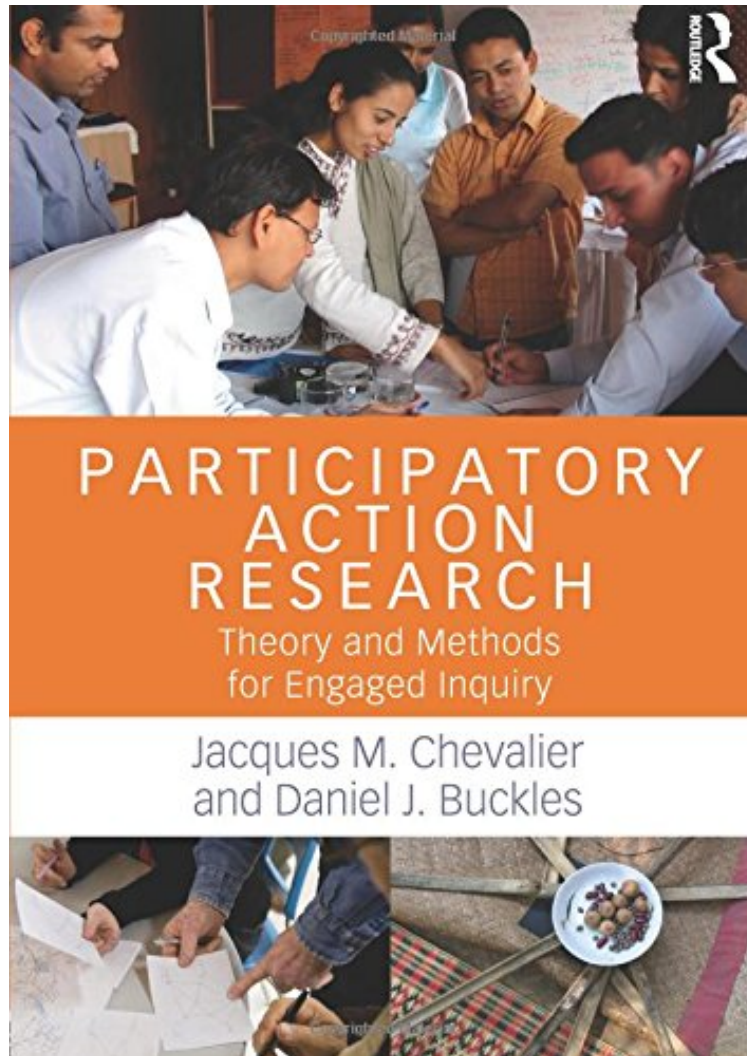


(Get free) Participatory Action Research: Theory and Methods for Engaged Inquiry

Participatory Action Research: Theory and Methods for Engaged Inquiry

Jacques M. Chevalier, Daniel J. Buckles

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Jacques M. Chevalier, Daniel J. Buckles : Participatory Action Research: Theory and Methods for Engaged Inquiry before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Participatory Action Research: Theory and Methods for Engaged Inquiry:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. ... is a thorough and well-written text based on a great deal of experience in PAR on several continents By Dr. H. Kara This is a thorough and well-written text based on a great deal of experience in PAR on several continents. The book is not lightweight in any sense, offering over 450 pages of detailed information, which requires intelligent, engaged reading. As a result, it may be too advanced for some

undergraduate students (as the previous review suggests) but I think could be very useful for (post)graduate students and early career researchers wanting to learn about, or use, PAR. The book takes the reader through the process of PAR, explaining how to go about it and giving a range of options for different stages of the process. There is also a useful introductory background section about the history and theory of PAR, although readers who want to get straight to the practical information could easily skip that part and go straight for the 'modules'. My only criticism is that the book doesn't contain any critique of PAR. I do agree with the authors that social researchers need to aim to increase levels of social justice through their work. However, using a participatory approach - even a more radical one such as critical communicative methodology - doesn't actually iron out the power imbalances that exist within a research project or within our wider society. Also, participatory research takes longer than non-participatory research, and is therefore more expensive, and it can be difficult to keep participants engaged in the face of competing demands from families, employers, etc. And there is a question about who does and doesn't participate, and at what levels - for example, participants who are named in the book (e.g. Alberto on pages 239-242, and the Forestry Officer on pages 300-303) do not appear in the book's index; the only names there are the names of cited scholars. I would have liked to read the researchers' thoughts on these and similar issues, as well as their views about when PAR is not appropriate to use, and why. But this is a comparatively minor criticism (not enough to lose the book a star) and one that can be applied to many texts on PAR and other transformative research frameworks. Overall, I found that this book repays careful reading, and provides an excellent and thorough overview of its subject. 1 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Horrible

By Lance
Only buy this textbook if it's absolutely required for a class. There is literally no other reason to ever read a single word in this book and I really wish I could have given it no stars. It's expensive, esoteric, and annoying to try to interpret what the authors are attempting to disseminate.

This book addresses a key issue in higher learning, university education and scientific research: the widespread difficulty researchers, experts and students from all disciplines face when trying to contribute to change in complex social settings characterized by uncertainty and the unknown. More than ever, researchers need flexible means and grounded theory to combine people-based and evidence-based inquiry into challenging situations that keep evolving and do not lend themselves to straightforward technical explanations and solutions. In this book, the authors propose innovative strategies for engaged inquiry building on insights from many disciplines and lessons from the history of Participatory Action Research (PAR), including French psychosociology. The ongoing evolution of PAR has had a lasting legacy in fields ranging from community development to education, public engagement, natural resource management and problem solving in the workplace. All formulations have in common the idea that research must be done with people and not on or for people. Inquiry of this kind makes sense of the world through efforts to transform it, as opposed to simply observing and studying human behaviour and peoples views about reality, in the hope that meaningful change will happen somewhere down the road. The book contributes many new tools and conceptual foundations to this longstanding tradition, grounded in real-life examples of collective fact-finding, analysis and decision-making from around the world. It provides a modular textbook on participatory action research and related methods, theory and practice, suitable for a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, as well as working professionals.

"This book is a must for anyone seriously committed to research that ensures the authentic participation and empowerment of people from all walks of life, be they from oral or textual traditions, women or men, old or young, articulate or hesitant, outspoken or reserved." Farida Akhter, Executive Director, UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative), Dhaka, Bangladesh

"This exciting and innovative book shows the patterns and processes that connect people and their social, practical and conceptual worlds in action. Its key themes of interdependence, relationship, and the need for dialogue make it a book today for tomorrows world. It should be on all reading lists as a key resource for developing socially-oriented pedagogies for a more peaceful, productive and interconnected world." Jean McNiff, Professor of Educational Research at York St John University, York, UK and author of 'Action Research: Principles and Practice', now in its third edition (Routledge, 2013) "...a wonderful compendium, replete with practical tools and techniques that bring rigour and vigour to the international dialogue among action researchers... This is a serious volume worth the time of any action researcher who is curious about how western (including francophone) perspectives on PAR come alive. This volume makes a significant contribution to the collective craft of scholarly-practice among action researchers." Hilary Bradbury-Huang, Professor in the Division of Management at Oregon Health Science University, Portland, USA and Editor of the journal Action Research About the Author

Jacques M. Chevalier is Chancellors Professor Emeritus in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. Daniel J. Buckles is Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, and an independent consultant.