



Participatory Research II. Scientific and practical paradigms for knowledge development and change, 7.5 credits

PhD / Professional / Citizen Science Course at Mälardalen University, Eskilstuna

Research in collaboration and co-production between the university and society requires critical and creative reflection on appropriate and fruitful knowledge and science perspectives and their importance for different actors' active participation and interaction in a joint knowledge development process. What is the view of established perspectives, traditions and paradigms of research on this involvement? To what extent is participation supported or restricted in research practice? This course is for those who want to develop your understanding of participatory research and joint production and research paradigms that can create greater scientific quality and practical value, as well as the challenges that this form of research involves.

Target Audience and course variants

Graduate students, professionals in higher education, as well as those who work with change and organizational development and research in public sector organizations, companies or civil society organizations. **The course is given online, concentrated to four course days** with intermittent work with own projects and tasks. To the extent possible and interest, **physical meetings** will be arranged in parallel with the virtual events (rooms are booked at Mälardalen University, campus Eskilstuna. Groups that meet at other physical locations may be added at the participant's initiative, get in touch regarding your interest). The course is arranged so that participation can be done both in English and Swedish.

The course is an interactive, culture-bridging space for learning about collaborative, participatory and more democratic research approaches and methods. You have the opportunity for support in the development of a change and research idea and project that you, together with others, want to carry out based on important societal and everyday challenges and needs.

The participants choose between a more academic variant where the course is examined through a study on scientific and practical conditions for participant-based, democratic knowledge development and change, eg. as part of a doctoral education or professional work. Or a more practical variant where you get support for investigating and changing a situation or solving a problem in collaboration with the concerned and critically reflect on experiences, opportunities and limitations for more inclusive, democratic research and development. For the latter variant, the course is given as a folk high school course in collaboration with Runö Folk High School.

Course Management

Course direction is conducted by a university wide team from all four schools (Erik Lindhult IDT, Magnus Hoppe EST, Osman Aytar HVV, Kamran Namdar UKK), contact person is Erik Lindhult, IDT, erik.lindhult@mdu.se, Ph: 016-153489/073-9607140. The course is conducted in cooperation with SPARC (Swedish Participatory Action Research Community), national association for participatory action research <https://sparcsweden.se/>. Fia Andersson is involved in course management from SPARC.

Purpose

The course aims to clarify how different paradigms and traditions view the role of science in society, knowledge, research methods, ethical considerations and research information. The aim is also to clarify the advantages and limitations of different paradigm in relation to participation. Participants are expected to reflect on a practice of research and change, and analyze its paradigmatic and institutional content and implications.

Learning Outcome

After completed studies, the student is expected to;

- Demonstrate an understanding of Participatory Research and its paradigm
- Be able to examine and describe practices within the area based on a Participatory Research paradigm
- Evaluate appropriate research perspectives for the development of social and knowledge-producing practices

- Plan, conduct, evaluate and report a participatory research/change work guided by paradigmatic considerations

Content

Different philosophy of science perspectives and their relation to Participatory Research Paradigm in different forms of Participatory Research, e.g. Participatory Action Research and Interactive Research, and its implications for quality and value creation
 Different forms of knowledge, such as experiential and theoretical knowledge, and their interplay and contributions in a co-production process
 Research Ethics in co-producing and participatory research
 Meaning and implications of participation as democratization of research, e.g. for equality, power, quality and efficiency
 Reflection on the fruitfulness and usefulness of Participatory Research in own research/change/learning practice
 Presentation of paper

Structure

Lectures and seminars. Compulsory attendance at seminars. Supervision of the participants' projects and studies is done in collaboration between course management and SPARC.

Examination

Active participation in sessions. Written report and presentation of a study on a final course conference.

Environmental Aspects

The course takes into account and works for a good and sustainable environment according to the university's environmental policy, and works for equal opportunity and equality according to the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education and the university's recommendations. The course works specifically for the United Nations Global Objective for Sustainable Development in Objective 4, inclusive and equal education, as well as Objective 17, effective partnerships for development.

Schedule

Session 1: Friday 17 March 2023, 9.15-16, Zoom/Room A1-001, MDU, (Eskilstuna)

Introduction to the course

Scientific paradigms and practical points of departure for participatory research

Action Research/Interactive Research in theory and as process

Open science and citizen science

Research circles – a Swedish method for participatory action research

Planning of own study/project

Erik Lindhult, MDU, Guests: *Fia Andersson*, SPARC/Stockholm University,

Mary Brydon-Miller, University of Louisville, USA

Jonas Stier, HVV, MDU

Session 2: Tuesday (22-) 23 May 2023, 10.15-18, Zoom/Room A3-032, MDU, (Eskilstuna)

22 May: You are welcome to attend the sessions in the course Participatory Research I.

May 23, Webinar: Reflective conversation on science, participation and knowledge democracy – democratizing and transformative potentials of research

International guests: e.g. *Olav Eikeland*, Oslo Metropolitan University, *Lonnie Rowell*, Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA)

Review and supervision of reflection paper/project work

Session 3: Tuesday 12 September 2023, 9.15-16, Zoom/Room A3-032, MDU, (Eskilstuna)

National/international guests

Different paradigms and forms of knowledge, extended epistemology and praxis orientation

Research Ethics in co-production and participatory research

How to develop coproduced publications, *Magnus Hoppe*, EST, MDU

Review and supervision of reflection paper/project work

Guest: *David Coghlan*, Trinity College, Dublin

Session 4: Monday 13 November 2023, 9.15-16, Zoom/Room A3-032, MDU, (Eskilstuna)

Course Conference. Presentation of papers/projects including examinations.

Literature (as point of departure for suitable choice of each participants)

Journal of Action Research, Los Angeles: SAGE Publications. (info on additional journals will be given).

Bradbury, H. (ed.) (2015) *The SAGE Handbook of Action Research*, 3rd ed. Los Angeles: Sage.

Coghlan, D. (2019) *Doing Action Research in your Own Organization*, 5th ed. London: Sage.

Gunnarsson, E., Hansen, H.P., Steen Nielsen, B., Sriskandarajah, N. (2016) *Action Research for Democracy. New Ideas and Perspectives from Scandinavia*. New York/London: Routledge.

Herr, K. & Anderson, G.L. (2015) *The Action Research Dissertation: A Guide for Students and Faculty*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Holmstrand, L. (2006). "Deltagarorienterad aktionsforskning – ett nytt paradigm?", i Wingård, B. (red.) *Livslång nyfikenhet. En vänbok till Gunilla Härnsten*. Stockholm: HLS Förlag, ss 125-139.

Holmstrand, L., Härnsten, G. & Löwstedt, J. (2008). "The Research Circle Approach: A Democratic Form for Collaborative Research in Organizations". In *Handbook of Collaborative Management Research* (Shani, A.B., ed.). Los Angeles, Calif. ;London:SAGE. (More references to research circles will be given in course).

Johannisson, B., Gunnarsson, E. & Stjernberg, T., red., (2008) *Gemensamt kunskapande – den interaktiva forskningens praktik*. Växjö: Växjö University Press.

Johansson, A. W. & Lindhult, E. (2008) Emancipation or Workability? Critical versus pragmatic scientific orientation in action research. *Action Research*, Vol. 6, No. 1., pp. 95-115.

Lahdenperä, Pirjo (2000). From monocultural to intercultural educational research, *Intercultural Education*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 2000, pp. 201-207.

Lindhult, E. (2021). "Att komma igång med ett deltagarbaserat aktionsforskningsprojekt", *Deltagarbaserad aktionsforskning* (red. Elisabeth Bergdahl, mfl.). Lund: Studentlitteratur/SPARC. (in publication).

Lindhult E. & Axelsson, K. (2021). The logic and integration of coproductive research approaches. *International Journal of Managing Projects in Business*, 14(1): 13-35.

Mattsson, Matts (2004). Att forska i praktiken. Kunskapsföretaget i Uppsala AB: Läromedel & Utbildning.(s. 5-73 och kap 8).

McNiff, J. & Whitehead, J. (2009). *Doing and Writing Action Research*. London: Sage.

Reason, P. & Bradbury, H. (eds.) (2006) *Handbook of action research. Concise Paperback Edition*. Participative Inquiry & Practice. London: Sage.

Reason, P. & Bradbury, H. (eds.) (2008) *The SAGE Handbook of Action Research*. London: Sage.

Svensson, L., Ellström, P-E. & Brulin, G. (2007). Introduction – on Interactive Research. *International Journal of Action Research*, 3(3): 233-249.

TIM Review 2019 & IJMPB 2021-23 double special issue on action research. (info on additional special issues will be given).

Selection of literature specifically for each participant is made in consultation with supervisor and course management. Literature as a basis for course input will be added.

Reference literature (a selection)

Aagaard Nielsen, K. & Svensson, L. (2006) *Action Research and Interactive Research. Beyond Practice and Theory*. Maastricht: Shaker.

- Bacal Roij, A. (ed.) (2022). *Transformative Research and Higher Education*. Bingley, UK: Emerald.
- Burns, D. & Worsley, S. (2015) *Navigating Complexity in International Development. Facilitating Sustainable change at scale*. Rugby, UK: Practical Action Publishing.
- Coghlan, D. & Brydon-Miller, M. (2014) *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Action Research*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Fals-Borda, O. & Rahman, M. (eds.) (1991) *Action and Knowledge. Breaking the Monopoly with Participatory Action-Research*. New York: The Apex Press.
- Foote Whyte, William (ed)(1991). *Participatory action research*. London: Sage Publications.
- Holmer, J. & Starrin, B. (red)(1993) *Deltagarbaserad forskning*. Lund: Studentlitteratur.
- James, E. G(2007). *Participatory Action Research for Educational Leadership. Using Data-Driven Decision Making to Improve Schools*. Thousands Oaks: SAGE Publications.
- Jason, L. et.al. (2003) *Participatory Community Research. Theories and Methods in Action*. Washington: [American Psychological Association](#).
- Kemmis, S., McTaggart, R. & Nixon, R.(2014) *The Action Research Planner. Doing Critical Participatory Action Research*. Singapore: Springer.
- Kindon, S., Pain, R. & Kesby, M. (2010) *Participatory Action Research Approaches and Methods. Connecting People, Participation and Place*. London: Routledge.
- Lindhult, E. (2019a). Scientific Excellence in Participatory and Action Research: Part I. Rethinking Research Quality. *Technology Innovation Management Review*, 9(5): 6–21.
- O’Hanlon; Christine (2003). *Educational inclusion as action research*. Berkshire, England: Open University Press (www.openup.co.uk)
- Mcintyre, A. (2007). *Participatory Action Research*. Thousands Oaks: SAGE Publications.
- McNiff, J. & Whitehead, J. (2009). *You and Your Action Research Project, 3rd ed*. London Routledge.
- McTaggart, R. (ed.)(1997). *Participatory Action Research. International Contexts and Consequences*. New York: State University of New York Press.
- Rönnerman, K. (red.) (2004) *Aktionsforskning i praktiken – erfarenheter och reflektioner*. Lund: Studentlitteratur.
- Schmuck, R.A.(2006) *Practical Action Research for Change*. Thousands Oaks: Corwin Press.

Somekh, B. (ed.)(2009) *The SAGE Handbook of Educational Action Research*. London: Sage.

Svensson, L, et. al. (eds.) (2002) *Interaktiv forskning – för utveckling av teori och praktik*. Stockholm: Arbetslivsinstitutet.

The list of recommended literature and information links will be developed in collaboration with the participants.