

# **A string of conferences and publications on Participation and Power within Action Research (AR) and Participatory Research (PR)**

Report from the Conference on Participation and Power,  
Aalborg University/Copenhagen, Denmark, 05–07.06.2013

Dear reader,

Based on the original initiative of Professor Werner Fricke, we would like to welcome you to a series of dialogues within the framework of AR and PR, which focus on the relationship between participation and power. The basic research question is ‘What are the possibilities and barriers to participation conceptualised as various degrees of codetermination in organisations and in research processes?’

The starting point was a symposium on AR and PR in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 20–22.06.2011 organised by Professor Danilo Streck.

The contributions from the conference are published in an anthology: Streck, D., Sobottka, E. A., and Eggert, E. (Eds.) (2014). *Conhecer e transformar: pesquisa-acao e pesquisa participante em dialogo international*. Curitiba: Editora CRV ([www.editoracrv.com.br/?f=produto\\_detalhes&pid=4063](http://www.editoracrv.com.br/?f=produto_detalhes&pid=4063)).

At the symposium, it was decided that we – Marianne and Jørgen – were to organise a conference at Aalborg University/Copenhagen, Denmark. It took place in June 2013, with the title *Participation and Power* ([www.participation-power.aau.dk](http://www.participation-power.aau.dk)).

As an introduction to the conference, we edited a special issue of the *International Journal of Action Research*, 9(1) in 2013.

At the conference, the following keynotes were presented and discussed:

- Danilo Streck: Knowledge, Power and Participation: Research Notes on Participatory Budgeting in South Brazil
- Danny Burns, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK: Participation versus Power? Trade-offs on the route to social change
- Birgitte Ravn Olesen, Department of Communication, Business and Information Technologies, Roskilde University, DK: Whose power? Whose knowledge? Tensions in collaborative production of knowledge.

The conference proceedings will be published this year as an e-book, you can download for free:

Kristiansen, M., & Bloch-Poulsen, J. (Eds.) (2014). *Participation and power in participatory research and action research*. Aalborg: Aalborg University Press (in press).

*Invitation: Conference in Colombia, 23-25.06.2015*

In Copenhagen, we agreed to continue the dialogues at a conference in Bogota, Colombia in 2015, to be organised by Professor Alfonso Torres Carrillo. We hope newcomers will join our network.

You will find more information about the next conference in the *International Journal of Action Research*, 10(2).

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference in Colombia in 2015.

Best regards,

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