

# Evaluation *and* Research

Is there any difference?

# Evaluation *versus* Research

- Evaluation and research are daughters of the same mother. They both engage in the challenge of making “warranted assertions” = claims that can be supported by evidence and be tested by other people.
- However, there are differences *in practice* and *in context* between research and evaluation.

# Research

- Researchers ‘dance’ to the academic drum, the world of organized knowledge. The insights of the researchers should be more generalizable. The researcher’s knowledge is not as context bounded (should make sense in the large context) as the evaluator’s knowledge.

# Evaluation

- Evaluators ‘dance’ to the practitioner who needs information. The evaluator’s knowledge is more context bounded; the goal is to provide information to the people involved in the context (setting).