

Editorial

This issue of the *International Journal of Action Research* presents four articles and one book review. The articles cover different fields of interest, but share the concern for collective and participative production of knowledge that originates within the process of changing their realities. The book review is about the theory and practice of “systematisation of experience” which in Latin America is closely related to Action Research.

Stephen Allen and Judi Marshall, in the article “What could happen when Action Research meets ideas of socio-materiality?” argue that matter is active in creating our understanding, and so significant for fostering critical action. This understanding could be helpful for Action Researchers to develop congruent ontologies, which are defined by relationality and interconnectivity, in particular with connection to climate change and loss of biodiversity. As the authors point out, the article has a provocative and speculative character as a step forward for a more integrative practice of Action Research. It is an invitation “to connect with fellow scholars engaged in action research and with concerns about sustainability.”

The article “Participant and co-operative research within a social movement of recyclable materials collectors: Methodological reflections on a long-term political praxis”, by Cristiano Benites Oliveira and Emil Albert Sobottka, presents methodological reflections on a participant research project within the National Movement of Recyclable Materials Collectors (MNCR) in Brazil. It emphasises methodological aspects of the researchers’ long-term participation in the process of questioning and denaturalising of political, social, and economic inequalities by the collectors, understood as subjects of their self-organisation. As pointed out by the authors, with the focus on the modes of interpretation of the collectors, and based on the relation of trust between the actors, the notion of reflectivity of the actors allows the obtaining of a ‘second-order observation’.

“Action Research and Teacher Education: the use of research in a classroom for the transformation of reality”, written by Nilda Stecanela, Alessandra Chaves Zen, and Fabiana Pauletti, aims to provide reflections on a research experience within a continuing education course for teachers of public schools in South Brazil. The analysis of the modes of reception and appropriation of those involved in the research process, and expressed in the materials produced, evince the difficulties in exercising the passage from naive to epistemologi-

cal consciousness through criticality. These difficulties reinforce the importance of the process of reflection-action-reflection in the education of teachers.

The last article, “Language Education and primary school children: the story of using stories”, by Christina Nicole Giannikas, presents data derived from an Action Research study carried out as part of a longitudinal study in South Western Greece, where storytelling is a neglected language learning source. The research concentrates on Young Language Learners at a Beginners level, aged 7-9 years old. The results show the advantageous use of Action Research as a tool of intervention to apply necessary change in language teaching contexts.

The book review, written by Carolina Schenatto da Rosa, summarises and comments on the book *La Sistematización como investigación interpretativa crítica* (Bogotá: Editorial El Búho) in which the authors Disney Barragán Cordero and Alfonso Torres Carrillo propose systematisation of experience as critical interpretative mode of research. This Colombian research practice presented in this book can be understood as a development of the Action Research tradition of Orlando Fals Borda and many others in Latin America.

Finally, there is a call for papers for a special issue of the International Journal of Action Research as part of the Conference to take place in San Sebastian in 2020 (October 1-2), following the “Coping with the Future” Seminar in Agder, Norway in October 2018. The main theme, as suggested, is bridge building processes in various scenarios. We welcome papers which will also help us to get prepared for the San Sebastian Conference.

Danilo R. Streck
Editor-in-chief