

AGENDA

An Introduction to Participatory Action Research: A hands-on learning event

Toronto, June 15, 2017

Day One	Tools	Inquiry question
8:30: Knowing the Actors	Stakeholder Rainbow;	Who for? Who needs to be involved?
10:15 BREAK		
10:30: Exploring the Problem	Problem Tree, Timeline, Force Field	What are the conditions and factors at play?
Noon – 12:45 LUNCH		
12:45 Process Design	PAR Overview	What are the Attitudes, Skills and Rewards of PAR?
1:15: Assessing Options	Free list and Pile sort; Activity Dynamics Carrousel;	What are the possible futures?
3:00 BREAK		
3:15 – 5:00	Contribution and Feasibility	How can we make this idea better?

Knowing the Actors

Stakeholder Rainbow: Helps you identify stakeholders, visualize differences of influence and interests, and plan who to engage and in what order.

Negotiation Fair: Helps you assess and negotiate what stakeholders can expect of each other, by assessing current and desired levels of interaction and making offers and requests.

Value, Interests and Positions: Helps you compare the positions that stakeholders take on a situation or action with their actual interests and the moral values they hold.

Validation: helps you validate the results of an inquiry and decide whether more evidence and/or consensus is needed before action can be taken based on the results.

Exploring the problem?

Problem Tree: Helps you identify root causes of a problem, and visualize a range of effects. Helps you link issues in a cause –effect relationship and see the big picture.

Timeline: Helps you tell a story of changes over time, significant events of the past or the chronology of steps in a current or planned activity. Use this story to find ways to overcome barriers of the past and apply lessons learned.

Force Field: helps you understand the factors that contribute to a problem, a situation or a project, and those that counteract it. Discuss ways of achieving key objectives by strengthening or reducing the factors at play.

Activity Dynamics: helps you identify strategic entry points into complex systems, by assessing and enhancing the level of synergy among elements in the system.

Assessing the Options?

Contribution and Feasibility: Helps you choose between several options using two criteria: the contribution associated with each option, and how feasible each option is in light of favorable conditions (strengths and opportunities) and unfavorable conditions (weaknesses, threats).

Ranking, Rating and Weighting: Helps you prioritize by developing an order within a hierarchy (ranking), grading elements using one or several criteria (rating), and comparing elements using scores weighted according to the importance people assign to criteria (weighting).

The Socratic Wheel: Helps you set goals and develop a monitoring and evaluation tool to assess progress based on criteria and indicators.

Disagreements and Misunderstandings: Helps you rank stakeholders' goals in order of importance (priorities), and review disagreements and misunderstandings people may have about these goals.

The Instructor

Daniel Buckles is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University, member of the Service Lab at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and a consultant with more than 25 years of experience designing and facilitating problem-solving in a wider range of settings. He is the co-author of *Participatory Action Research: Theory and Methods for Engaged Inquiry*, published in 2013 by Routledge, and other books on conflict management, indigenous land rights and rural development. He was a Senior Specialist at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Senior Scientist at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) based in Mexico and a Rockefeller Foundation fellow. Dr. Buckles supports novel approaches to community, workplace, and public engagement in action learning.