Masters of Management in the field of Governance: Monitoring and evaluation

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Access full profile

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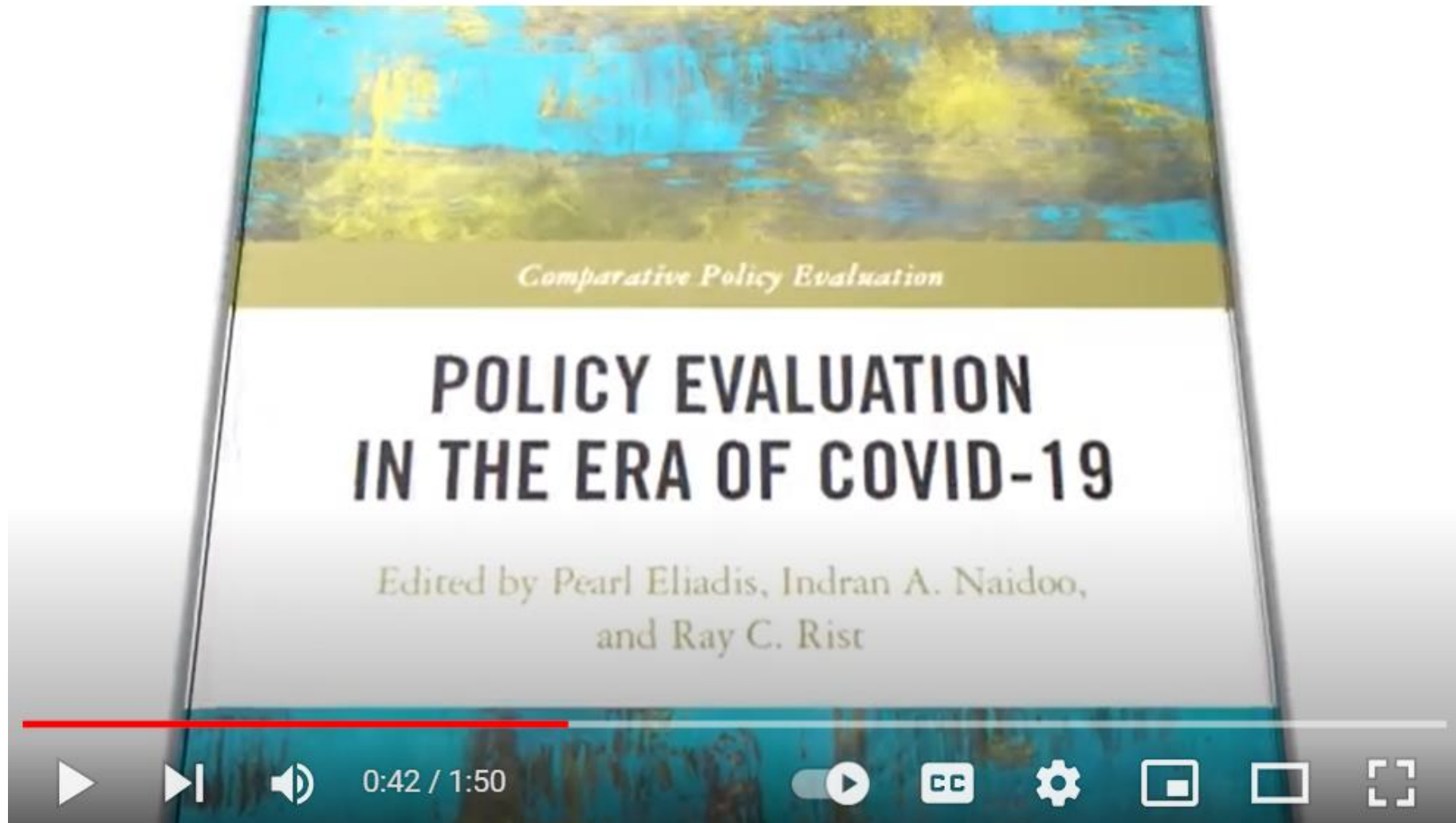
"Few evaluations were able to address the implications of the new democratic deficits nor the human rights violations that were revealed or exacerbated by emerging forms of inequality: **these are not areas of comfort for traditional evaluation practice**. Evaluators were being asked to move beyond methodological problems and technical solutions to **engage with substantive and high-level inquiries** that were content-driven, consistent with human rights norms, and informed by what has been learned during the pandemic."

- Policy Evaluation in the Era of COVID-19

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Training and methodological rigor are key

Independence is the bedrock of evaluation

The notion of what constitutes development and the means to assess what is effective are fluid given the geo-political landscape

Evaluation is a practice embedded across the world [e.g. AfrEA; SAMEA], demonstrated by the capacity to indigenize evaluation for empowerment [here]

The hegemonic view of evaluation has become contested given COVID-19, the lack of action by evaluators, as well as big data and artificial intelligence.

Multiple streams now feed the discourse relating to good governance, key being media and civil society.

The transparency and accountability mechanisms of countries make it easer to conduct evaluation, but evaluation can also support an evaluative democratic culture.

Methods are important, but the politics needs negotiation. Credibility involves a combination of strong institutions, strong policy, strong evaluators, and the will to ask the right questions.

Evaluation and independence

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