

Looking for the 'ah ha' moments in action research understanding

Dr Diana Austin, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ

Professor Lesley Ferkins, Auckland University of Technology, NZ

Celeita Williams, Auckland University of Technology, NZ

Trish Morison, Universal College of Learning, NZ

Dr Liz Orr, Australia



A word cloud visualization of the 'Aha' effect. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'AH HA' and 'EUREKA' being the most prominent. Other words include 'INSIGHT', 'REALISATION', 'CONCEPT', 'THRESHOLD', 'BRAINWAVE', 'OBVIOUS', 'INCOMPREHENSIBLE', 'CLEAR', and 'INSIGH'. The colors range from dark blue to light green.



Research Question:
How can the notion of '*researching with/co-design*' be purposefully developed among emerging action researchers

- Exploring the ah ha moments
- Finding threshold concepts
 - “conceptual gateways’ or ‘portals’ that lead to a previously inaccessible, and initially ... ‘troublesome’ ways of thinking ...”

(Meyer & Land, 2005, p. 373)



Enter social constructionism

(Berger & Luckmann, 1966; Gergen & Gergen, 2008)

A large, curved, ribbed sculpture, possibly made of metal or wood, stands on a grassy hill. The sculpture is shaped like a thick, curved band that arches over the landscape. In the background, there is a blue body of water (the ocean) under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is a grassy slope. The sculpture's surface has a distinct vertical ribbed texture.

Social constructionism

2 prongs

**1: How we have been
shaped ...**

**2: It is through the social
interactions with others
that we can generate ...**



Research Question:
How can the notion of '*researching with/co-design*' be purposefully developed among emerging action researchers

- Exploring the Ah ha moments
- Explore influences
- Do it with others!



Eileen Piggot-Irvine

The Action Research Planner

Doing Critical Participatory Action Research

Kemmis, McTaggart, & Nixon

 Springer



**DOING ACTION RESEARCH
IN YOUR OWN ORGANIZATION**

David Coghlan
& Teresa Brannick

4th Edition

CO-OPERATIVE INQUIRY

Research into the Human Condition

John Heron



Peter Reason & Hilary Bradbury

The SAGE Handbook of
Action Research
Participative Inquiry and Practice

Second Edition

Kenneth & Mary Gergen


Yoland Wadsworth

Bagele Chilisa

Michael Wright



Kurt Lewin

The background of the slide is a photograph of a beach. In the upper portion, blue waves with white foam are breaking onto a sandy shore. The sand is a light tan color and is marked with several sets of footprints, suggesting a path walked along the beach. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Action Research (Co-operative Inquiry):

Move through the 4 phases of AR

Collaborative core group

Interviews, focus groups

Reflective journals

Highly emergent ...

Sharing our stories

- How do we think our philosophies/values/experiences influenced our initial approach/understanding of AR?
- How did our respective AR projects bring about a shift in thinking about self and/or a new understanding of AR? Why?





Trish Morison



Celeita Williams

Stories

Gaining wisdom from the stories

(Gergen & Gergen, 2008)

Sharing our stories (breakout)

- How do we think our philosophies/values/experiences influenced our initial approach/understanding of AR?
- How did our respective AR projects bring about a shift in thinking about self and/or a new understanding of AR? Why?





“It is not individuals who come together to create relationships, but relationships that are responsible for the very conception of the individual”

(Gergen & Gergen, 2008, p. 163)

Looking for the 'ah ha' moments in action research understanding

If you would like to participate in this study and share your journey of becoming an action researcher, please contact one of the presenters for more information or...

NZ - Diana Austin diana.austin@vuw.ac.nz

Aus – Liz Orr orre@unimelb.edu.au

