

Editorial

While writing this editorial, the Covid-19 pandemic is still affecting people in all parts of the world, although to different degrees. Some of us are gradually returning to some kind of normality, while others are still in the midst of heavy level of infection and high death toll. As researchers, we express our solidarity to everyone that suffered from the decease, that lost family members, friends and colleagues. It is too early to evaluate how Action Research will come out of the pandemic. What we know, however, is that there are processes underway that will change our understanding of participation in knowledge production, and in the role and strategies of research and science in general, and the way they intervene in social reality. Probably in the next issues of the journal we will be able to identify some of these changes.

In this issue we share four articles covering different topics and coming from different social and cultural contexts. The first article, “Beyond the margins of neoliberalism: Biological and Neurological Foundations of Action Research”, by Igor Ahedo Gurrutxaga, reflects on how cognitive frames affect the way that we approach reality. The goal is to help understand the practical limits that Action Research faces. According to the author, a hegemonic approach to science and human nature has been instrumental to a “neoliberal governmentality” that seeks to subjectify individuals through isolation and competition. The dialogue with life sciences highlights both the potential for a deeper knowledge of how we live together, as well as confirming the transdisciplinary nature of Action Research.

The article by Miriam James-Scotter, Lixin Jiang, Cameron Walker and Stephen Jacobs presents an outline of how Action Research was used to develop a real-time job satisfaction measurement tool for the operating room (OR) setting. “Using action research to develop a real-time measure of job satisfaction in the operating room setting”, based on a study conducted within one New Zealand hospital OR department, describes and analyses how Action Research cycles, researchers and hospital personnel collaboratively created an innovative one-minute daily job satisfaction measure called the *Morale-o-Meter*. Complexities relating to its development and acceptability are explored and reflected upon, in order to draw insight for other researchers who are looking to use this methodology in a similar setting. As the authors point out in their conclusion, this study provides a sound starting point for the tool to continue to be developed, with potential for implementation in wider healthcare settings in the future.

Thomas G Ryan presents the article “Action Research as Pre-Service Teacher Inquiry and Professional Development in Ontario Elementary Health and Physical Education”. Inquiry, implemented as a pedagogical mode, helps new educators identify and reveal resolutions after identifying the need to want to improve. It is argued in the article that Action Research has the potential to open doors of perception, trigger new insights, and cultivate teacher development within teacher training and beyond while in-service. In terms of method, the research process is illustrated via narrative accounts that reflect experiences while teacher training in an Ontario Faculty of education program. As Action Research is today widely used in educational research, this article provides important theoretical and methodological insights.

The article “Co-construction of territorial and sociodemographic data in a poor informal neighbourhood with high socio-environmental vulnerability in the city of La Plata, Argentina”, by Tomás Canevari, presents and discusses the results of a census carried out in the largest of the 164 informal settlements currently in existence in the city of La Plata, capital of the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The aim of the study was to define territorial and

sociodemographic data of this poor informal neighbourhood through the generation of co-constructed scientific knowledge together with the community, which in turn recovers knowledge and demands from the territory with a concrete potential for transformation. This work is part of a Participatory Scientific Agenda based on the interaction of the community, political, economic and scientific-technical actors. Again, Action Research reveals its trans-disciplinary potential for addressing complex social realities.

This issue of the *International Journal of Action Research* also reprints the interview published in the blog of Barbara Budrich Verlag with Marianne Kristiansen and Jørgen Bloch-Poulsen about their new book *Action Research in Organizations: Participation in Change Processes*. With a long trajectory dedicated to Action Research, the authors examine organisational change processes based on collaboration between employers, employees and action researchers in Europe and the U.S. The book will certainly become part of Action Research bibliographies and references.

Finally, a farewell and a welcome. After important contribution to the *International Journal of Action Research*, Marianne Kristiansen is leaving the Editorial Committee. In the name of the fellow editors, the members of the Editorial Committee and the International Advisory Committee, I express our deepest gratitude to Marianne. We all wish her well, and welcome her further collaboration in any capacity she feels possible and adequate.

At the same time, we welcome Louise Phillips as a new member of the Editorial Committee. Louise Phillips is Professor of Communication and Coordinator of the Dialogic Communication Research Group at Roskilde University, Denmark. She has a Ph.D. (1993) in Social Psychology from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research, since 2005, has concentrated on action research-inspired, dialogic and participatory approaches to communication, including participatory health research. She has written many articles and books on the topic including *The Promise of Dialogue: The dialogic turn in the production and communication of knowledge* (John Benjamins Publishing, 2011, and *Knowledge and Power in Collaborative Research: A Reflexive Approach*, ed. (Routledge, 2013) and *Dialogue and Co-Production: Methods for A Reflexive Practice* ed. [*Dialog og Samskabelse: Metoder til en Refleksiv Praksis*]. (Academic Publishers, 2018). She is currently working on a participatory health research project about dance for people with Parkinson's disease and their spouses. Research dissemination includes a co-produced graphic novel.

We thank the authors and reviewers who contributed to this issue of the *International Journal of Action Research*, as well as the researchers who join us as readers.

Danilo R. Streck
Editor-in-chief