

Abbreviated Resume Jonathan A. Morell, Ph.D.

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Editor-in-Chief Emeritus, [Evaluation and Program Planning](#)

President, 4.669 Evaluation and Planning

Principles that guide my work

- Respect data. Trust judgment.
- Jointly optimize methodological rigor and practical use.

Biography

Jonathan A. Morell PhD (Jonny) is an organizational psychologist with extensive experience in the theory and practice of program evaluation. He believes that evaluation requires a systems-oriented approach because interventions produce complex outcomes, but that evaluations should be as simple and straightforward as possible.

Examples of his hands-on evaluation work include safety programs in industry, R&D innovation, tools to monitor R&D outcomes, distracted driving, evaluation capacity building, the impact of information technology, small business support programs in Africa, and technology needs in the railroad industry.

Drawing from his practical experience, Jonny has made theoretical contributions to Evaluation that focus on the nexus of several related topics: unintended consequences, Complexity Science, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, program schedules as logic models, and assumptions as complex systems.

Jonny has been recognized by the American Evaluation Association, who awarded him their Paul F. Lazarsfeld Evaluation Theory Award. He is President of 4.669... Evaluation and Planning, and Editor-in-Chief emeritus of [Evaluation and Program Planning](#). Details of his work can be found at his website www.jamorell.com, and his blog, www.evaluationuncertainty.com.

Evaluating Systems

Morell, J. A. (2023)

A Complexity-based Plan for Evaluating Transformation. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*.

https://journals.sfu.ca/jmde/index.php/jmde_1/article/view/867

Morell, J. A. (2021)

A Complexity-based Metatheory of Action for Transformation to a Green Energy Future. In R. D. Van den Berg, C. Maro, & M.-H. Adrien (Eds.), *Transformational Evaluation for the Global Crises of our Times*. (pp. 345 - 370). IDEAS.

<https://ideas-global.org/ideas-book-transformational-evaluation-for-the-global-crises-of-our-times/>

Parunak, H. V. D., Greanya, J., McCarthy, P., Morell, J. A., Nadella, S., & Sappelsa, L. (2021)

SCAMP's stigmergic model of social conflict. *Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10588-021-09347-8>

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SCAMP's Stigmergic Model of Social Conflict. *Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory*.

<https://www.abcresearch.org/abc/papers/SBP20SCAMP.pdf>.

Parunak, H. V. D., Morell, J. A., Sappelsa, L., & Greanya, J. (2020).

SCAMP User Manual.

<https://www.abcresearch.org/abc/papers/SCAMPUserManual.zip>

Morell, J. A. (2018)

Linking Management and Evaluation: Project Schedules as Program Models. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 1 - 18.

<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1177/1098214018784198>

Morell, J. A. (2018).

Systematic iteration between model and methodology: A proposed approach to evaluating unintended consequences. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 68, 243-252. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2017.09.006>

Ayob, A. H., & Morell, J. A. (2016).

The historical path of evaluation as reflected in the content of *Evaluation and Program Planning*. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 58, 20-27.

<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2016.05.006>

Parunak H. V.D. and Morell, J.A. (2014)

[Emergent Consequences: Unexpected Behaviors in a Simple Model to Support Innovation Adoption, Planning, and Evaluation](#) in Kennedy W.G., Agarwal N. and Yang, J. S. eds. *Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling, and Prediction* 7th International Conference, SBP 2014 Washington, DC, USA, April 1-4, 2014

Morell, J.A. (2010)

[Evaluation in the Face of Uncertainty: Anticipating Surprise and Responding to the Inevitable Morell](#), J.A., Guilford Press, N.Y.

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Morell, J.A., Hilscher, R., Magura, S. and Ford, J. (2010)

[Integrating Evaluation and Agent-Based Modeling: Rationale and an Example for Adopting Evidence-Based Practices](#) *Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*, Vol. 6, No 14, 35 - 57

Morell, J.A. (2010)

[Evaluation in the Face of Uncertainty: Anticipating Surprise and Responding to the Inevitable](#) Morell, J.A., Guilford Press, N.Y.

Morell, J.A., Hilscher, R., Magura, S. and Ford, J. (2010)

[Integrating Evaluation and Agent-Based Modeling: Rationale and an Example for Adopting Evidence-Based Practices](#) *Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*, Vol. 6, No 14, 35 - 57

Morell, J. A. (2005)

Why are there unintended consequences of program action, and What Are the Implications for Doing Evaluation? *American Journal of Evaluation*, 26(4), 444 - 463. <https://doi.org/https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1098214005281354>

Morell, J. A. (1982).

Threats to the Utility of Social Science [Article]. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 26(2), 265-280. <https://doi.org/10.1177/000276482026002008>

Morell, J. (1979).

Evaluation as Social Technology. In *Program Evaluation as Social Research*. Pergamon Press. <https://evaluationuncertainty.com/2019/05/14/evaluation-as-social-technology/>

Assumptions

Nkwake, A., Bledsoe, K. Morell, J.A. eds . (Book in preparation)

Assumptions: Complexity, Practice Values, and Culture [Information Age Publishing](#), Charlotte, NC

Morell, J.A. (in preparation, pre-publication draft available)

Assumptions Through a Complexity Lense Chapter Two in: *Assumptions: Complexity, Practice and Values* in Nkwake, Bledsoe and Morell eds. [Information Age Publishing](#), Charlotte, NC

Morell, J.A. Concluding Impressions – Networks, Models, Research on Evaluation (in preparation pre-publication draft available)

Chapter Eleven in: *Assumptions: Complexity, Practice and Values in*: Nkwake, Bledsoe and Morell eds, [Information Age Publishing](#), Charlotte, NC

Morell, J. A. (2019)

Revealing Implicit Assumptions: Why, Where, and How? Catholic Relief Services. https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/report_revealing_assumptions.pdf

Transportation

Evaluation of the [Confidential Close Call Reporting System](#). Dr. Morell was the principal investigator for the evaluation of C³RS. Dr. Joyce Ranney Federal Railroad Administration Technical Point of Contact.

Ranney, J. M. Davey, M., Morell, J.A., Zuschlag, M. and Kidida, S. 2019

Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS) Lessons Learned Evaluation Final Report Federal Railroad Administration

<https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/confidential-close-call-reporting-system-c3rs-lessons-learned-evaluation-final-report> DOT/FRA/ORD-19/01

Morell, J.A., Davey, M., Ranney, J., Zuschlag, M., Cantu, M. (2018)

Transforming Railroad Safety with the Confidential Close Call Reporting System: Implementation, Impact, and Sustainability Transportation Review Board Washington, 97th annual meeting, January 7th 11th. Washington DC

Ranney, Joyce et. al. (2016)

[C3RS: Midterm Accomplishments at Another Site and Success Factors Across Sites](#) Federal Railroad Administration RR 15-44

Ranney, J. et. al. (2015)

[Continued Improvements at One C3RS Site](#) Federal Railroad Administration RR 15-17

Ranney, Joyce et. al. (2015)

[Confidential Close Call Reporting System \(C3RS\) Lessons Learned Team Baseline Phase Report](#) Federal Railroad Administration DOT/FRA/ORD-15/08

Ranney, Joyce et. al. (2013)

[Another C3RS Site Improves Safety at Midterm](#) Federal Railroad Administration RR 13-49

Ranney et. al. (2012)

[Derailments Decrease at a C3RS Site at Midterm](#) Federal Railroad Administration RR 12-04

Morell, J.A. et. al. (2006)

[C3RS Literature Review to Inform Evaluation](#) Prepared for the Federal Railroad Administration.

Policy and Program Evaluation for the U.S. Department of Transportation

Morell, J.A. (2016)

Applying Analytical Hierarchy Process to Needs Assessment in the Federal Railroad Administration's Energy, Environment, and Engine Program.

Unpublished report, Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Research and Development

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Morell, J.A. (2015)

Needs Assessment Methodology for the Rail Energy, Environment and Engine (E3) Technology Research Program Unpublished report, Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Research and Development

Morell, J.A. (2015)

Railroaders Identifying Digital Distractions: Evaluation of a Peer-to-Peer Pilot Program at the Norfolk Southern Railroad Norfolk Southern Railroad Unpublished report, Norfolk Southern Railroad

Morell, J.A. (2015)

Evaluation of the Federal Railroad Administration's Autonomous Track Geometry Measurement System Research and Development Unpublished report, Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Research and Development

Morell, J.A. (2014)

Project/Program/Portfolio Outcome Monitoring (POM) Tool. Program Unpublished report, Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Research and Development

Blog: [Evaluation Uncertainty: Surprises in Programs and their Evaluations](#)

Sections: 1) Assumptions 2) Use and Misuse, 3) Systems Perspectives, 4) Agent-based Modeling, 5) Complexity Workshop, 6) Discipline and Profession, 7) Unintended Consequences, 8) Program Theory and Logic, 9) Sustainability and Scale-up, 10) Practical Uses of Complexity, 11) Complexity Science's Message to Evaluation, 12) Evolutionary Biology and Ecology.

You Tube

Morell, J. A. (2021).

[Using Evolutionary Biology and Ecology to Think About Evaluation 4.669... Evaluation and Planning.](#)

Parunak, H.V.D., Morell, J.A. (2021)

[Social Causality. Agents Using Multiple Perspectives](#)

Morell, J.A. (2021)

[How Should "Sensitive Dependence" and "Emergence" Influence how we do Evaluation?](#) (22:02)

Morell, J.A (2020)

[Complexity view of evaluating transformation.](#) (41:36)

Morell, J. A. (2020).

[Evolutionary Biology and Ecology as a Valuable Framework for Some Evaluation.](#) (43:15)

Morell, J.A. (2018)

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[Complex Behavior in Program Design and Evaluation: Funder – Evaluator Dialogue on Complexity](#)(1: 0:04)

Morell, J. A. (2017).

Complex Behavior in Program Design and Evaluation, YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqynQPS8ZN4>

Morell, J.A. (2017)

[From Firefighting to Systematic Action: Funder – Evaluator Dialogue for Better Evaluation of Unintended Consequences](#) – Why Program Funders and Evaluators Need to Talk About Complexity (1:10:06)

Morell, J.A. (2016)

Drawing on Complexity to do Hands-on Evaluation: What is the Need for Complexity [Part 1](#) (3:37), [Part 2](#) (5:50)

Morell, J. A., Parunak, H. V. D., Hwalek, M., & Knestis, K. (2016)

Integrating Agent Based Modeling and Traditional Evaluation [Part 1](#) (6:51), [Part 2](#) (20:18) [Part 3](#) 19:57)

Morell, J. A. (2015).

Cross Boundary Insights: Plans, Critical Incidents, and Outcomes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKgmjdzv-4I>

Morell, J. A. (2015)

Integrating Traditional Evaluation and Agent Based Modeling.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TW1C-K4R9ao&feature=youtu.be>

Morell, J. A. (2015).

Integrating Traditional Evaluation with Agent Based Modeling.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TW1C-K4R9ao&feature=youtu.be>

Professional Development Workshops

Multiple in-person and on-line workshops on:

- Logic Modeling
- Unexpected Consequences
- Application of Complexity Science to Evaluation

Audiences include American Evaluation Association, Canadian Evaluation Society, European Evaluation Society, Australian Evaluation Society.

Materials for some of these workshops are available at: Complexity - [AEA](#), [AES](#), Logic Models - [AEA](#), [CES](#) Unexpected Consequences - [AEA/CDC](#)

Professional Association Activity and Recognition

- Editor -in-Chief Emeritus Evaluation and Program Planning
- Robert Ingle Service Award – American Evaluation Association
- Board Member – 2013 – 2015 – American Evaluation Association
- Paul F. Lazarsfeld Evaluation Theory Award – American Evaluation Association

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Evaluation and Planning

Work History

- 2018 – present President, 4.661 Evaluation and Planning
- Fulcrum Corporation, Director of Evaluation 2010 - 2018
- Vector Research Center Ann Arbor, Michigan 2006 – 2010 Senior Policy Analyst
- New Vectors, LLC 2005 – 2006 Senior Policy Analyst
- Altarum Institute (successor to ERIM) 1998 – 2005 Senior Policy Analyst
- Industrial Technology Institute, Ann Arbor MI: Principal Member Technical Staff, 1988 - 1998
- Martin Marietta Energy Systems, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN: Technical Staff,
- 1985 – 1988 Technical Staff
- Hahnemann University, Philadelphia PA: Associate Director and Professor, Graduate Program in Evaluation, 1975 - 1985

Educational History

- Bachelor of Science (Sociology) McGill University, Montreal Canada, 1968
- Ph.D. (Social Psychology) Northwestern University, Evanston IL. 1974