



# Naming and Navigating the Politics and Tensions of Nonprofit Evaluation

***Please join us for our next SEA Webinar***

**Thursday, February 8, 12:00–12:30pm**

**Description:** It is no secret that many nonprofit leaders are fed up with the disconnect with funders about data collection and evaluation. When our speaker recently wrote for the AEA365 blog about the politics of [why funders resist honest conversations about evaluation and data](#), he got plenty of feedback that nonprofits share a lot of the blame. It is an epistemic and political battle that dates back to the 1970's. In desperation, he has been paying more attention to things that evaluators and development professionals do as facilitators, coaches, and change-agents that help reduce tension and better align everyone's expectations. The goal of this webinar is to share examples of how evaluators can begin to break down these familiar battle lines. Until we all challenge these entrenched patterns, it will be hard to help organizations rediscover the value of asking questions, observing patterns, and promoting a culture of learning rather than accountability. The workshop will include resources that support evaluation management, teaching about complex-adaptive systems, and promoting science and data literacy.

**Speaker:** Prentice Zinn is a Director of [GMA Foundations](#), a philanthropic advisory company in Boston. He is responsible for managing several local, regional, and international foundations. He is best known to his clients and colleagues as an advisor, educator, and facilitator. Within the firm's consulting practice, he leads projects related to strategy development, evaluation, needs assessment, and planning. He is a generalist in philanthropy, but favors wicked challenges related to the environment, public health, community development, and human services. He is a founding member of Jamaica Plain Cohousing in Boston and a board member of Hesperian Health Guides. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Prentice also earned master's degrees from the University of Michigan School of Social Work and the Boston University School of Public Health.

**Registration:** This webinar is FREE to SEA members; \$15 for non-members. RSVP to SEA Coordinator ([seacoordinator@southeastevaluation.org](mailto:seacoordinator@southeastevaluation.org)) and submit your program fee via the SEA [website](#) or mail. The SEA Coordinator will provide you with details for attending the webinar. This webinar will be recorded. If you are interested in this webinar but unable to attend, please register and a copy of the recording will be provided to you.

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