



Action Research in Practice¹

Paul Coughlan
School of Business
Trinity College Dublin

Overview

A fundamental methodological question guides this conversation:

How can researchers learn from the applied activity that characterises practice?

To address this question, the conversation will explore the legitimacy of an action-oriented research approach, and the particular logic and value of applying Action Research (AR) to the description and understanding of issues in practice. It will illustrate the approach with particular reference to Operations Management, my discipline area. It will outline the practice of action research, the action research cycle and threats to the validity of such research.

Readings

One chapter is suggested for reading in advance of the conversation. Five articles will feature in the discussion and may be read after the conversation:

Chapter

Coughlan, P. & Coughlan, D. (2009) "Action Research", in Karlsson C. (ed.) *Researching Operations Management*, London: Routledge, 236-264

Articles

Coughlan, P. & Fergus, M.A. (2009) "Defining the Path to Value Innovation", *International Journal of Manufacturing Technology and Management*, 16 (3), 234-249

Le Dain, M-A., Calvi, R. & Cheriti, S. (2011) "Measuring supplier performance in collaborative design: proposition of a framework", *R&D Management*, 41 (1), 61-79

Middel, R., Coughlan, D., Coughlan, P., Brennan, L. & McNichols, T. (2006) "Action Research in Collaborative Improvement", *International Journal of Technology Management*, 33 (1), 67-91

Rytter, N.G., Boer, H. & Koch, C. (2007) "Conceptualizing operations strategy processes", *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*, 27 (10), 1093-1114

Zuber-Skerritt, O. & Perry, C. (2002) "Action Research within Organisations and University Thesis Writing", *The Learning Organization*, 9 (4), 171-179

The chapter and all of the articles include comprehensive bibliographies for further reference.

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