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Institute for Society, Culture and Environment launches special interest group

The Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) is sponsoring a meeting on Friday, Feb. 22, from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m., for Virginia Tech evaluation researchers for the purpose of increasing the visibility of faculty who are active in conducting research on education, prevention, and intervention programs. The ultimate ISCE goal is to facilitate faculty connections that may result in research proposals for external funding. Jay A. Mancini, ISCE senior research fellow, and professor of human development, will facilitate the meeting, which will be at Preston's at the Inn at Virginia Tech.

The SIG will be limited to 12 faculty members. To participate, contact Carlene Arthur, ISCE administrative assistant, at carthur@vt.edu or 1-7657 by Feb. 18, 2008 to reserve your place in the group.

Background: The Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) is tasked with strengthening the university's competitive position in the social sciences, arts, and humanities. The programmatic focus for ISCE is the area of Social and Individual Transformation. Scholarship in this area focuses on the causes and consequences of the increased interdependence of economic, social, political, and institutional systems. Research based in social and individual transformation touches both societal and individual life, extending from public policy to personal identity and including explorations of the constructions of race, ethnicity, class, and gender.

In October 2007, ISCE staff facilitated a "Visioning Session" with key faculty leaders. During the session, participants identified critical issues under the rubric of individual and social transformation including resource sustainability (e.g., water, energy, climate change, human factors); technology and communication; violence and aggression; disparities and oppression (e.g., gender, health, income); individual and community competencies; health and illness; immigration; globalization; diversity and cultural meanings; and security (e.g., terrorism, disaster).

A variety of methodologies may be used to pursue research and scholarship addressing any one of these critical issues. One common requirement shared across topics and methods is the need to assess and evaluate project success. To begin assessing and building capacity in evaluation research among faculty across campus, ISCE is hosting a meeting of faculty interested in joining a Special Interest Group (SIG).

SIGs. The purpose of an ISCE SIG is to promote and encourage scholarly and productive exchanges among a disciplinarily diverse group of faculty scholars. Participating in a SIG provides an opportunity for faculty to develop a synergy around a critical individual or societal issue, or in this case, methodological approaches. The long term goal for SIG members is to congeal their expertise and to participate in securing extramural funding for research and scholarship that informs and promotes positive individual and societal change.

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Event Calendar

Today is Tuesday February 5

. All day

[Distant Echoes: Black Farmers in America Gallery](#)

. 12:00 pm

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. 12:00 pm

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