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Message from the ARNA Chair

As I pen these greetings, final preparations are underway in Colombia for ARNA’s 5th annual conference, by far its largest to date with more than 750 anticipated registrants and its first in Latin America, co-chaired most impressively by Doris Santos of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and Lonnie Rowell of the University of San Diego. The first Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy, co-chaired by Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator for ARNA Lonnie Rowell and co-leader of the Pedagogy, Education and Praxis Network Christine Edwards-Groves, “will examine global convergences emerging in relation to knowledge production, social progress, respect for epistemological diversity, and alternative globalization” and feature an address by Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos, Professor of Sociology at the University of Coimbra, Portugal.

The Cartagena events honor the life and legacy of Colombian sociologist Orlando Fals Borda and commemorate the 40th anniversary of the First World Symposium of Participatory Action Research he convened there in 1977 and also the joint 8th World Congress of the International Participatory Action Research Network and the ALARA 4th World Congress held there in 1997. In anticipation of the 2017 ARNA conference, membership has grown by more than 400 as Holly Marich, ARNA Memberships & Sponsorships chair, details in her report. With a conference budget in excess of $100,000, funded entirely by conference registrations and sponsorships, ARNA has been pushed to its limits to provide a world-class conference experience, with a heavily discounted fee structure to ensure participation by all.

2016 conference lead chair John Peters shares his reflections on the importance of the Highlander Center Study Day sponsored by CARN and the highly dialogic Knoxville event. While in Knoxville, members of the ARNA Coordinating Group (Joseph Shosh, Lonnie Rowell, Margaret Riel, Elena Polush, Holly Marich, John Peters, and Doris Santos) met for a pre-conference Leadership Retreat at the Highlander Adult Education and Research Center, which included the drafting of ARNA’s official constitution. Earning special recognition in Knoxville were the Highlander Research and Education Center, recipient of the ARNA Social Justice Award; Morgan Urbany of the University of San Diego, who received the Promising Action Researcher Award; John Peters of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who received the ARNA Community Development Award; and Margaret Riel, Pepperdine University, recipient of the Eduardos Flores Leadership Award.

The 2016-2017 academic year was an important one for the growth and development of ARNA’s knowledge mobilization efforts and witnessed the continued expansion of ARNA’s action research communities (ARCS) in the areas of early childhood education, global engagement, graduate student leadership, health care, and the teaching of action research. Significant infrastructure achievements occurred this year, too, with the release of ARNA’s new public face at http://arnawebsite.org and its new registration portals for the global north (http://arna.moravian.edu) and global south (http://arna-south.moravian.edu). Plans are, of course, already underway for ARNA 2018, chaired by Lonnie Rowell and Rodney Beaulieu, and to be held on the campus of the University of California, San Diego, exploring the theme of knowledge mobilization for equitable & peaceful social progress.

I invite you to enjoy the most impressive reports presented in these pages and encourage you to become actively engaged in new forms of global south-north dialogue as we redefine a clear action agenda in support of and in solidarity with the poorest and most marginalized among us. Our global future depends upon those wise actions we plan together and also upon our continued dialogue as we share the results.

Joseph M. Shosh, Chair, Executive Committee, Coordinating Group

2017 Conference Report: Cartagena, Colombia

The Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA) convenes its 2017 Annual Conference along with the 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy June 12-16 in Cartagena, Colombia. The gathering is being developed through a partnership between ARNA and Universidad Nacional de Colombia. More than 15 sponsors have been secured at the time of this report’s submission, with many other Colombian, Caribbean, Latin American, and North American universities serving as affiliates and conference endorsers.

ARNA’s 2017 Conference includes a number of “firsts.” The conference is ARNA’s first in South America. ARNA leadership has established a rotation of conference sites around the Americas, with a conference in the US, then in Canada, and then in South America. We are excited to be organizing the first gathering in the global south, and in particular to be returning to the city that hosted the very first World Symposium of Participatory Action Research in 1997.

In another first, the 2017 Conference is being co-organized by ARNA and an institution in South America, in this case the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. In addition, Co-Chair Doris Santos established a Conference Program Committee, based in Bogota, and consisting of representatives from several prominent universities in Colombia. In total, more than 20 volunteers have been involved with the components and stages of the planning. The strongest evidence to date of the strength of the outreach efforts in South America, and globally, came in early March, when we passed the 400 mark for proposals submitted. By the final due date of March 15, we had received 710 proposals for presentations, all to be reviewed by the Conference Program Committee. Proposal submissions came in one of four languages: Spanish, Portuguese, English, or French.

The Conference theme is “Participation and Democratization of Knowledge: New Convergences for Reconciliation.” The theme recognizes emerging understandings of knowledge democracy, convergences among those creating knowledge through diverse approaches grounded in participatory frameworks, and the place of such approaches in reconciliations associated with the end of social conflicts. A special feature of the five-day gathering is the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the First World Symposium of Participatory Action Research (PAR), held in Cartagena and convened by Colombian sociologist Orlando Fals Borda (1925-2008) and others. The life and work of Fals Borda and other PAR pioneers will be highlighted throughout the conference and the days leading up to it in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the National University of Colombia.

Featured speakers at the conference are scholars and leading practitioners and theoreticians in action research and participatory action research, including

On June 16, ARNA also will convene in Cartagena in conjunction with conference the 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy. The pairing of the conference with a major innovative, dialogue-based day is another first for ARNA, with a wide variety of networks, organizations, and institutions involved globally with action research and participatory approaches to creating knowledge participating in the organizing of the Global Assembly. This gathering will examine global convergences emerging in relation to knowledge production, social progress, respect for epistemological diversity, and alternative globalization. The Global Assembly Co-Chairs are Lonnie Rowell (USA), Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator for ARNA, and Christine Edwards-Groves (AUS), Australian coordinator and international co-leader of the Pedagogy, Education and Praxis network (PEP). A featured address will be delivered by Prof. Boaventura de Sousa Santos, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Coimbra (Portugal) and a Distinguished Legal Scholar at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Among his many books in English are Law and Globalization from Below: Towards a Cosmopolitan Legality; Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide; and Another Knowledge is Possible: Beyond Northern Epistemologies.
Membership and Sponsorships Report: A Focus on Infrastructure
- Submitted by Holly Marich, ARNA Membership and Sponsorships Chair

At the time of this report the ARNA membership directory indicates 590 names of which 411 names are noted as members through June 2018 including 47 first year free membership student members. 161 past members did not renew this year, of which 73 were student members from a one year complimentary membership. The remaining 18 names are uncategorized. This report highlights the membership and sponsorships infrastructure achievements accomplished over the past year. Infrastructure for consistent and timely membership and sponsorships correspondence is explained. The current fee structures are also explained.

Membership Correspondence Infrastructure
The ARNA annual conference signifies membership renewal. If a current member does not attend the annual conference and/or renew upon the date of conference conclusion their name will be moved to the past member database. Five categories established for appropriate after conference correspondence are 1) current member; 2) past member; 3) student member, 4) prospective member, and 5) faculty teaching action research. Membership category and corresponding letter to be emailed within the first six weeks after the annual conference follow:

- current members - “welcome and thank you for your continued support”
- past members - “ARNA needs your voice, renew today!”
- student members - “get involved, stay engaged, consider ARNA grad student ARC”
- Prospective members - “explore ARNA membership”
- Faculty teaching action research - “free one-year membership for your students”

Each year a January email will be sent announcing conference proposal reminders as well as follow-up correspondence in all five membership categories.

Membership brochure
Starting with this year, the membership brochure will be created every other year, to be revised in July of each odd year and published in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Brochures will be shared digitally with some hard copies made for distribution at selected conferences such as CARD.

ARNA Public Relations Outreach
Dr. Jose Shosh, ARNA Executive Committee chair had the opportunity to Skype with a class of University of Nevada, Las Vegas Teach for America candidates. Over 60 students and two faculty members attended this session. This outreach helped to promote ARNA student membership and may be something ARNA leadership considered repeating each year at various universities and institutions conducting action research.

Sponsorship Collaboratives
Seven ARNA institutional sponsorships and 23 conference sponsorships have been confirmed. Sponsorship support continues as we approach the fifth annual ARNA conference and first Global Assembly. Sponsorship efforts are unlike years past. This year the ARNA 2017 Conference Planning Committee took on leadership of a fundraising campaign and has sought assistance from Event Innovations (EI), who has a roster of nearly 200 initial contacts to pursue. Part of this partnership included the creation of a new sponsorship brochure outlining a new structure of sponsorship support. Based on contribution amounts there are now eight levels of support: Gold $5000; Silver $3000; Bronze $2000; Friends of ARAN $1,500; Institutional and Conference $1,200; Institutional Member $750; Conference Sponsor $750; and Nonprofit Sponsor $500.

In light of this feedback, the ARNA Conference Planning and Executive Committees agreed to adjust the Global South payment portal. Global South conference registrants may opt to register for the conference without adding membership.

Fee Structures
A new payment portal hosted by Moravian College has been launched. This new portal is both user friendly and aesthetically pleasing. Fee structures have been sorted into a Global North portal and a Global South portal each representing the appropriate fee structures. Given the policy of membership renewal embedded within conference registration fees the membership committee became aware of possible cultural conflicts with this policy. Candid feedback related to conference fees associated with membership were shared. We had taken for granted the cultural significance of this policy for those in South America. In light of this feedback, the ARNA Conference Planning and Executive Committees agreed to adjust the Global South payment portal. Global South conference registrants may opt to register for the conference without adding membership.

Net Income     $38,760.00
Net Income/Loss  $7,351.59
Net Assets     $11,780.59

ARNA Financial Report
- Submitted by Allan Feldman, Treasurer

**Assets**
- Balance Forward - Moravian    $425.00
- Balance Forward - PayPal     $4,004.00
- **$4,429.00**

**Income**
- Memberships                     $6,330.00
- Conference Registration/Sponsorship $30,025.00
- Eduardo Flores Fund            $2,405.00
- **Net Income**                  $38,760.00

**Expenses**
- Website Maintenance Fees       $207.10
- Design and Layout of Annual Report $500.00
- Honorarium re: concert         $450.00
- Office support                  $1,250.00
- Printing costs                 $1,807.00
- 2016 Conference Expenses       $24,316.84
- Credit Card Fees               $1,227.17
- Miscellaneous Expenses        $1,650.30
- **Net Expenses**               $31,408.41

**Balance Forward - PayPal** $4,004.00
**Eduardo Flores Fund** $2,405.00
**Conference Registration/Sponsorship** $30,025.00
**Net Income** $38,760.00
**Expenses** $31,408.41
**Net Income/Loss** $7,351.59
**Net Assets** $11,780.59

Current fees follow:
- Global North (North America, Australia, New Zealand, Europe) conference registration including membership $470. Membership renewal without conference attendance $50. Student conference registration including membership $200. Student membership without conference attendance $25.
- Global South (South America and Africa) conference registration including membership $120. Non-membership conference registration $110. Membership renewal without conference attendance $10. Student conference registration including membership $80. Student membership without conference attendance $10.

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Knowledge Mobilization

- Submitted by Lonnie Rowell, Chair, Knowledge Mobilization Group

Knowledge mobilization (KMB) is an important part of ARNA’s mission. KMB is often defined as the use of evidence and expertise to align research, policy and practice to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. Traditionally, KMB involves knowledge sharing between research producers (e.g. university researchers) and research users (including practitioners whose work can benefit from research findings), often with the help of third parties or intermediaries (e.g. trainers, consultants, and professional development staff). The concept reflects the view that verified empirical knowledge should be the basis for policies and practices in education, healthcare, community development, social services and a variety of other social sectors. KMS thus fits within the social sciences with bridging gaps between research and practice. KMB also fits with ARNA’s origins, as ARNA emerged through shared recognition among the network’s founders that work was needed to better position action researchers in relation to the use of evidence and expertise in shaping social policies, in particular in education.

Action researchers, then, like researchers in general, have a stake in knowledge mobilization. However, although action research is focused on strengthening practices and improving conditions for larger communities and includes the recognition that this focus involves collection and analysis of data, ARNA also aligns with those who adopt a more critical stance in relation to research-based knowledge production and use and express concerns about disconnects between the interests of knowledge producers and disseminators (the so-called knowledge industry and knowledge economy) and the needs of communities and settings in which data is collected. In other words, ARNA seeks an alignment in which knowledge is decolonized to better serve the marginalized and oppressed and is created in intellectual and social spaces in which knowledge production is horizontal and contextualized, is based on respect for diverse epistemologies and in which action researchers demonstrate a deep appreciation of the capacity of ordinary people to fashion a socially just, more equitably organized and peaceful world.

In ARNA’s first few years (2012-2015), knowledge mobilization efforts were focused in a more internal manner, that is, mobilizing the knowledge of the organizers to create a network of action research for the Americas. Here, the work involved the launch of a website, the organizing of our first three annual conferences, and the establishment of conference proceedings. By 2015, however, there was a growing sense that this narrower focus, necessary during the organizational phase of the network’s creation, was not adequate in relation to the larger issues of the production and use of knowledge for social policy making and for supporting social change. While we were mobilizing knowledge associated with the practice of action research to construct our network and build involvement, we were falling short in applying the knowledge generated by action research to the larger world in a critical manner. This line of thinking led to the August 2016 publication on ARNA’s website of Volume 1, Number 1 of The ARNA KMB Papers, “ARNA Knowledge Mobilization: A Contribution to Democratizing Knowledge Production in the 21st Century.” (http://arnawebsite.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/10/ARNAKMB-Papers.Vol_1_No_1.08.016.pdf)

More a statement of hope and intention than a report on concrete achievements, the paper provides useful background on ARNA’s position on knowledge mobilization and a look forward in terms of the strategic direction that was beginning to emerge by 2015-2016.

With this shift in thinking, ARNA’s involvement with knowledge mobilization has taken two significant steps forward in 2016-2017. The first step was engaging with and then solidifying contacts and involvements that came through ARNA’s lead in the work on the Palgrave International Handbook of Action Research (2017). Four of the five initiators of ARNA served as the editors of the Handbook, and this provided countless opportunities for reflection on ARNA’s progress, comparison of our work with that of networking colleagues around the world, and sharing about what the future might hold for action research, including action research networks. From the Handbook’s 16 chapter cruise around “A world of action research,” to the 8 chapter examination of “Action research networks in local and global contexts,” to the four chapter concluding section on “Looking ahead,” action research and participatory action research are presented and examined through multiple epistemological lenses, socio-cultural contexts, and reflective perspectives. The Handbook project also began to bring to the surface a clearer link between knowledge mobilization and knowledge democracy in relation to action research. In the end, the issues examined in the Handbook could easily be considered a roadmap for ARNA’s work in KMB for many decades to come. The Handbook was published in January 2017. (The accompanying website is at http://inithandbookactionresearch.wordpress.com).

The second step in ARNA’s forward progress with knowledge mobilization and with involvement in the struggle for alternative globalization and knowledge democracy was the decision to organize the 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy (GAKD) in conjunction with ARNA’s 2017 annual conference in Cartagena, Colombia. The GAKD will bring together participants from diverse networks, organizations, and institutions involved with action research and participatory approaches to creating knowledge. The gathering will examine global conditions emerging in relation to knowledge production and dissemination, social progress, respect for epistemological diversity, and alternative globalization. The Global Assembly Co-Chairs are Lonnie Rowell (USA), Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator for ARNA, and Christine Edwards-Groves (AUS), Australian coordinator and international co-leader of the Pedagogy, Education and Praxis network (PEP). The 1st Global Assembly is being organized with the intention of initiating a thoughtful and strategic assessment of the politics of knowledge creation and the potential of participatory approaches as alternatives to a monolithic knowledge enterprise based on the domination of the Global North and the marginalization and subordination of other knowledges. The featured address at the Global Assembly will be given by Prof. Beaventura de Sousa Santos, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Coimbra (Portugal) and a Distinguished Legal Scholar at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Among his many books in English are Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide; and Another Knowledge is Possible: Beyond Northern Epistemologies.

In June 2016, GAKD organizers posted a Brief on the formative ideas for the assembly and invited global involvement with a series of participatory workshops to be convened in the ten months leading up to the gathering in Cartagena. Excerpts from the original Brief are found at https://knowledge-democracy.org/action-research-and-the-assembly/.
The Full Brief is on the ARNA website at: (NOTE: can add the link once Rich has made the change). GAKD organizers also established a website for dialogue and information sharing, which will be in use up to and beyond the June 2017 1st Global Assembly: https://knowledge-democracy.org/

Looking ahead, time will be needed after the GAKD to absorb what was learned through the interactions and dialogues filling the day. The intention from the start has been that the 1st Global Assembly will be an action research process involving cycles of problem identification, reflection and planning, action, and data collection and analysis. As a follow up to June 16, in the fall of 2017 an ARNA Knowledge Democracy Working Group will be formed to continue to work with the data from the 1st Global Assembly and to explore how the Assembly’s findings might inform ARNA’s next steps in Knowledge Mobilization. The goal will be for the group to prepare a report for the 2018 ARNA Conference in San Diego. A call for participation in the Working Group will be issued in August 2017.

Similarly, the Proceedings from the 2017 Conference, part of the work of the ARNA Knowledge Mobilization Group, will be partially oriented towards consideration of Alternative Knowledge Mobilization (AKM). This new orientation will include exploring ways that the knowledge produced by the ARNA community and shared in Cartagena can better serve a critical perspective on action research. We will seek ways to challenge ourselves to link our work with social structures and practices that support social justice and help inform activists working for peace, justice, and equal opportunity. Our vision is not one driven by notions of Knowledge economy; rather, we intend to explore knowledge mobilization in the context of supporting knowledge democracy.

From Seed to Garden: Look at How We’ve Grown!

- Submitted by Wendy Elvin-Thomas

The Growth Report of the ARNA ARCs 2016-2017

The concept of ARNA ARC (Action Research Community) was conceived by Candace Kaye at the Toronto Conference in 2015. With her nurturing and care from Candace, the ARC began to grow and flourish and soon produced offspring of its own in specialized communities: Early Childhood Education, School Leadership, Indigenous People’s Knowledge, Environmental Education, Global Collaborations, and School Counseling. Then at the 2016 conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, the soil was fertilized with new ideas and energy which formed additional ARC’s in the hood Education, School Leadership, Indigenous People’s Knowledge, Environmental Education, Global Collaborations, and School Counseling. At the 2017 conference in Madison, Among his many books in English are Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide; and Another Knowledge is Possible: Beyond Northern Epistemologies. The 1st Global Assembly is being organized with the intention of initiating a thoughtful and strategic assessment of the politics of knowledge creation and the potential of participatory approaches as alternatives to a monolithic knowledge enterprise based on the domination of the Global North and the marginalization and subordination of other knowledges. The featured address at the Global Assembly will be given by Prof. Beaventura de Sousa Santos, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Coimbra (Portugal) and a Distinguished Legal Scholar at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Among his many books in English are Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide; and Another Knowledge is Possible: Beyond Northern Epistemologies.

Reflections:

• Met with Dr. Shosh and the coordinating group to ask many questions about ARNA and the ARC’s
• ARNA ARC groups met over lunch at the conference in Knoxville, Tennessee
• All previous ARC leaders to see if they would continue as coordinators
• Invited new ARC leaders to join when positions needed to be filled
• Created a strategic action plan template for coordinators to complete
• Met with Dr. Shosh and the coordinating group to ask many questions about ARNA and the ARC’s
• Felt that it is important to have documentation of all of the efforts I made as an ARC coordinator so my predecessor can reflect upon this document and move forward. I quickly learned the importance of using personalized emails rather than using bulk emails. Personalized

Summer Planting and Growing

Accomplishments:

• ARNA ARC groups met over lunch at the conference in Knoxville, Tennessee
• All previous ARC leaders to see if they would continue as coordinators
• Invited new ARC leaders to join when positions needed to be filled
• Created a strategic action plan template for coordinators to complete
• Met with Dr. Shosh and the coordinating group to ask many questions about ARNA and the ARC’s
• Felt that it is important to have documentation of all of the efforts I made as an ARC coordinator so my predecessor can reflect upon this document and move forward. I quickly learned the importance of using personalized emails rather than using bulk emails. Personalized
emails provided me with better feedback from the ARNA ARC coordinators. I also learned, while it is important to have high expectations, they need to be realistic. Many coordinators are obligated professionally. Small steps in progress are huge since many members are committed to other professional obligations. Slow and steady wins the race!

Fall Harvest and Spring Planning
Accomplishments:

• ARC community chairs were contacted for the second time to see if they needed any assistance.
• The expectations for the year were explained to each coordinator.
• Each community was asked to set goals for the year and complete a strategic action plan for their community.
• The annual report was explained and needed at the end of the year in April.
• Coordinators were given an electronic copy of the new membership form for their community members.
• There was a call for community chairs for the Indigenous People's Knowledge and Environmental Education.

Reflections:
This is the perfect time of year to get ARC communities organized and functioning. Margaret Riel has an exemplary model of what an ARC should look like. She is an amazing resource to the ARC coordinators and anyone interested in forming an ARC community. Coordinators, one of the best resources for researchers is your students. Action research is not limited to colleagues.

Winter Planning
Accomplishments:

• ARNA ARC coordinators were contacted to see how communities were progressing
• Coordinators were offered assistance with their communities
• ARNA ARC Facebook page was created and ARC coordinators were encouraged to share the page with their communities.
• Met with Jennifer Robins to discuss the transfer of the ARC from the old website to the new website.

Reflections:
Getting a new ARC organized and moving forward takes time and patience. Some coordinators will sign up to organize an ARC but not follow through. It is important to determine a time period for how long an ARC can remain inactive. The ARC page on the website need to remain current and accessible.

Spring Planning
March 2017
Accomplishments:

• The ARNA ARC Community is up and running on FACEBOOK and all coordinators have been informed. The next step is to go through the membership list and invite ARNA members join.
• The STAR ARC, by Margaret Riel, is now on the web.

Plan of Action:
Design a new web page for the ARC communities on our new website

Final Reflections
Developing ARC communities is very much like tending to a garden. They both take planning, preparing, nurturing, patience and time. Each year, a garden and an ARC can come back bigger and stronger than it was the year before if they are given the right conditions. The ARCs require a special personalized touch, dedicated professionals and students who believe in what their ARC represents, and most importantly, communication. If you are interested in starting an ARC or taking over an inactive ARC, please let me know!

ARNA Annual Report 16-17
ARNA Early Childhood Education ARC
Co-chairs: Mina Kim (SFSU) + Candace Kaye (NMSU)

Overview:
One of the major purposes of the Early Childhood Education (ECE)_Action Research Community (ARC) is to build a professional learning community for those interested and involved in action research in early childhood. We had various opportunities to connect with ECE professionals in 2016- 2017. Here are some of the highlights:

• At the annual ARNA conference in Tennessee in 2016, we had a presentation session on Early Childhood Education, which brought a group of ECE professionals together. Dr. Mary Jane Moran at University of Tennessee, Knoxville joined the ECE_ARC and started on-going conversations to continue to seek a venue to collaborate and bring more practitioners and action researchers into the ECE_ARC.
• Javza Batsaikhan a doctoral student majoring in Early Childhood Education at New Mexico State University and a faculty member at Mongolian National University of Education (MNUE) participated and presented her initial research, Early Childhood Education for Nomadic Families in Mongolia at the ARNA conference 2016. With Dr. Candace Kaye’s advisement as Chair of her doctoral committee, she is continuing to work on her dissertation action research study and is planning to present her study findings at a future ARNA conference.
• Dr. Kaye is also chair of another MNUE doctoral student who is investigating dissemination of 36 completed graduate action research projects by her MNUE ECE MA students. The doctoral student has joined ARNA as a component of her data collection process.
• Dr. Kaye continues to develop further collaboration with scholars and practitioners at MNUE. As a visiting scholar to MNUE in April 2016, she created a link on the MNUE website for ARNA and uploaded the action research studies of students in the College of Preschool Education at MNUE.
• Additionally, she taught two action research graduate courses that included several MNUE ECE faculty. Two of those ECE faculty submitted proposals for the 2017 ARNA conference in Cartagena that were accepted.
• Our network and partnership with early childhood educators in Chihuahua, Mexico has been growing and getting stronger. Dr. Maria Holguin joined the community and will start further conversations to explore a possibility to develop a project to support preschool teachers’ journal writing and its process.
• Dr. Romelia Hinojosa has been playing a significant role as a liaison in our partnership with ECE in Chihuahua, Mexico. In 2017, she will be more actively engaged in the ECE_ARC by sharing new policies and disciplines of early education in Chihuahua and will lead us in finding various ways to collaborate with action researchers in Chihuahua.
• Dr. Rosemary Cromarty, North West University in South Africa joined us. We are excited to have a scholar from this continent and look forward to working closely with Dr. Rosamary to learn more about early childhood education in South Africa.
• Dr. Mina Kim has initiated an Early Childhood Action Research Group in San Francisco and had the first meeting in December 2016 at San Francisco State University (SFSU). The group agreed upon the lack of places to share their projects and activities related to action research and realized the need of a more organized format of gathering to bring local researchers and practitioners together in ECE. For the initial stage, five members will join the ARNA annual conference in Colombia in June 2017 and share action research projects they have been developing. Mrs. Luvy Vanegas-Grinnaud, senior research coordinator in the Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) will be leading this initiative in the San Francisco Region.
• With the approval of the Puerto Vallarta, Mexico Cultural Center, Dr. Kaye has initiated an early literacy project in the city. Her participatory action research investigation of the beginning year has begun an ECE learning circle for initiating an understanding of action research in the State of Jalisco. The members of the circle are writing a proposal for COMIE, the 14th National Convention for Educational Research in San Luis Potosi in November, 2017.

Plans in 2017:
Building a professional learning community will be the continued focus and main purpose of the ECE_ARC. Not only on the local level, but also on the global level, ECE_ARC will pursue to reach out and connect and reconnecet with scholars and practitioners who are involved in professional and teacher action research in ECE.

1. ARNA Conference 2017 – Focus on Early Childhood Education
Dr. Kim - Two Symposia on Early Childhood Education are scheduled below:
A) Joint Action - Learning with and from one another
B) Voices from the Field of Early Childhood Education: Diverse Action Research Projects from San Francisco

We expect these two symposia to bring early childhood educators together in one place to share our current projects and discuss possible projects and exchanges.

Dr. Kaye –
A) Dr. Kaye will lead a symposium at the Cartagena conference consisting of 5 action research MNUE faculty investigations that include two ECE studies.
B) For the Pre-Conference Global Assembly Pre Conference, there will be an MNUE Study Day on April 15. Representing ARNA Dr. Kaye has served as consultant and reviewer. Living posters will be the baseline for the discussion with two of the presentations to
be based on work at the College of Preschool Education at MNUE.

C) For the ARNA Cartagena Conference, the Cultural Center of Puerto Vallarta, State of Jalisco, Mexico has an accepted Pecha Kucha presentation concerning the action research study of APAPACHO, their early literacy program.

2. CARN: First time participating in the CARN Study Day in ECE

This year, we are excited to be part of CARN ECE Study Day in Cartagena, Colombia. At present, an ARNA coordinator and a CARN coordinator for the Study Day have been in communication regarding the goals and objectives of this workshop. Established by the Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) in 2003, Study Days are planned in localized contexts and provide space for interactive and experiential professional development and dialogue. To date CARN has sponsored nearly 60 Study Days in nine countries. The Cartagena Study Day will examine the intersections of theory and practice in Early Childhood Education; with particular attention given to links between educational reforms in Colombia and the development of ECE, and the relevance of action research and participatory forms of research in general to strengthening practice and policy in ECE. The ARNA and CARN Study Day coordinators are seeking connections with the Universidad de Cartagena’s Social Science and Education Department, in particular with the Early Childhood (Pedagogia Infantil) concentration, and with the university’s research groups specifically focused on education reforms. This day-long session may include visits to sites in the larger community.

Workshops in Spanish and English with translation assistance will be available.

Study Day Facilitators:
- Lucy Yanega-Grimaud (Primary Coordinator), Early Childhood Educator, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA
- Mina Kim (Co-coordinator), Associate Professor, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA USA
- Una Hanley, Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, ENG; Member, Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) Coordinating Group, UK
- Luz Miriam Capero, Professor, Universidad de Cartagena, Cartagena, Colombia

Global Contacts ARC

Submitted by Candace Kaye and Lonnie Rowell

Some ARNA members are interested in international collaborations in action research, and the Global Contacts ARC was established as a space for conversations about such collaborations. We also consider ideas for ARNA-wide initiatives that bring us into partnerships with institutions, organizations and networks beyond the Americas. The outreach efforts of ARNA members participating in the Global Contacts ARC are sometimes done individually, as ARNA members active in university-based teaching often have opportunities to travel abroad and to meet and work with scholars in other countries also interested in action research, participatory action research, and practitioner research in general. Sometimes, however, we pursue opportunities to experiment with global collaborations and partnerships.

To date, our ARC has focused on two initiatives. The first is the special relationship between ARNA and CARN. UK-based CARN is likely the longest-standing action research network. Established in the 1976, CARN now has affiliated groups in a number of European countries and also has ties with groups in South Africa, Australia, and Asia. Some ARNA founders were regular CARN conference attendees beginning in the early 2000s and have acknowledged that they drew inspiration for organizing ARNA from the contacts they made through attending CARN conferences in the UK and other European countries. Early on, ARNA leaders reached out to CARN to explore options for developing stronger relations. At present, CARN has a representative serving as a liaison to the ARNA Coordinating Group, and CARN and ARNA have established reciprocal special events included in each other’s annual conferences. This year marks the 4th CARN Study Day included as a part of ARNA’s annual conference. Beginning in 2016, ARNA now organizes a pre-conference workshop in conjunction with CARN’s annual conference. The first ARNA-sponsored pre-conference CARN workshop took place in Lincoln, UK and was an “Building Trust in Action Research.” The workshop was organized by Allan Feldman and facilitated by Allan, Joe Shosh, and Lonnie Rowell. Another workshop will be offered this coming Fall at the CARN conference in Crete.

The second initiative has a focus on collaboration between ARNA and the Mongolia National University of Education (MNUE). First announced at ARNA’s 2015 Conference in Toronto with the presence of MNUE President Munkhjargal and his delegation, this partnership has been moving forward in small steps dictated by the remoteness of Mongolia and the need for cross-checking on cultural frameworks associated with developing sustained partnerships between “the West” and Mongolia. The following points offer a glimpse of the progress:

- Candace Kaye serves as the lead consultant for the MNUE Action Research Workshop – part of the ARNA Global Assembly. Lonnie Rowell and CARN leadership continue to provide supportive information.
- Based on Candace’s work as a visiting professor at MNUE in Fall, 2016 an action research symposium format was developed and accepted for ARNA in Cartagena. This venue includes the participation of six MNUE faculty members to discuss their action research projects – two, who were chosen to go to Cartagena, plus four more who will present their research via distance technology.
- Candace will also present the action research project findings at ARNA of two other MNUE faculty members who are continuing a longitudinal participatory research investigation of curriculum reform in elementary teacher training pedagogy.
- While at MNUE in Fall, 2016 Candace introduced a link to ARNA on the MNUE webpage which was accepted.
- Candace will return to MNUE in Fall 2017 to continue to support and champion the continuation of growth with ARNA.

If you are an ARNA member who is interested in international collaborations in action research, the Global Contacts Action Research Community may be the spot for you in terms of getting more involved with ARNA. We are open to new members and encourage you to contact either Lonnie (frowell@bbo1@gmail.com) or Candace (kaye@mnue.edu).

ARNA Graduate ARC

Submitted by Wendy Thomas and Maranda Word

Based on our first Graduate ARC session in Knoxville, Tennessee, our community made the following suggestions:

Purpose: To build a support network amongst graduate student ARNA members.

Mission: A community to support undergraduate and graduate students while they are pursuing action research training, scholarships, and practice.

Goals: To connect each other to resources to support student led action research studies, projects, and publications. To highlight and celebrate the achievements of student action researchers.

Suggestions:
- Range of possibilities in action research after doctorate degree
- Guest speakers
- List of conferences to attend or present and deadlines
- Facebook page
- Contact Universities about ARNA to support sending students
- Benefits for students
- A way to cut costs for ARNA for students
- Network system for peer review, co presenting, and publishing

Accomplishments:
- It was a year of learning for both Maranda and I. Maranda worked diligently to complete her doctorate program and successfully defended her thesis. Congratulations Dr. Ward! I took on the role of the ARNA ARC Coordinator. I also set up a Graduate ARC through Moravian College. This ARC is in the infancy stages of development, however, we have been working closely with CARN and ARNA leadership to provide supportive information. Please look for us at ARNA ARC on Facebook. The executive community also did their best to keep the conference costs down for students so more students could attend the conference in Columbia. We will continue to work toward completing all of the suggestions provided by this community. This ARC is a work in progress which will take time to grow and flourish. If you are a graduate student studying action research, please join us!

Initiating, Facilitating, and Developing a Health Care Action Research Community

Submitted by Nancy Murphy, NP, PhD 3/28/17

After attending the ARNA conference last year in Knoxville, TN and speaking with some folks in leadership, I decided to initiate and facilitate a Health Care Action Research Community within ARNA.
I have long been interested in action research and its many traditions and I am hoping the Health Care ARC will become a resource for nurses and others who are doing/who are interested in health care related participatory research. Over the years, I have found it challenging to locate and network with nursing action researchers. I attended the Critical and Feminist Perspectives in Nursing Conferences back in the ‘90s & early ‘00s and more recently the, In Sickness and in Health Conference, where I have had opportunities to meet with critical nursing scholars and researchers, some of whom are doing various kinds of action research. However, there is an absence of a central resource in North America for Nursing/Health Care action researchers and I am hoping the ARNA Health Care ARC will serve to fill this void.

Since September 2016, I have slowly been contacting nursing faculty at various universities who I know conduct participatory research or who may know others who are doing health care related action research, to see if they might be interested in learning more about the Health Care ARC. It is slow going, but very rewarding to reach out and begin to make connections. To date I have been in touch with about a dozen nursing researchers in the US and Canada, to share information about ARNA, the Health Care ARC, the upcoming conference and the exciting possibility of developing this ARC further. Several folks have expressed great interest. Should there be health care related action researchers in Cartagena, this would be a wonderful opportunity to come together and make future plans. I am hopeful that over time the Health Care ARC will bloom and will become a community of ideas, strategies and action to support social justice work and improve the health of all beings!

Supporting the Teaching of Action Research (STAR)  
- Submitted by Margaret Riel, Chair

Approach our fifth conference, ARNA is starting to feel like an established partner in the world of action research networking. Convening the first Global Assembly of Networks continues this process of building and linking communities around the world. Starting a new network is creative, powerful act with risks and joys. The network section of the Palgrave International Handbook of Action Research gives the history of these networks and most were formed by the creative energy that sparks when people are brought together at a conferences. ARNA wants to provide a space for these new communities to evolve at of the conference gathering. We call them Action Research Communities (ARC’s) and they provide for ARNA members to create networks with networks. Eventually we hope that the ARCs become active communities that each put on a strand of the ARNA conference.

Cycle 1: Structuring Space for Interest driven working groups:  
In this first effort, we set meeting space and then online interactive spaces. At past conferences many enthusiastic ideas with exchanged, the actual work of sustaining a community around ideas wasn’t taking place. Groups would form but then after the conference the energy dissipated. Given the voluntary leadership of ARNA, there were limited resources to help sustain these groupings, however a leadership role in the ARNA structure was created for working with the ARCs. Wendy Thomas is the ARNA ARC Coordinator, and we are all working close to the ways to support the growth these small communities within ARNA.

So far for our second cycle, a small group of educators who teacher action research have come together to form an ARC called Supporting Teaching of Action Research (STAR). We are exploring the use of a learning circle approach where everyone in the circle will be learning a project as well as working with the others in the circle to make all of the projects successful.

Our plan is to model the process of creating an ARC on Supporting the Teaching of Action Research (STAR) in two phases.

• Phase one: A Learning Circle Model: Using the distributed leadership process of learning circles (onlinelearningcircles.org) we brought together about eight educators for about a year sharing ideas, strategies, practices, and resources for teaching action research. They are developing a reciprocal agreement to support each other as we focus on improving the way we teach action research.

• Phase two: Learning circle members will invite the larger membership of ARNA to participate in forums, polls and other activities that we perfected in the learning circles to further build the online resource. Hopefully, we will eventually work with the project chair to create a STAR strand within the context of the yearly conference.

Members of the STAR ARC have met monthly since November 2016 and have just started their project work on a website. They post their meetings notes each week so other groups might be able to judge if monthly meetings work for their group. As teachers of action research we are both mindful of our tasks in the Action Research Community, but we are also trying to explore how to develop ARNA’s Action Research Communities.

When you came together in Cartagena, Columbia in 2017, or San Diego, USA in 2018, please find that group of people who share your issues and think about what you could accomplish together. That is the way we learn.

ARNA 2016 Conference Report  
- Submitted by John M. Peters

The stage was set for our 2016 ARNA conference when 40 members gathered for a workshop on a hilltop in East Tennessee, where Highlander Research and Education Center calls home. This idyllic setting has been the gathering place for social activists, action researchers, educators, and community who come to learn, plan, organize, and launch education for social change projects in Appalachia and many other parts of the Americas and the world. Such has been the work of Highlander since its founding in 1922.

This was our CARN Study Day. Participants sat in a giant circle of rocking chairs, backdropped by window walls that afforded a panoramic view of the Great Smoky Mountains. Highlander staff led sessions that included a review of the Center’s colorful history and conducted several highly-participatory activities that illustrated Highlander’s typical educational methods and social change strategies. Most participants would say they didn’t want the day to end. Many were awed-struck as they left the farm and on their way to the main conference site in Knoxville.

The next morning, CARN Day participants were joined by approximately 75 other participants in the ballroom of the Crown Plaza Hotel, where Susan Williams of Highlander delivered the opening keynote address on behalf of Highlander’s Director, Pam McMichael. Susan shared a moving speech about Highlander’s beginnings, its evolution into a world-class adult education institution, its action research projects, and the Center’s current work.

The conference theme, “Making a difference: Action research for a change,” reflected the high value that Highlander and action researchers around the world place on participatory learning and inquiry. The conference format was thought designed to encourage meaningful dialogue among participants and presenters who were bringing an amazing variety of research experiences and provocative ideas to Knoxville. PechaKucha sessions featured short talks around Powerpoint slides and extended time for dialogue. Workshops and panel presentations were similarly structured. Small groups of conference goers gathered around posters and shared lunch with presenters and dialogued about their research. Evening receptions provided venues for extended conversations over barbecue, bourbon, and other treats, enhanced by live regional music.

The conference was fun and informative, high-spirited and relaxed, and a learning experience. Thanks go to all who worked hard to make it possible, including members of the Executive Committee and the Conference Planning Committee. Conference Co-Chairs John Peters and Doris Santos are especially indebted to the conference coordinator, Janine Al-Ameer; the program chair, Blair Niblett; the coordinator of group facilitation and PechaKucha presentations, Janet Seelye; our tech team, Richard and Greg; the conference translator/interpreter, Coral Gitina; the nine facilitators of group sessions, and the members of the Conference Planning Committee who did so many special things to make it all happen: Mary Jane Moran, Mary McKeever, Rich McPherson, Andrew Seidler, Rachel Sherman, Maranda Ward, Susan Williams, Shelly Yearley, Cathy Bruce, and Donna Azodi. Finally, to our many sponsors, thank you for your support and for valuing the contributions that ARNA members are making to the well-being of people everywhere.
ARNA 2016 Awards

ARNA Social Justice Award
ARNA members are committed to taking action locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to promote action research that is conducted with a commitment to honesty, integrity, inclusiveness, multi-vocality, engagement, and achievement within sustainable democratic societies. The realization of such a commitment requires individuals working together to build relationships that are respectful of cultural and linguistic diversity.

2016 Recipient: Highlander Research and Education Center
The Highlander Center serves as a catalyst for grassroots organizing and movement building in Appalachia and the South. Highlander works with people fighting for justice, equality and sustainability, supporting their efforts to take collective action to shape their own destiny. Through popular education, participatory research, and cultural work, Highlander helps to create spaces where people gain knowledge, hope and courage, expanding their ideas of what is possible. Highlander develops leadership and helps to create and support strong, democratic organizations that work for justice, equality and sustainability within communities and that join with others to build broad movements for social, economic and restorative environmental change.

Promising Action Researcher Award
As indicated in the mission statement, ARNA unites college and university students and faculty conducting practitioner inquiry into teaching and learning with fellow action researchers in public schools, private schools, community settings and workplaces throughout the Americas. This award acknowledges an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to rigorous action research as well as valuing the importance of developing knowledge in situ.

2016 Recipient: Morgan Urbany
An ARNA member since 2014, Morgan has distinguished herself over the past two years as a beginning action researcher. Her first action research was conducted as a graduate student-action researcher at the University of San Diego during 2014-2015, where she chose to initiate a youth participatory action research project during her fieldwork at an Alternative School for at-risk youth. This past fall, Morgan presented her latest action research at the CARN Conference in Braga, Portugal. During the 2015-2016 academic year, Morgan served as Team Leader for the ten person team of graduate student volunteers who helped manage and continue the development of the University of San Diego’s Action Research in School Counseling web site. Morgan shows great promise both as an action researcher and as a leader in the future development of action research in the Americas and beyond. Congratulations, Morgan.

ARNA Community Development Award
The organization and execution of the annual conference depends upon the ability of leaders to engage and motivate the community and to build strong connections with those knowledgeable others. These efforts require significant investment of both time and energy, as well as a long lasting enthusiasm for ARNA and the recipient of this award is such an individual.

2016 Recipient: John Peters
ARNA has clearly benefited from John’s service as well as his spirit, and for this we are so pleased to recognize him. John was a founding member of ARNA and indicated early on that he was available to, as he often put it, “help out when needed.” ARNA leaders called on this availability at several key moments in the network’s early development. Of course, John’s most visible contribution to ARNA community development is this very conference, which we all are attending now. He agreed to chair the conference during a time when he was phasing out of his formal employment at the University of Tennessee. It would have been easy for him to say “thanks, but no thanks” to the invitation to chair an ARNA conference. But he didn’t, and he proceeded to work carefully and thoroughly in assembling what has become a milestone conference for ARNA: the most sponsors; a link with one of the leading social justice centers in the hemisphere; the introduction of new conference features while also respecting traditions established by previous conferences.

Eduardo Flores Leadership Award
As one of the founders of ARNA, Eduardo Flores not only worked diligently to improve education in Mexico but was instrumental in building the initial structures of ARNA. Eduardo’s work to build an inclusive ARNA in both Spanish and English, as well as his incredible support for the initial conference in San Francisco, mean that he had a significant impact on the future of ARNA despite being involved for only short time. This award acknowledges an individual who embodies Eduardo’s leadership.

2016 Recipient: Margaret Riel
Margaret has been active in ARNA leadership since the creation of the network. Beginning in the summer of 2012, she was one of the five “network initiators” who worked together to form an action research network for the Americas. Margaret immediately recruited new ARNA members and dove right into web development work. Within a very short period of time ARNA was able to launch a website and to use it as a platform to spread the word about the inaugural conference and to highlight the steps being taken to build a strong network. From the beginning Margaret has served diligently and tirelessly and has mentored new members, helping them to find meaningful involvement in ARNA. She has provided steady leadership for all four years of ARNA’s existence and has demonstrated repeatedly the qualities associated with the legacy of Eduardo Flores. It is my distinct pleasure to present Margaret Riel with the Eduardo Flores Leadership Award.

ARNA 2018 Conference Preview

ARNA 2018 will take place in San Diego on June 28-30. The conference will be held at the beautiful University of California, San Diego campus and will be ARNA’s 6th annual gathering. The theme for the 2018 Conference is Knowledge Mobilization for Equitable & Peaceful Social Progress, and the event will include keynote presentations by Prof. Thomas Scheff, University of California, Santa Barbara (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_J._Scheff) and Prof. Necla Tschirgi, of University of San Diego (https://www.sandiego.edu/changemaker/faculty/biography.php?profile_id=2011). Knowledge mobilization (KMb) is often defined as the use of evidence and expertise to align research, policy and practice to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. Traditionally, KMb involves knowledge sharing between research producers (e.g. university researchers) and research users (including practitioners whose work can benefit from research findings), often with the help of third parties or intermediaries (e.g. trainers, consultants, and professional development staff). KMb thus fits within concern in the social sciences with bridging gaps between research and practice.

Action researchers, like researchers in general, have a stake in knowledge mobilization. However, although action research is focused on strengthening practices and improving conditions for larger communities and includes the recognition that this focus involves rigorous collection and analysis of data, ARNA also aligns with those who adopt a more critical stance in relation to traditional, research-based knowledge production. We share concerns about disconnects between the interests of knowledge producers and disseminators (the so-called knowledge industry and knowledge economy) and the needs of communities and settings in which data is collected. ARNA seeks an alignment in which knowledge is decolonized to better serve often marginalized groups and is created in intellectual and social spaces in which knowledge production is horizontal and symmetrical, is based on respect for diverse epistemologies and in which action researchers demonstrate a deep appreciation of the capacity of ordinary people to fashion a socially just, more equitably organized and peaceful world.

The 2018 Conference takes up these themes in relation to mobilizing knowledge for social progress in a variety of contexts, in particular in support of knowledge democracy. Conference sponsors include, among others, Teacher Education Department, University of California, San Diego; California State University, San Marcos; Joan Kroc School of Peace Studies, University of San Diego; Universidad Autónoma de Baja California; and Social Publishers Foundation.

Proposal submission will begin in September 2017. Additional information on the 2018 Conference can be found at http://arnawebsite.org/conference/.
Knowledge Mobilization for Equitable and Peaceful Social Progress

Join us for this two and a half day event including a rich agenda of presentations, roundtables, workshops and panel discussions.

Abstract submission deadline
March 30, 2018

www.arnawebsite.org

Keynote Speakers

Necla Tschirgi
Professor of Practice, Human Security and Peacebuilding
Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, University of San Diego

Thomas J. Scheff
Professor Emeritus, Author, Peace Activist and Social Psychologist
University of California, Santa Barbara

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