Participatory action research.


Abstract

Participatory action research (PAR) is a rapidly growing approach in human geography. PAR has diverse origins in different parts of the world over the last 70 years and it takes many forms depending on the particular context and issues involved. Broadly speaking, it is research by, with, and for people affected by a particular problem, which takes places in collaboration with academic researchers. It seeks to democratize knowledge production and foster opportunities for empowerment by those involved. Within human geography, it offers a politically engaged means of exploring materialities, emotionalities, and aspects of nonrepresentational experience to inform progressive change. Participatory approaches are not without their critics who argue that these can verge on the tyrannical, reproducing the inequalities they seek to overcome. Yet, PAR has exciting synergies with feminist, post-structural, and postcolonial geographies. These enable engagements with both productive and negative effects of power through attention to language, representation, and subjectivity. The ongoing development and experimentation with a range of participatory methods and techniques continue to inspire new understandings and possibilities for action-oriented research within and beyond the academy.

Item Type:
Book chapter

Keywords:
Action, Activism, Collaborative research, Cross-cultural research, Empowerment, Feminist geographies, Participatory action research, Participatory methods, Place, Politics of research, Postcolonial geographies, Post-structuralist geographies.

Full text:
Full text not available from this repository.

Publisher:
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-008044910-4.00490-9

Web site:

Record Created:
21 Jul 2010 14:35

Last Modified:
22 Jul 2010 10:24

Social bookmarking: Export: EndNote, Zotero | BibTex

Look up in GoogleScholar | Find in a UK Library

Last Modified: Easter 2012 | Disclaimer | Trading name

Participatory action research is a form of action research in which professional social researchers operate as full collaborators with members of organizations in studying and transforming those organizations. It is an ongoing organizational learning process, a research approach that emphasizes co-learning, participation and organizational transformation. (Greenwood et al, 1993). Participatory action research (PAR) is a research methodology that can be used to understand and find solutions for complex social problems within a community or similar collective context. With its roots in action research, it is a research process that involves participant data collection that, at its core, is focused on enacting and facilitating change (Baum, MacDougall, & Smith, 2006).