



Image from: depositphotos_29460297-stock-photo-bird-cage

Relational Responsibilities in Epistemic Freedom: Soulful agency in evaluative practice

Hybrid event Feb 26, 2025 1:00 PM Atlantic Time (noon EST, GMT-5)

Voluntary Registration Fee: e-transfer to info@nabcnet.ca

All revenue will fund participation at: [Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment Conference](#)
Suggested contribution \$50-\$25, with note "CREA"

[Register here for online or in-person](#) All registrants will receive an automatic confirmation email.

Hybrid webinar (1-2 PM Atlantic Time): Sogii [Stephanie Francis](#), [Prof Fayth Ruffin](#), & [Andrealisa Belzer CE](#)

In person participation (1-4 PM Atlantic Time), please arrive before 1pm, at [CLARI](#) 923 Robie Street-
Atrium Building Room 340, Hfx NS Canada.

Post-webinar reception and workshop facilitated by Andrealisa Belzer and [Louise Adongo](#).



CLARI



CAPRIVIAN STRIP INC



Network for the Advancement
of Black Communities

Réseau pour l'avancement
des communautés noires

Canadian
Evaluation
Society



Société
canadienne
d'évaluation

Presenter Bios:

The webinar presenters will share pivotal moments in their braided journeys toward epistemic freedom in Canada and South Africa, from First Nation, African, and White Settler positionalities. They will describe their respective origin stories, and how their relationship to their positionality and purpose has evolved with their relationship to their practice to generate and mobilize evidence for transformational change. Presenters will engage online participants to explore how mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical dimensions of relationality influence culturally responsive inquiry. Referencing the recently launched [Wolastog Declaration](#), they highlight how epistemic freedom underpins relationality with all of creation.

[Prof Fayth Ruffin`s](#) expertise is centred on curricula design, delivery and transformation driven by ongoing evaluation and assessment. Her forthcoming 2025 book is entitled [Navigating Manifestation](#): A wounded healer's approach to spiritual consciousness'. It invokes courageous conversations about epistemic freedom and traces the role of her ancestors and the forces of nature in her trajectory over three careers in law, public governance and higher education. Keynote addresses and conference papers have been delivered across four continents and ten countries. Prof's interactive workshops and seminars promote indigenous knowledge systems that speak to our authentic selves.

[Stephanie Francis](#), a member of Sitansisk or St. Mary's First Nation, near Fredericton, is an Indigenous social worker on the east coast. She has many years of experience working on the front lines in both Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik communities throughout the Maritimes. Coupled with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Social Work, Stephanie has been able to learn a unique skill set in translating Indigenous knowledge and worldview while honouring the spirit of the teachings from those whom she has come across on her life's journey. By creating her own business called Spirit First, she has been able to establish services with a Spirit First approach. She can also provide services and guidance to organizations that want to become "trauma-informed" and be a safe space for their Indigenous employees. She is a lead member of the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle. [Bird In a Cage: Amazon](#)
[Video and article re: Bird In a Cage](#)

[Andrealisa Belzer](#) is a Credentialed Evaluator of European descent employed as a Senior Advisor with the Atlantic Region of Indigenous Services Canada. She serves as Past President of the [Canadian Evaluation Society](#) (2024-2026). Andrealisa has practiced health and social services evaluation since 1995, in Canada and internationally. She is committed to practice that facilitates systems transformation toward socially and ecologically regenerative futures.

Onsite Workshop Co-facilitator:

[Louise Adongo](#) is a bold and grounded leader with 15+ years' experience in systems change, policy, evaluation, strategic planning and governance. She is founder of Caprivian Strip Inc (CSI) and a co-steward with the Transition Bridges Project* <https://www.transitionbridges.net>