

## **Living Action Research Online: Igniting Action Research Principles and Practices in Course Content and Design**

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Abstract:

While many researchers espouse the values of action research in their work, the extent to which these participatory and social justice principles are embodied and actualized in (research) practice, vary widely. Faculties of Education often mirror this disjuncture, increasingly promoting social justice and democratic frameworks yet lacking substantive and concerted course design and pedagogy that reflect these values. The plethora of courses in quantitative and qualitative designs, and the accompanying *lack* of coursework in action research is one key example. As advocates of social justice, we set out to change this context by developing two online courses in action research – an introduction to AR methodology and a follow-up course in research implementation. In this paper we describe our process of developing and implementing these courses. In particular, we centre our discussion on the social justice and participatory principles of action research and our efforts to implement them across our course design, including, learning activities and assignments. Our goal has been to create an experiential and reflective on-line action research learning environment that supports students to become more equitable, responsive, collaborative and transformative researchers within their educational and community contexts. We end this exploration by outlining some of the successes, opportunities and challenges, for faculty instructors and students engaged in such work.