

# Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>ix</b>
<i>Patricia Maguire</i>	
<b>Preface</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>About the Authors</b>	<b>xix</b>
<b>1. Introduction: What Is an Action Research Dissertation?</b>	<b>1</b>
The Many Faces of Action Research	2
Toward a Definition of Action Research	3
The Action Research Dissertation	6
<b>2. Action Research Traditions and Knowledge Interests</b>	<b>9</b>
The Multiple Traditions of Action Research	11
Action Research and Organizational Development/Learning	12
Action Science	15
Participatory Research: The Legacy of Paulo Freire	16
Participatory Evaluation	19
Action Research and Community Psychology	20
Action Research in Education	20
The Teacher-as-Researcher Movement in Britain	22
The Practitioner Research Movement in North America	24
The Danger of Co-Optation	27
Participatory Action Research With Youth: YPAR	28
Action Research as Narrative: Self-Study and Autoethnography	31
Arts-Based Approaches to Action Research	32
Feminist, Postcolonial, and Antiracist	
Approaches to Action Research	33
The Knowledge Interests of Action Research	34
Notes	36

<b>3. The Continuum of Positionality in Action Research</b>	<b>37</b>
Insider: Researcher Studies Own Self/Practice	41
Insider in Collaboration With Other Insiders	45
Insider(s) in Collaboration With Outsider(s)	47
PAR: Reciprocal Collaboration (Insider-Outsider Teams)	48
PAR: Outsider(s) in Collaboration With Insider(s)	49
Outsider(s) Studies Insider(s)	52
Multiple Positionalities	54
The Outsider-Within Stance as a Flawed Approach to Action Research	57
Conclusion	58
Note	59
<b>4. Quality Criteria for Action Research: An Ongoing Conversation</b>	<b>61</b>
Delegitimizing Action Research: Opposition in the Academy	64
Redefining Rigor: Criteria of Quality for Action Research	65
Reason and Bradbury's Discussion of Validity and Choice Points	70
Addressing Bias in Action Research	73
Are the Findings of Action Research Generalizable?	74
The Politics of Action Research	77
Institutional Micropolitics	78
The Politics of Redefining Professionalism	79
The Politics of Knowledge	80
The Macropolitics of Action Research Projects	81
Note	82
<b>5. Designing the Plane While Flying It: Proposing and Doing the Dissertation</b>	<b>83</b>
Possibilities of a Pilot Study	86
The Dissertation Proposal	87
Introducing the Proposed Inquiry	88
Situating the Study in Relevant Literature	88
Methodological Considerations	89
Data Analysis and Representation	90
Where Do Action Research Questions Come From?	91
Insider Action Research	92
Outsider Action Research	95
Issues of Design and Methodology	96
Designing Insider Action Research	99
Designing Outsider Action Research	102
The Literature Review: Literature in Dialogue With the Data	104
Writing the Dissertation	105
Defending the Dissertation	108

<b>6. What Does an Action Research Dissertation Look Like?</b>	<b>111</b>
Lynne Mock: Carving a Dissertation Out of a PAR Project	113
The Entry Process	114
Creating Participatory Structures	116
Writing the Dissertation	119
Emphasizing the Strengths of Action Research	120
Researcher-Initiated PAR Studies	122
Initiating the PAR Study	123
The Emergent Design of the PAR Process	126
Collaborative Data Analysis	128
Disseminating the Results: Multiple Forms of Representation and Audiences	129
John Mark Dyke: Insider Action Research	130
First Phase of the Work	132
Iterative Cycles of Inquiry	133
The Dissertation Research	135
Gary W. Street: A Principal Cultivating Action Research	137
Conclusion	141
Note	142
<b>7. Ethical Considerations and Action Research</b>	<b>143</b>
Working With Institutional Review Processes	145
Ethics in Practice	148
Authentic Collaboration	150
Learning to Be Researchers	153
Who's the Writing For?	155
Moving Beyond Do No Harm	157
<b>8. Final Thoughts</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>183</b>