



Introduction to Realist Evaluation for Social Services (5 November 2025)

Course Description:

The course is designed to provide social service and community-based professionals, as well as policy-makers, with an introduction to theories and concepts of realist evaluation.

In community development and other fields of practice, interventions are often described as being complex and have outcomes that are dependent on context and are challenging to evaluate. Realist evaluation can help make sense of the outcomes from these types of interventions. Instead of providing one-off verdicts on its success or failure by asking, “Does the intervention work?”, realist evaluation examines “What works, for whom, under what circumstances and why?”. Recognising that interventions do not work in the same way for everyone, everywhere, realist evaluation seeks to systematically develop and test theory, specifically the causal mechanisms that are activated in different contexts, leading to different outcomes. It is multi-method and draws on both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Course Objectives:

- Understand what realist evaluation is, when to adopt it and how it differs from other evaluation approaches
- Be able to describe the stages of a realist evaluation
- Understand the role of programme theory in realist evaluation and be able to develop and refine one

Course Schedule:

- 5 November 2025, 9:00AM - 6:00PM

The workshop will be conducted in-person at the NUS Kent Ridge Campus (The Shaw Foundation Building, Block AS7). Participants will be informed of the venue after their registration is confirmed.

Pre-requisites:

At least a university degree in any discipline, with preference given to social science and community health disciplines and at least 2 years of working experience in the social service sector.

Who Should Attend:

Social workers, policy-makers, counsellors, community psychologists, community and allied health professionals. All other professionals and practitioners in the social service and community health sectors, particularly those working in multi-disciplinary teams.

Trainer:

Dr Robyn Tan is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, LKYSPP, NUS. Her research interests include studying the implementation of programmes, policies and interventions in real world policy and service settings. She has a keen interest in theory-driven evaluations, specifically, applying realist research to understand what works, for whom, under what conditions, and why. Robyn is an adjunct faculty with the Geriatric Education and Research Institute (GERI) where she is involved in implementation research of healthcare interventions, to facilitate their translation into practice.

Course Fees:

This course is **SSG-approved (Tier 2)**. Participants who are Singaporeans or Singaporean Permanent Residents will be eligible for subsidies of 50% of the course fees, excluding GST. Singaporean participants who are aged 40 years old and above will be eligible for higher subsidies of up to 70% of course fees. Corporate-sponsored participants from SMEs will be eligible for higher subsidies of up to 70% of course fees. Participants must pass all assessment components, to be eligible for SSG funding. The table below shows the breakdown of the course fee payable.

	International Participants	Singapore Citizens			Singapore PRs	
		non-SME		SME (ETSS)	non-SME	SME (ETSS)
		39 years old or younger	40 years old or older (MCES)			
Full Programme Fee	\$ 900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Less: SSG Grant Amount (50%)	\$ -	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
Nett Programme Fee	\$ 900.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
9% GST on Programme Fee	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00
Total Nett Programme Fee Payable, Including GST	\$ 981.00	\$531.00	\$531.00	\$531.00	\$ 531.00	\$ 531.00
Less: Additional Funding (If Eligible)	\$ -	\$ -	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$ -	\$ 180.00
Total Nett Programme Fee Payable, Including GST, after additional funding from the various funding schemes	\$ 981.00	\$531.00	\$351.00	\$351.00	\$ 531.00	\$ 351.00

*To be eligible for ETSS, course fees have to be fully paid for by the direct employer.

Registration:

You may register online through the [NUS L3AP Portal](#).

Registration is on a first come first served basis.

Registration will close by 10 October 2025. Registration will close early once the class is full.