



Participatory Research I, 7.5 credits

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

How manage collaborative projects that both contribute to new knowledge and innovation in organizations, municipalities and society? How conduct research where researchers, practitioners and concerned can participate and contribute on equal terms in the development of knowledge and practical renewal?

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. 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 get 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 can choose between a more **academic variant** where the course is examined through a participatory study, e.g. as part of a doctoral education or professional work, and a more **practical variant** where you get support to investigate and change a

situation or solve a problem in collaboration with involved stakeholders and critically reflect on experiences, your project initiative and lessons learned. The latter variant is a folk high school course in collaboration with Runö Folk High School.

Course Management

Courses are conducted by a university wide team from all four schools (Erik Lindhult IDT, Kamran Namdar UKK, Osman Aytar HVV, Magnus Hoppe EST), contact person is Erik Lindhult, IDT, erik.lindhult@mdh.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. Fia Andersson is involved in course management from SPARC.

Purpose

The course aims to enable students to achieve a deeper understanding of participatory research as part of development efforts in organization and communities and its scientific and ethical basis. Through a field study or project, development efforts is investigated in a scientific manner in which the connection between the theoretical basis and practices that are developed is focused on.

Learning Outcomes

After course study, students are expected to have achieved enhanced competence to;

- Evaluate appropriate methods for the development of social and knowledge creating practices
 - Demonstrate an understanding of participatory research, its ethical consideration and scientific performance
- Plan, execute, evaluate and report a research/change work in organizations based on scientific considerations
- Examine and describe research/development practices within the area of study from an egalitarian and intercultural perspective

Content

Participatory research, its methodology and philosophy of science

Interactive research in theory and practice

Action research processes and quality

Co-production between academia and practice

Research ethics in participatory oriented research

Democracy, equal opportunity and interculturality in research and development work

Development and presentation of a paper

Structure

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

Examination

Active participation in sessions. Written report and presentation of own participatory work on 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: Monday 19 April 2021, 9.15-16, Zoom, 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: Monday 24 (-25) May 2021, 9.15-16, Zoom, MDU, (Eskilstuna)

Monday 24 May:

Main theme: *Participatory Research in practice*, e.g.

Dialogue as knowledge creating and transforming force – conversation with

Azril Bacal, Uppsala University

Transformative learning, *Magnus Hoppe & Kamran Namdar*, MDU

Stakeholder mapping, a mini workshop

Quality in Participatory Research, *Erik Lindhult*, MDU

Review and supervision of emerging work of participants

25 May:

Knowledge Democracy webinar, see special information

Session 3: Monday 6 September 2021, 9.15-16, Zoom, MDU, (Eskilstuna)

National/international guests

Main theme: *Co-production, theory and practice*

Guests: *Yvonne Eriksson*, IDT, MDU

Andreas Ryve, UKK, MDU

Susanna Toivanen, EST, MDU

Jonas Stier, HVV, MDU

Magnus Hoppe, moderator

Review and supervision of work of participants

Session 4: Monday 15 November 2021, 9.15-16, Zoom, MDU, (Eskilstuna)
Course Conference. Presentation and review of course papers/projects.

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 special double 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 inputs will be added.

Reference literature (a selection)

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

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.

Footnote 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.