



# Lifelong Action Learning and Research

A Tribute to the Life and Pioneering  
Work of Ortrun Zuber-Skerritt

Judith Kearney and Maureen Todhunter (Eds)

*SensePublishers*

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*Griffith University, Australia*

This tribute to Ortrun Zuber-Skerritt is a celebratory Festschrift of her learning/research action-packed life. Colleagues around the world reflect on their own learning, research and professional development, with and through Ortrun, in action learning and action research (ALAR).

Four Parts identify focus areas in Ortrun's work and interests over the last 40 years. *Higher Education* is the site for most of Ortrun's work experience since 1974 when she joined Griffith University in Australia. *Organisations* is a context where Ortrun has actively explored processes of learning, leadership and development in management education. *Communities of Practice* characterise Ortrun's work throughout her career, particularly through participatory action learning and action research (PALAR) in communities. *Futures* focusses Ortrun's recent writing advocating for PALAR as a flexible and effective methodology for responding to rapid change.

Here we see why Ortrun is a quintessential international scholar. And an ALAR practitioner/advocate. Her world view, understandings of knowledge and personal qualities naturally orient her along this path of inclusive, purposeful action. This is why Ortrun is a vital energy in shaping the evolution of the 'Action' family of scholarship, now including PALAR and LAL (Lifelong Action Learning). No wonder her life and pioneering work are an adventure story – not just of learning and research, but also of passion and action. This tribute opens windows onto that story.

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