

Participatory Action Research Reading List

Participatory Action Research
by Alice McIntyre, Sage
Publications (2008)

This book describes Participatory Action Research (PAR) and introduces a method that is ideal for researchers who are committed to co-developing research programs with people rather than for people. This Sage publication guide provides a history of this technique, its various strands, and the underlying tenets that guide most projects. It then draws on two PAR projects that highlight three integral dimensions: the meaning of participation; the way action manifests itself; and the strategies for gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information.

Author Alice McIntyre describes the various ways in which PAR is carried out depending on, for example, the issue under investigation, the site of the project, the project participants, people's access to resources, and other related issues.

Community-Based Participatory Research
by Karen Hacker
(2013)

Community Based Participatory Research by Dr. Karen Hacker is a 160-page paperback offered by Sage Publications. The book presents a practical approach to CBPR by describing how an individual researcher might understand and then actually conduct CBPR research. This how-to book provides a concise overview of CBPR theoretical underpinnings, methods considerations, and ethical issues in an accessible format interspersed with real life case examples that can accompany other methodologic texts in multiple disciplines. More information can be found by visiting:

<https://www.amazon.com/Community-Based-Participatory-Research-Karen-Hacker/dp/1452205817>

<p><i>Research Methods for Community Change: A Project-Based Approach</i> 2nd Edition by Randy Stoecker, Sage Publications (2013)</p>	<p>Research Methods for Community Change: A Project-Based Approach, Second Edition is an in-depth review of all of the research methods that communities can use to solve problems, develop their resources, protect their identities, and build power. With an engaging writing style and numerous real-world examples, Randy Stoecker shows how to use a project-based research model in the community to: diagnose a community condition; prescribe an intervention for the condition; implement the prescription; and evaluate its impact. At every stage of this model there are research tasks, from needs and assets assessments to process and outcome studies. Readers also learn the importance of involving community members at every stage of the project and in every aspect of the research, making the research part of the community-building process.</p>
<p><i>Understanding Participatory Action Research: A Qualitative Research Methodology Option</i>, Canadian Journal of Action Research, Volume 13, Issue 2, 2012, pages 34-50</p>	<p>Cathy McDonald of CJAR authors this online PDF defining Participatory Action Research (PAR) as a qualitative research methodology option that requires further understanding and consideration. Using PAR, qualitative features of an individual's feelings, views, and patterns are revealed without control or manipulation from the researcher. The participant is active in making informed decisions throughout all aspects of the research process for the primary purpose of imparting social change; a specific action is the ultimate goal.</p> <p>The paper available at contextualizes PAR in terms of its history, principles, definitions, and strengths, as well as discuss challenges and practical suggestions for using PAR.</p> <p>In addition, it examines focus groups and interviews as methods for data collection, the role of PAR in education, and the types of research for which PAR is best suited.</p>