

Facilitator's Short Biography

Dr Martin Reynolds is Senior Lecturer at The Open University, UK and founding designer and Qualifications Director for postgraduate programmes in Systems Thinking in Practice (STiP) and the Systems Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship (STPA). He is lead academic liaison for the Applied Systems Thinking in Practice (ASTiP) Group at the OU. His teaching and research focus on issues of (critical) systems thinking and (developmental) evaluation in relation to international development, environmental management, health systems support, public sector management, business administration, and educational studies. Martin has published widely in these fields, with many publications free of access on his Open Research Online webpage. Martin has been lead editor and co-author on 2 books including: *Systems Approaches to Making Change* (Springer, 2020 2nd Edition); and *The Environmental*

Responsibility Reader (Zed Books, 2009). In addition to teaching and research, Martin provides workshop support and facilitation for professional development in STiP.

Barbara Schmidt-Abbey is an evaluator, information scientist, project manager, facilitator, and systems practitioner, with 35 years professional and organizational experience, of which 17 years as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in an EU agency (Eurofound) in Dublin, Ireland, and 13 years as systems thinking practitioner. She works in various capacities and roles, including organizational development, knowledge management, evaluation, group facilitation and workshop design, mentoring, coaching and confidential counselling. Barbara is strongly committed to developing systems thinking capacity and institutionalizing and mainstreaming systems thinking in her own and others' practices, particularly in policy relevant research and evaluation settings.

She is also a (part-time) PhD researcher with the Open University (UK), Applied Systems Thinking in Practice Group, researching how policy analysis and evaluation at the Science-Policy Interface could contribute towards more systemic policymaking when faced with complexity and uncertainty. Since autumn 2022, she is a co-founder and co-leader of a new Thematic Working Group (TWG8) on "Systems approaches in evaluation" within the European Evaluation Society, which was set up to a forum for discussion, exchange, code development and exploration of systems approaches in evaluation within and for the community of evaluation practitioners in Europe.