling
Practice
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Workshop 2: *“Ethical Guidelines for Designing and Conducting Evaluations of Social Work Practice”*

Abstract 2: This workshop will present selected aspects of current ethical guidelines pertaining to the design and conduct of social work evaluation and research studies. It will highlight significant differences between social science research and evaluation studies, and contend that the uncritical application of ethical guidelines suitable for regulating social science research may hinder social workers undertaking clinical and program evaluations. It will present guidelines which distinguish between retrospective and prospectively designed studies, which enumerate when voluntary and informed consent may not be necessary in order to use data obtained from clients, and clearer standards pertaining to exempting evaluation studies from oversight by Institutional Review Boards (IRBs).

Outcomes: a) to understand how ethics relate to the design and conduct of research and evaluation, b) to identify the differences between social science research and evaluation studies, and c) to identify ethical principles and process questions which may be considered prior to conducting a practice evaluation.