

# Call for Papers

## Dilemmas in Working with Action Research

Action Research Ireland's fifth Action Research Colloquium invites short papers of 2000 words that focus on dilemmas and challenges of working with action research.

## Introduction

Action research is used to bring about change and deepen understanding of organizational and social issues, as well as enhancement of personal professional practice across all sectors. The intention of this colloquium is that contributors will use the opportunity to share their questions, anxieties, tensions and contradictions that have been provoked for them as they seek to work with action research. Early insights or simple descriptions of the sticky challenges experienced are also of interest to this colloquium. This is an opportunity to present dilemmas and challenges of your work and seek the expertise of colleagues and co-action researchers without the need to present clear resolutions. As well as the familiar issues facing any practitioners or researchers, there are distinctive challenges facing action researchers, participants and supervisors, dilemmas, which present choices for action where none is simple.

Common experiences include, but are certainly not limited to the following examples:

- Wanting to be led by the concerns of participants or organisation members, yet also to be true to the spirit of action research and contribute to wider knowledge
- Wanting to be participatory and give up power, yet inevitably having power through knowledge of the action research process and control over dissemination
- Facing role conflict between what is the best action to take as a researcher and what is best as a manager/professional for the organisation
- Encountering political differences between organisation stakeholders
- Wanting to become a better manager/teacher/nurse through inquiring into one's own professional practice yet being skeptical about the validity of reflective data
- Having faith in reflective data yourself yet needing other forms of quantitative data to achieve academic publication
- How to write up the completed action research thesis in a way that meets academic expectations while also remaining true to the story of what happened.

Please send submissions to [ActionResearch@ucd.ie](mailto:ActionResearch@ucd.ie) - closing date for submissions **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015.**

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