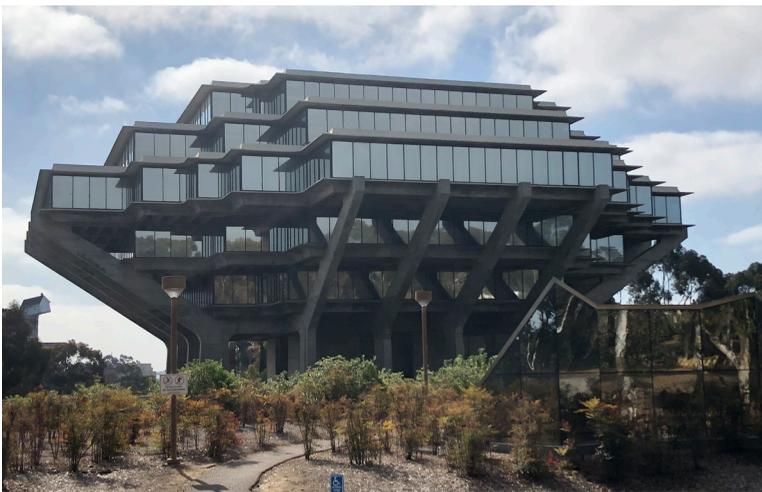


2018-2019 Annual Report

Available for Download at <http://arnawebsite.org/reports/>



ARNA unites action researchers and participatory researchers throughout the Americas. We support:

- Practitioner and participatory research efforts to improve professional practices and strengthen community capacity
- Knowledge mobilization across the Americas to extend the benefits of action research to wider constituencies
- Bringing together action researchers from diverse points of the Americas and around the world both virtually and physically to share findings and further develop practitioner inquiry and participatory research

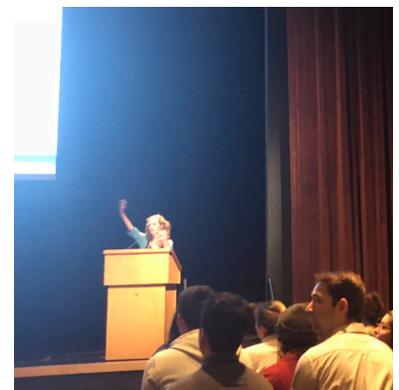


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Greetings from the ARNA Chair

Since its first conference in 2013, ARNA has succeeded in building new bridges of solidarity throughout the Americas and around the world, while publicly opposing walls of intolerance. Key accomplishments have included the establishment of the first network to unite practitioner researchers in the Americas; celebration of the legacy of Orlando Fals Borda at the 21st century's largest gathering of action researchers; publication of *The Palgrave International Handbook of Action Research* by network initiators; the convening of the world's first Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy; and ongoing support of practitioner inquiry throughout the western hemisphere and around the globe. This annual report showcases the hard work and dedication of ARNA members throughout the 2018-2019 academic year.

The report begins with a welcome to Montreal's McGill University for the 2019 ARNA conference "Repoliticising P/AR: From Action Research to Activism" by conference chair Steve Jordan. The ARNA Executive Committee joins me in thanking Steve for his outstanding leadership and vision that have made this event possible. In addition to the many paper presentations, round table discussions, and symposia, we look forward to keynote addresses by Darin Barney, Carl James, and Jayne Malenfant. We also want to extend our deep appreciation to the 2019 McGill host committee, including Hannah Chestnut, Stephanie Ho, Patricia Jackson, Azadeh Javaherpour, Naomi Nichols, Jayne Malenfant, and Kabisha Velauthapillai.

In her update, Membership and Sponsorship Chair Holly Marich examines two contrasting approaches to building and sustaining ARNA membership and then explores the sponsorship collaboratives that have helped to fund the annual ARNA conferences. Treasurer Nathan Snyder reviews our successful efforts to balance the ARNA budget. Founding chair Lonnie Rowell shares an important historical overview of ARNA's Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) efforts, leading to commentary from current KMb chair Janel Seeley on this history as ARNA undertakes the strategic planning process that will guide it into its second decade of service.

Blair Niblett, chair of ARNA's action research communities, begins his commentary by explaining that "If ARNA is a great city, then Action Research Communities (ARCs) are the neighbourhoods that constitute the city, give it its character, and provide a sense of community connection for citizens who populate the city as a whole." Individual ARC reports are then provided by Mina Kim (Early Childhood); Wendy Thomas (Graduate Students); Nancy Murphy

(Health Equity); Camilo Manchola and Catalina Tang Yan (Participatory Action Research & Popular Education); Scott Merkel (School Counseling); Randy Ziegenfuss and Lynn Fuini-Hetten (School Leadership); Margaret Riel (STAR: Supporting the Teaching of Action Research); and Paula Elias and Catalina Tang Yan (Youth Participatory Action Research ARC).

The Annual Report continues with reflections on the 2018 Conference at the University of California, San Diego titled "Knowledge Mobilization for Equitable and Peaceful Social Progress" by conference Chair Lonnie Rowell. While in San Diego, ARNA honored the contributions of ARNA members to action research with awards, as follows: Michelle Fine (ARNA Social Justice Award), the "Just Research Group," University of San Diego (Promising Action Researcher Award), Rodney Bealieu (ARNA Community Development Award), and Miguel Angel Lopez Montoya (Eduardo Flores Leadership Award). Rich McPherson, Web Development and Media Chair, then examines data showing increased website visits and network followers on Face Book and Twitter. Karine Gentelet and Miguel Angel Lopez Montoya provide brief updates from ARNA's French and Spanish speaking communities, respectively.

The 2018-2019 Annual Report concludes with a description of the open positions for elected office to be filled early in the fall, including At Large Member (French speaking), Coordinating Group; ARNA en Español Chair, Coordinating Group; Action Research Community (ARC) Coordinator, Coordinating Group; Membership & Sponsorships Chair, Executive Committee; Web & Technology Chair, Executive Committee; and Chair, Executive Committee. The 2020 Puerto Vallarta Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Adriana Garcia, provides a special preview of the June 3-6, 2019 conference titled "Co-creating Knowledge and Empowering Communities/Co-creando Conocimiento y Empoderando a la Comunidad."

As you read, please consider engaging in new dialogue with the authors of each report, and plan to become involved, inspire others, and share your own important work within and beyond the ARNA community.



General correspondence about ARNA should be directed to Dr. Joseph Shosh at shoshj@moravian.edu.

McGill Professor of Education & 2019 Conference Chair Dr. Steve Jordan Welcomes ARNA to Montreal

A warm welcome to ARNA's 7th annual conference to be held in Montreal at the Faculty of Education, McGill University, 26-28th June, 2019. This year's theme, *Repoliticizing P/AR: From Action Research to Activism*, builds on and extends discussion and debate from the 2018 San Diego conference theme, Knowledge Mobilization for Peaceful and Equitable Progress. While the 2018 conference was primarily concerned with deepening engagements between knowledge democracy and action research, the theme for 2019 arises out of contemporary discussions and debates over the future directions of P/AR. Indeed, it would be fair to say that P/AR in our current period can be understood to be at a crossroads, or turning point, where it confronts either institutional assimilation and pacification, or a resurgence of its original radical ideals, principles and politics as espoused by educators such as Fals-Borda and Freire. This is not just simply a matter of preference for a particular methodological stance, but a question of whether researchers in education, the social and natural sciences and practitioner-based fields of inquiry see themselves as primarily engaging in research that has a professional focus, is technically precise and restricted to the academy; or whether we adopt a stance that critically engages with the issues that define our neoliberal times – the catastrophic effects of global warming, community degradation and impoverishment, financialisation of homelessness, the neoliberal onslaught against anything that is public (education, health care, social insurance), attacks on migrants, the digitalisation of politics, culture and everyday life.

ARNA 2019, with its theme of *Repoliticizing P/AR: From Action Research to Activism* aims to focus attention on reviving the radical traditions and politics that have defined P/AR since its inception in anti-colonial struggles of the Global South. With its focus on the tension between AR and activism, the conference is concerned to generate questions and debate about the relationship between theory and action, knowledge and understanding, politics and research, and research and action for social change that entails risks and uncertainty in uncertain times. ARNA 2019 also aims to reclaim and revitalise PAR as a method of the margins, for the increasing numbers of marginalised that neoliberalism will likely create in the global South and North in the years to come. In these respects, our three keynote speakers (Darin Barney, Karl James, Jayne Malenfant) draw on quite different, but interconnected, areas of research that focus on these issues through community engagement, social media and radical politics, and youth homelessness. Our

hope is that by engaging with the issues and questions that our keynotes raise, as well as through participation in the incredibly exciting workshops, panels, papers, posters and plenaries that comprise ARNA 2019, it will provoke you to simultaneously question and challenge the boundaries of contemporary action and participatory research.

Conferences never happen by themselves. They happen, as it were, because of the commitment, hard work, long hours and perseverance of those who take time out of their regular busy lives to make them possible and hopefully, rewarding and enjoyable for those who attend. The volunteers who made ARNA 2019 possible are as follows: Naomi Nichols, Jayne Malenfant, Hannah Chestnut, Patricia Jackson, Azadeh Javaherpour, Stephanie Ho and Kabisha Velauthapillai.

Have a great ARNA 2019!



Correspondence about ARNA 2019 on the campus of Montreal's McGill University should be directed to Dr. Steve Jordan at steven.jordan@mcgill.ca.



View 2019 Welcome Video at:

<http://arnawebsite.org/conferences/montreal2019/>.

2018 Membership and Sponsorships Report: An Experiment with Infrastructure

This report provides an account of the final membership and sponsorship numbers associated with the 6th Annual ARNA conference hosted in San Diego, California, Infrastructure updates, and current thoughts on sustaining membership.

State of the Membership.

Unlike previous years, for the 6th Annual ARNA conference hosted in San Diego, California, membership was not included as a default for conference registration. As a result, ARNA experienced a slight decline in membership, recording 87 of the 124 conference registrants as members. This experiment with infrastructure acknowledged most, in this case over 70% of conference registrants value their ARNA affiliation as members. These data also acknowledge membership is most closely tied to conference registration producing a past membership roster of over 700. Thus, 713 membership renewal emails were sent out immediately following the 6th Annual ARNA conference with few responses. For this reason, ARNA will return to adding membership as a default for conference registration.

Sponsorship Collaboratives.

Fifteen institutions were recorded as ARNA sponsors in various capacities, from Trent University as both a Silver Level sponsor and reception sponsor to Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC) offering conference session translation as In-Kind sponsorship. For Institutional and Conference sponsors, the final numbers included one Silver-Level sponsorship, two ARNA institutional sponsorships, eight conference sponsorships, and four sponsorships categorized as “other”.

Silver Level Sponsorships

- Trent University

Institutional Sponsorships

- Mongolian National University of Education
- Universidad Xochicalco Campus Mexicali

Conference Sponsorships

- California Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center (CSUSM)
- Center for Collaborative Action Research (Pepperdine)
- La Mesa Spring Valley Educational Foundation
- Saint Mary’s College of California
- Social Publishers Foundation
- Moravian College
- UC San Diego Department of Education Studies
- Educational Action Research Journal

Other

- Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN): Grant for CARN study day
- Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies - University of San Diego
- Trent University reception sponsorship
- Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC) translation as In-Kind sponsorship

Sustaining Membership.

As reported in previous years, given the expansive physical location of ARNA members, we are considering ways to engage membership both face to face and digitally. Conference-related ideas include having a conference planning team for the physical event as well as a conference planning team for the digital event. To create this digital conference planning team the idea of creating an ARC interested in digital pedagogies for the conference and or Operational ARCS for members interested in taking on a more active role with ARNA operations. Although this idea has yet to operationalize, ARNA continues to see this as a valid avenue to sustain membership.

Infrastructure Updates.

At the conclusion of the 2018 conference season Event Innovations concluded their infrastructure support as ARNA Administrative Support Assistant and Conference Planning Committee. ARNA is grateful to Geri Beaty and her team for their efforts. The work continues in building a consistent and efficient membership and sponsorship infrastructure. Evidenced by previous infrastructure experimenting, the addition of an ARNA Administrative Support Assistant is a necessary first step in these efforts.



Questions or comments should be directed to Dr. Holly Marich, Memberships & Sponsorships Chair at holmarich@gmail.com.

2018 Financial Report

ARNA remains in good financial standing, remaining in the black during 2018. As we enter into the Montreal conference, ARNA hopes to continue building its financial sponsorships and expanding its membership. While our organization has grown considerably since our founding conference in San Francisco in 2013, conference costs remain low due to the generosity of the many ARNA members who continue to volunteer their services and to the solid sponsorships we have cultivated.

2018 Conference Itemized Expenditures	
UCSD Hospitality & Conference Services	10,185.58
Marketing	1,048.48
Attendee Materials/Supplies	514.03
Program	1,490.60
Signage	1,056.08
UCSD Food & Beverage	6,466.00
Receptions Food & Beverage	2,498.00
Speaker Expenses	1,410.31
Interpreter Expenses	350.00
Event Innovations	5,000.00
Total Expenditures	30,019.08
2018 Conference Revenue	
Sponsorships	11,826.00
Registration	22,405.00
Total Revenue	34,231.00
Total Income	4,211.92



Questions or comments should be directed to ARNA Treasurer Dr. Nathan Snyder at nathancharlessnyder@gmail.com.

Rowell Reflects on ARNA's Knowledge Mobilization Efforts

Knowledge mobilization (Kmb) continues to be an important part of ARNA's vision, mission, and strategic priorities. 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 developers). 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.

Kmb has relevance for ARNA as our network emerged through shared recognition among ARNA 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. 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 has a role to play in challenging traditional conceptualizations of Kmb. ARNA aligns with those who adopt a more critical stance in relation to research-based knowledge production and use. We stand in solidarity with those expressing concerns about the 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 and is created in intellectual and social action 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 capacities of ordinary people to fashion a socially just, more equitably organized and peaceful world.

The Evolving Kmb Space in ARNA

In ARNA's first few years (2012-2015), knowledge mobilization efforts were focused in what might be called an internal space, that is, mobilizing the collective wisdom and knowledge of the organizers to create a network of action research for the Americas. Recognizing the power of small groups to make a difference, the ARNA initiators (a voluntary cadre of five people from Canada, the US, and Mexico) began talking about organizing an inclusive network during time spent together at action research gatherings in San

Diego and at conferences of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). By 2013, ARNA had launched a website, had begun organizing annual conferences, and established conference proceedings. Beginning in 2015, however, there was a growing sense that the internally focused knowledge mobilization, 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 making social policy and supporting social change, in particular in relation to the role of action research.

With this shift in thinking, ARNA's knowledge mobilization efforts took two significant steps forward in 2016-2017. The first step was ARNA's leadership in publication of the Palgrave International Handbook of Action Research (Rowell et al, 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, in knowledge production and dissemination. The Handbook project also brought to the surface a clearer link between knowledge mobilization and knowledge democracy in relation to action research. The Handbook was published in January 2017. (accompanying website: <https://inhandbook-actionresearch.wordpress.com>).

The second step forward 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 2017 conference theme was Participation and Democratization of Knowledge: New Convergences for Reconciliation, and the conference attracted more than 700 participants from North and South America, the Caribbean and Central America, and many other parts of the world. Held the day after the conference ended, the GAKD brought together more than 300 participants from diverse networks, organizations, and institutions involved with action research and participatory approaches to creating knowledge throughout the Americas and around the world. The gathering was organized as a unique social space for examining global convergences in relation to knowledge production and dissemination, social progress, respect for epistemological diversity, and alternative globalization. The Global Assembly was Co-Chaired by 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 Planning Committee and an International Advisory Group were formed, with representatives

from around the globe. The featured address at the Global Assembly was 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, and a leading voice in knowledge democratization as a way to combat epistemicide. Also present, and bringing greetings to the gathering, were Rajesh Tandon and Budd Hall, UNESCO Chairs in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, each with more than 30 years' experience in advocating for knowledge democracy and supporting the development of participatory action research as an alternative to knowledge colonization by the Global North.

GAKD planners added technology to increase the visibility of the assembly and open up alternative means of participation. Jack Whitehead, a CARN and ARNA member and a long-time scholar-activist in action research, established a live internet link for GAKD with colleagues around the world who were unable to attend the gathering. Through the efforts of Jose Ramos, an Australian member of the GAKD Planning Committee, contact was made with representatives from the World Social Forum as a part of GAKD outreach. Social Forum representatives subsequently provided a live stream video link through YouTube as well as a Skype Chat room (<https://knowledgedemocracy.org/live-stream/>). Although no figures are currently available regarding how many people connected "virtually" with the assembly, anecdotal evidence indicates the links were appreciated, stimulated thought and were used in creative ways in a variety of locations.

Thus, by the end of 2017 ARNA's KMB efforts had grown considerably in scope, creativity and potential impact. We had taken the lead in publishing a major new international handbook which showed, in the words of one reviewer, "the diversity of present-day action research, while also addressing its history, context, challenges and future" (Keith Punch, Professor Emeritus, University of Western Australia, Perth). We had initiated planning for, and successfully held, the largest global action research conference in the last 20 years, with the aim of bringing the attention of the global action research community, and in particular the action research community in the Americas, back to the exploration of "convergences" that had first been articulated by visionary Colombian sociologist and scholar-activist Orlando Fals Borda in the 1970s. And in conjunction with the 2017 Conference, ARNA leadership initiated the organizing of an experiential learning experience in intercultural translation through which participants in an experimental global assembly were immersed in social processes associated with building knowledge democracies. In close alignment

with these developments, Rich McPherson of Trent University, and Chair of ARNA's Web Development & Technology Working Group, continuously updated the ARNA website to aid in the dissemination of information regarding the KMB work being done.



Update for 2018-2019

This is my last report as Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator. It has been a pleasure to have served in this role for the past three years. In this report I will share ARNA knowledge mobilization developments for the period June 2018 through May 2019. In the aftermath of the initiatives and planning discussed above, five developments stand out for 2018-2019.

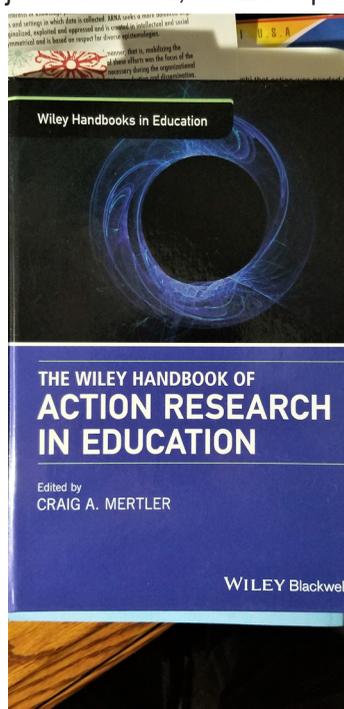
- The 2018 Conference: Knowledge Mobilization for Equitable and Peaceful Social Progress. We chose the theme for the 2018 Conference to again highlight the importance of building capacity for knowledge mobilization linked to action research. Michelle Fine's keynote address pointed to the significance of creating and mobilizing knowledge in solidarity with marginalized and oppressed groups struggling to be heard in public discourses about policies and practices related to their urgent issues and concerns. Her work provides numerous examples of alternative means of KMB that can have an impact at the neighborhood, city, county and state levels of policy-making and political action. Necla Tschirgi's keynote examined action research as "a tool for social justice and global solidarity in a turbulent world." Noting the global attacks on knowledge, science, and constructive action, she acknowledged how formidable are the challenges faced by those seeking to follow a progressive agenda of peaceful co-existence. Yet, in her global work on peacebuilding she also sees much that is positive and reminded us that "for every autocrat who wants to silence dissent, repress human rights, or deny shelter to people fleeing brutal violence, there are thousands of people who gather to defend the vulnerable, to provide shelter and to resist repression." Necla proposed that action research has a particularly critical role to play in the current period

of polarization and authoritarianism. In her view, the two interrelated functions for action research are in "democratizing knowledge as a basis for public discourse and public policy, and in shaping a progressive political agenda that is inclusive and humanistic." I have quoted her at length in this report, as I believe her address provides an excellent framework for discussion of how KMB will fit into the third set of ARNA Strategic Priorities now being developed.

- EARJ special issue on Knowledge Democracy. Allan Feldman and I, both ARNA members, past members of the ARNA Executive Committee, and EARJ editors, co-edited a two-part special issue of Educational Action Research focused on knowledge democracy. Part 1 was published as Volume 27, Number 1 this year, with Part 2 also to be published in 2019. The special issue includes a total of 14 articles, three book reviews, and two editorials on knowledge democracy and action research. Two of the articles examine what took place at the 2017 Global Assembly, and another four are authored by ARNA leaders and active members. An article by Thomas Stern, a member of the core planning group for the 2017 ARNA Conference, offers a sweeping view of the challenges associated with "being scientific" while simultaneously respecting diverse epistemologies. An article by Miguel Del Pino and Donatila Ferrada, two scholar-activists in Chile, provides what I find to be a stunning example of the potential for developing participatory research methodologies that are sensitive to epistemological differences and that embrace the patience and time needed to build the essential solidarities required for success in using the new methodology and then mobilizing the knowledge created by the research to serve social justice. Overall, the EAR special issue gives solid evidence

of ARNA's involvement with issues of democratizing knowledge and exploring the mobilization of such knowledge in support of equitable and peaceful social progress.

- Wiley Handbook. Also published in 2019, the new *Wiley Handbook of Action Research in Education* (Mertler, 2019) includes six chapters authored by ARNA leaders and active members. ARNA also is referenced in several other chapters. While knowledge democracy per se is not



the central focus of the book, a number of chapters examine the links between educational action research and the movement for knowledge democratization.

- Discussion regarding a 2nd Global Assembly. Discussions are now underway regarding convening a 2nd Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy. My hope is that a second assembly will take place within the next 3-4 years and will be a co-sponsored and co-organized event with active participation by leaders from a number of global action research networks. My intention is to continue working on the relations between action research, ARNA, and knowledge democracy, and to do this in the context of ARNA's evolving perspectives on, and involvements with KMb.
- Input for strategic planning. Taken together, the points made in this report hopefully convey both the central role ARNA has played in recent developments in action research, and in particular educational action research, as well as the great potential of our network to continue contributing energy, ideas, and leadership. In general, as Cher Hendricks (2019) notes in reference to developments in the past two decades, "the field of educational action research has continued to grow at an astounding rate" (p. 46). This is exciting and encouraging, and there is much to celebrate. However, many shortcomings remain and I am hopeful that the new ARNA strategic priorities will begin to address them. One shortcoming is that although a new teacher activism has become highly visible across the US (the blog by Diane Ravitch provides an excellent view: Diane Ravitch's blog comment-reply@wordpress.com), there is no evidence that educational action research is being seen as having something to contribute to strengthening the voice of teachers in relation to educational policy-making. I believe ARNA should take a lead in addressing this shortcoming. A related shortcoming is that while we can see the impact of ARNA's presence in academic publications and scholarly initiatives, we are not seeing publicly acknowledged presence or impact by ARNA in what we might call the trenches of knowledge production and mobilization aligned in powerful solidarity with human freedom and justice. Perhaps ARNA is now ready to take on growing its visibility and impacts in these trenches, aligned with Michelle Fine's call, for example, for "widening the methodological imagination." Areas to be considered might include bearing witness to human rights abuses, fighting for a renewed civic literacy in communities and schools (e.g. Giroux, 2013), pushing back against "the violence of organized forgetting" (Giroux, 2014), and infusing action research consciousness into the emerging contexts of response to climate change and social justice in storm recovery (Rowell, 2018). There are many choices to be made and plenty of room under "a big

tent' for those who wish to be involved.

Looking Ahead with Gratitude and Determination

Janel Seeley, ARNA's new KMb Coordinator, will bring fresh perspective to the evolving KMb space in ARNA. I look forward to supporting her leadership, to continuing to be an active member of the KMb group, and to continuing to develop ideas and action in the area of knowledge democracy. I am hopeful that involvement of more ARNA members in both knowledge democratization initiatives and the further development of ARNA's capacity to be a strong voice in action research KMb in the Americas and beyond will be realized in the years to come.

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Questions or comments on ARNA's approach to Knowledge Mobilization should be directed to Dr. Lonnie Rowell, Founding ARNA Chair and Chair of Knowledge Mobilization 2015-2018, at rowell8881@gmail.com.

Janel Seeley Moves ARNA's KMb Forward, Leading Next Strategic Plan

Often defined as the use of evidence and expertise to align research, policy and practice to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families, Knowledge mobilization (KMb) is a central element in ARNA's mission. 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. KMb 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, like researchers in general, have a stake in knowledge mobilization. We share the concerns with the disconnects between the interests of knowledge producers and disseminators and the needs of communities and settings in which data is collected. ARNA seeks a more balanced alignment in which knowledge is decolonized to better serve the marginalized, exploited and oppressed and is created in intellectual and social spaces in which knowledge production is more horizontal and symmetrical and is based on respect for diverse epistemologies.

As noted in earlier reports, in ARNA's first few years (2012-2015), knowledge mobilization efforts were focused in a more internal manner. By 2016, we began applying the knowledge generated by action research to the larger world in a critical manner. This 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. In 2017 ARNA led the work on the *Palgrave International Handbook of Action Research*. The issues examined in the Handbook could easily be considered a roadmap for ARNA's work in KMb for many decades to come.

In 2017 ARNA also worked to organize the 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy (GAKD) in conjunction with ARNA's 2017 annual conference in Cartagena, Colombia. The GAKD brought together some 400 participants from diverse networks, organizations, and institutions involved with action research and participatory approaches



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Scenario Planning

We are seeking 4 organizations with complex decisions under uncertainty that could benefit from scenario planning.

We will facilitate scenario planning in exchange for simple pretest and posttest survey data.

NEED	4 organizations with uncertainty from market forces that could benefit from scenario analysis
SIZE	20-30 scenario planning workshop participants 20-30 participants in a control group (pre- & post- survey assessment only)
TIMEFRAME	May–September, 2019 (4 in-person workshops)
OUTCOMES	comprehensive scenario planning strategy, assessment data and insights analysis

SCENARIO PLANNING INSTITUTE

Our expertise is in the integration of systems thinking and acting and scenario-based strategy. These elements come together to help initiate aligned action at scale, and form a unique approach to organizational performance and change.

to creating knowledge in the Americas and beyond. The intention was to initiate 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. A special double edition of the *Educational Action Research Journal* was published in 2019 with articles relating specifically to the inaugural GAKD.

As the newly elected chair of Knowledge Mobilization, I look forward to facilitating efforts of ARNA's future initiatives. With that in mind, we have been given an exciting opportunity to work with doctoral research students from Colorado State University to engage in scenario planning efforts as a process for creating our new strategic plan. This process will take place during the 2019 conference in Montreal. To prepare, all ARNA members were asked to contribute via an on-line planning survey. ARNA's elected leaders will meet prior to and after the Montreal conference to discuss challenges and opportunities as we begin the process of designing a new strategic plan. By thinking together about possible scenarios, we hope to craft a thoughtful plan that will carry ARNA and KMb effectively into the future.



Questions or comments should be directed to Dr. Janel Seeley, Knowledge Mobilization Chair, at janelseeley@gmail.com.

Niblett Welcomes All ARNA Members to ARC Neighbourhoods

If ARNA is a great city, then Action Research Communities (ARCs) are the neighbourhoods that constitute the city, give it its character, and provide a sense of community connection for citizens who populate the city as a whole. Sometimes people situate themselves squarely in one neighbourhood, while others feel at home across one or more neighbourhood, or consider themselves more of a citizen-at-large of the city, only gravitating to a specific neighbourhood for special occasions. Sometimes, a citizen's sense of neighbourhood affiliation may change over time.

Like neighbourhoods, ARNAs ARCs require care and upkeep to be at their best. This year, we've seen considerable flourishing in our ARC communities. The Supporting Teaching of Action Research (STAR), Youth Participatory Action Research (in English and Spanish), and School Leadership ARCs especially have been bustling scenes within the city of ARNA, producing wonderful resources to support the theory and practice of action research. As ARC coordinator, I offer deep thanks on behalf of the ARNA Coordinating group to those assuming leadership for each of our ARCs. Please know that we see you, and the hard work that you do to bring value to ARNA

Like neighbourhoods in cities, ARCs are dynamic and change over time. Should you be interested in developing a new ARC, please be in touch. Unlike most real cities ARNA has boundless land on which new communities can flourish.

We welcome you to overview the sub-reports from each of the active ARCs. For those attending the conference in Montreal, look on the conference schedule for the timing of the ARCs annual summit, a time when ARC members can connect face to face and renew their affinity for the coming year (this is also a popular time for new ARCs to form!).

Finally, ARNA will be recruiting for a new ARC coordinator during the conference. If you feel you have some time to commit to facilitating the work of the ARCs, please consider taking on this important role.



Questions or comments about ARNA's Action Research Communities may be directed to ARC Chair Dr. Blair Niblett at blairniblett@trentu.ca.

Early Childhood ARC

Overview

A major purpose 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 activities in order to connect with ECE professionals and highlight their action research work in 2018- 2019. Here are some of the highlights:

The Annual 2018 ARNA Conference in San Diego, U.S.A. ARC Workshop

At the annual ARNA conference in San Diego in June, 2018, our ECE ARC had participated in the ARCs workshop titled, "Action Research Communities: Planning Together for ARNA's Future" and discussed about creating an opportunity for collaborative projects among members and ways to reach out to other ECE folks who are engaged in Action Research and/or Teacher Research.

Two topics were discussed as main themes for ARC_ECE to work on were: nature in ECE and Math in ECE. Drs. Cathy Bruch and Blair Niblett from Trent University, and Luvy Grimaud-Vanegas and Esra Ceran from San Francisco State University joined the discussion. An email contact was sent out afterward to get connected among the participants.

ECE Conference Sessions

Three teacher researchers, Rosemary Medeiros, Sabine Scherer, and Chu Hsi Tseng and Dr. Mina Kim from San Francisco State University organized a symposium on gender in ECE, titled "Gender Education for Young Children: Moving Toward Community Involvements." The aim of this session was to present how teachers of young children reevaluated their beliefs of gender equity and practiced gender education for young children. Three early childhood educators who teach in different age groups addressed the gender stereotypes in classrooms, and examined how they could get involved in the process of developing appropriate gender images in early childhood educational settings. Integrated and intended activities on gender issues for young children were explained and the role of teachers as a researcher was highlighted.

Collaboration and Networking

Dr. Romelia Hinojosa has been playing a significant role as a liaison in our partnership with ECE in Chihuahua, Mexico. Continuously, she shows her interest to play that role as she gets engaged more 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. Mina and Romelia have met in April 2019 to discuss further about another small-scale project with the ECE TR group in Chihuahua which can be launched in Summer 2020.

Dr. Mina Kim launched an Early Childhood Action Research group in San Francisco in December 2016, and just had the 5th biannual meeting in April, 12-13th, 2019 at San Francisco State University (SFSU). The agenda of the meeting was to discuss about disseminate AR projects done by ECE teacher researchers.

Although the graduate program in early childhood education at SF State employs action research as its primary principal of the program, we agreed that there wasn't much venue to publish and share their teacher research projects, besides a few national journals and ECE related conferences. In addition, there wasn't much interests in small scale teacher researchers' projects in the field, the majority of teacher researchers/graduate students don't continue their valuable work as soon as they finished their culminating project in the graduate program. We also discussed if it is appropriate to expect formal academic writing skills for teacher researcher to share their projects.

Unfortunately, there were no individual or small groups of teacher researchers who were interested in sharing their project at the annual ARNA conference in Montreal in 2019.

Luvy Vanegas-Grimaud, senior research coordinator in the Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) at University of California, Berkeley continued incorporating action research into their new ECE undergraduate minor program as a part of their practicum courses. The second undergraduate minor program (15 units) will start from this summer 2019, as the first minor program was great success. She plans to share her learning outcome of the action research work for undergrad students at the annual ARNA conference in Montreal, 2019.

Plans in 2019-2020

Building a professional learning community and facilitating collaborations and networking 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 reconnect with scholars and practitioners who are involved in professional and teacher action research in ECE.

1. ARNA Conference 2019 – Focus on Early Childhood Education

Dr. Kim will organize one symposium on Early Childhood Education to gather scholars and practitioners who are interested in action research in ECE. We expect this symposium to bring early childhood educators together in one

place to share our current projects and discuss possible projects and exchanges.

CARN: CARN Study Day in ECE

Another CARN Study Day in Early Childhood Education Setting in 2019! Although ARC_ECE couldn't participate in this study day coordination as much as we expected, Dr. Niblett organized the study day in a forest school, the Lion and the Mouse which is scheduled on Wednesday, June 26th, 2019 from 8:45am -11:45am. Thanks, Blair, Mary and Ruth for all your hard work!

2. Networking

This year's networking was not as successful as we may have liked for many reasons. However, we can still find many interests from ECE folks, and this is the list of ECE folks whom we had contacted with:

Luvy Vanegas Grimaud: Ivanegasgrimaud@berkeley.edu

Dr. Cathy Bruce: cathybruce@trentu.ca

Dr. Blair Niblett: blairniblett@trentu.ca

Sandra Mallene Garcia: teachersandrag@gmail.com

Sabine Scherer: sabinescherer@gmail.com

Chu Hsi Tseng: chuhsitseng@gmail.com

Nhi Vu: nhivu@sandiego.edu

Esra Ceran: esraakgulceran@gmail.com

We will facilitate an online forum to see if there are any possible projects we can work together to share for next year's ARNA conference.

Also, this year's Professional Learning Institute (PLI) in the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) will be held on June 2nd -5th in Long Beach, California, and ARC_ECE (Dr. Kim) will make a presentation on Action Research in ECE. We will connect with ECE scholars and teacher researchers who are interested in building a partnership with ARC_ECE at the conference.



To learn more about ARNA's Early Childhood Education ARC or to become a member, contact chair Dr. Mina Kim at minakim@sfsu.edu.

Graduate Student ARC

I have now completed my principal certification program and remain committed to bringing about positive changes in public education. I have been blessed to work with such an amazing group of fellow graduate students and invite new graduate students to take the lead in moving the ARC forward.



To learn more about ARNA's Graduate Student ARC or to become a member, contact chair Wendy Thomas at wthomas@nazarethasd.org.

Health Equity ARC

This year 3 nursing faculty members of the Health Equity ARC, Nancy Murphy (Rutgers University, NJ), Abe Oudshoorn (Western University, Ontario) and Shari Laliberte, (Vancouver Community College, British Columbia) have had an abstract accepted for the ARNA Montreal conference. They were motivated by the conference theme "Politicizing P/AR: From Action Research to Activism," and collaborated on a conceptual piece: "Nurses as agents for transformative equity-oriented political-economic change: The role of participatory action research. The Health Equity ARC provided a forum for these like-minded scholars to connect and move forward with their ideas. They are hopeful that they will meet new Health Equity oriented folks at the conference who would be interested to join the ARC as the goal of growing and enhancing the ARC remains an ongoing priority.



To learn more about ARNA's Health Equity ARC or to become a member, contact chair Dr. Nancy Murphy at nancy.murphy@rutgers.edu.

Participatory Action Research and Popular Education ARC

A brief survey was designed and sent out to Spanish speaking folks in the listserv to confirm interest and availability in participating in the ARC conversations virtually. Eight responses were received and the co-chairs held two

online meetings on November and December 2018. Students and faculty from universities in Colombia and Brazil have participated since then in the meeting discussions on relevant readings to PAR and Popular education and also shared resources and experiences. The co-chairs intend to co-facilitate monthly virtual meetings that are dedicated to primarily three goals: (1) Building community, (2) co-creating spaces for academic and professional collaboration and development in relation to PAR and Popular Education and (3) systematize experiences through these online conversations. The next meeting took place on May 20, 2019 via google hangout.



To learn more about ARNA's Participatory Action Research and Popular Education ARC or to become a member, contact Co-Chairs Camilo Manchola, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, University of Brasilia (camilomanchola@gmail.com), and Catalina Tang Yan, School of Social Work, Boston University (catatang@bu.edu).



School Counseling ARC

The School Counseling ARC consists of practicing school counselors, counselor educators and graduate students in school counseling. The mission of the group is to connect, collaborate, and share best practices for implementing action research initiatives in schools. The School Counseling ARC shares completed AR projects, as well as resources that may support current practitioners in completing projects of their own.

Over the course of the last year, the School Counseling ARC underwent a migration of its website to better align to the structure and aesthetics of the ARNA website. The migrated site contains all originally published action research projects and resources that support action research in school counseling.

The new site can be accessed via the URL: <https://sites.google.com/view/sc-arna-arc/home>

School counselors benefit from action research focused on students' academic, personal/social, and career development needs. Knowledge creation through research can support all practitioners in creating programming and inter-

ventions to better support students. The School Counseling ARC seeks to expand its network to better democratize knowledge and research outcomes to all stakeholders.

Additionally, the School Counseling ARC serves to network with other action research communities promoting action research in school counseling, including the Lifescaping Project (<http://www.taoinstitute.net/lifescaping-practices-in-schools>) and the Social Publishers Foundation (<https://www.socialpublishersfoundation.org/>). These partnership and networking activities are fundamental to developing a more robust network that works for school counseling practitioners, both to support the outstanding work already being done in schools and to challenge practitioners to contribute additional research knowledge to the field.



To learn more about ARNA's School Counseling ARC or to become a member, contact chair Scott Merkel at schmerkel@gmail.com.

School Leadership ARC Shift Your Paradigm... From school-centered to learner-centered

Since the last annual update on the work of the School Leadership ARC, here is an overview of our work, including some next steps.

As more schools and districts transform toward a vision of personalized, learner-centered education, educators are forced to reconcile two sets of beliefs and assumptions - two paradigms: the dominant, school-centered paradigm, and the new, progressive, learner-centered paradigm. The focus of these transformation efforts have reasonably focused on the shifting role of the learner and the teacher. What about the role of leaders? As educators on the ground begin to shift their paradigm of learning from school-centered to learner-centered, how do leaders redefine their role in systemic transformation?

To explore this new territory, we have continued collaborating with Education Reimagined (education-reimagined.org), learner-centered leaders and learners in learner-centered environments across the country to uncover the distinctions between traditional school-centered leadership and learner-centered leadership.

The public vehicle for this action research has been the Shift Your Paradigm podcast (ShiftYourParadigm.org). With over 50 podcasts completed to date, learner-centered leaders in a variety of contexts have identified *what is* and *what is not* learner-centered leadership - the most effective means of leading learner-centered educational transformation. The conversations reveal the boundaries of what makes or breaks a transformation, a paradigm shift.

At the outset, we reflected on our practice, asking these questions:

- What is/isn't learner centered leadership?
- What knowledge, skills and dispositions do learner-centered leaders need?
- How do we lead in a learner-centered environment?

We have begun identifying themes that run throughout the interviews. These themes are helping us to shape our thinking around what learner-centered leaders promote to bring about transformation, ultimately impacting our own practice. View the emerging themes at: <http://split.to/PKoBuyI>. We plan to continue interviewing leaders and learners, identifying additional questions, testing preliminary themes, designing a toolkit for learner-centered leadership, and sharing the work to elevate and fuel the shifting conversation around learner-centered education and learner-centered leadership.

We have participated in national events related to the learner-centered movement - most recently Education Reimagined's 2019 Symposium in Washington, D.C.

The work has been shared this work at the locally, regionally, and nationally and included in the most recent issue of Education Reimagined's monthly publication, *Voyager*. Access the article here: Shift Your Paradigm: What does learner-centered leadership look like?

(<http://split.to/2V4jPde>)



To learn more about ARNA's School Leadership ARC or to become a member, contact co-chairs Dr. Randy Ziegenfuss (rzeigenfuss@salisbury.org) or Lynn Fuini-Hetten (lfuinihetten@salisbury.org).

ARNA Mobilizes for Equitable and Peaceful Social Progress at 2018 San Diego Conference



Conference Summary

ARNA 2018 took place in San Diego, California, on the campus of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Established in 1960, UCSD has become one of the leading research institutions in the world. ARNA's 6th conference was hosted by the UCSD Department of Education Studies (EDS) and included 14 sponsors. The sponsors reflected the diverse support ARNA has obtained during its formative stage as an action research network, and for 2018 included, in addition to EDS, Moravian College, Trent University, the Kroc School at the University of San Diego, Saint Mary's College of California, Universidad Xochicalco, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, the Mongolian National University of Education, La Mesa Spring Valley Educational Foundation, Social Publishers Foundation, the Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN), Educational Action Research: An International Journal, The Center for Collaborative Action Research, and the California Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center.

In keeping with ARNA's commitment to respect indigenous cultures throughout the Americas and to acknowledge the contested intersections of diverse histories, epistemologies, and ways of being found around the hemisphere, we started our conference with a recognition. For 2018 we began with an opening statement that addressed where we were gathering in relation to time and space, that pushed back against an overly mechanistic view of human origins, and that celebrated the collective memories and wisdom of the societies that have come before us. In this context, it was

important for us to acknowledge that the first inhabitants of the entire San Diego region were Native Americans. They resided on these lands long before Spain sent explorers to the West Coast of the Americas in the mid-16th century and before all the subsequent periods of exploration and colonization, including the bestowing of the name "San Diego" in 1602 by a wealthy merchant who sailed north from Acapulco to the present-day San Diego Harbor under the authority of the King of Spain. This was 18 years before the Pilgrims arrived on the Atlantic Coast from England on the Mayflower and was a part of a vast Spanish exploration, exploitation, and colonization period along the Pacific Coast and across the Pacific Ocean. At the time of the initial Spanish contact on the West Coast, five American Indian groups were present in what is now San Diego County. They were the Luiseno, Cahuilla, Cupeno, Kumeyaay, and Northern Diegueño. The descendants of these peoples and the spirits of all those who had inhabited the lands we were gathered on were recognized and thanked.

The ARNA Conference took place on the La Jolla campus of UCSD from June 28 – 30, 2018 and included 120 participants from throughout the Americas and other locations around the world. The theme for the conference



was “Knowledge mobilization for Equitable and Peaceful Social Progress.” In adopting this theme, the Planning Committee’s intention was to assert two corollaries to the generally accepted view of knowledge mobilization as a component of crafting public policy by linking research with decision-making regarding programs and practices in areas such as education, social services, healthcare, and housing. Our corollaries were: the knowledge produced by action research and participatory action research has a unique role in knowledge mobilization; and, the values associated with any form of knowledge mobilization are reflected in the social processes involved with the production of the relevant knowledge and vice versa. The conference took up these assertions in the context of global efforts to promote and nurture peaceful and equitable social progress in a deeply divided and troubled world. Our conference planning team took the stance that alternatives to the current conceptualizations of global change and social and economic development are needed and that action research and participatory action research have a crucial role to play in generating and giving substance to these alternative conceptualizations.

Carolyn Huie Hofstetter, Chair of Education Studies at UCSD, and Alan Daly, Professor of Education Studies and lead EDS contact for the conference, acknowledged that the theme “aligns beautifully with our mission in the Department of Education Studies, where we engage regularly in how we can generate and use knowledge to address pressing educational issues of the 21st century.” Overall, the ties with EDS were in place from the very earliest days of ARNA, as Margaret Riel, an ARNA co-initiator in 2012 and a crucial person in the development of ARNA’s orientation towards technology, is an alum of EDS and has maintained connections through the years.

ARNA provided two 2018 pre-conference sessions on Thursday, June 28. First, in keeping with past conferences, an all-day CARN-ARNA Study Day was available for conference participants. The title of the 2018 Study Day was Action Research a la Latinoamericana. This session built on contacts made and topics explored at the 2017 ARNA Conference and the 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy which were held in Cartagena, Colombia. The Study Day was planned by Camilo Manchola (Brazil), Iara Duarte Lins (Colombia), and I. This session was planned in the context of establishing an ARNA Action Research Community (ARC) that would focus on convergences between participatory action research and popular education in Latin America and North America.

The second pre-conference event was a half-day session titled Action Research Communities: Planning Together for

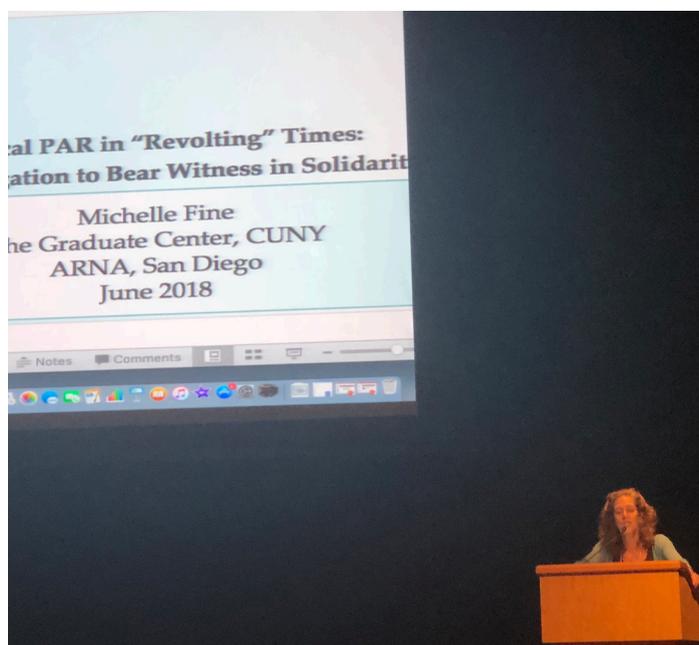
ARNA’s Future. The session sought to strengthen ARNA member involvement in the ARCs, foster community, and build capacity for strategic planning by the communities. ARNA Chair Joe Shosh coordinated and chaired this session.

The formal conference began with a blessing for the land and the earliest inhabitants and those attending the conference by Stan Rodriguez, an educator, language teacher, tribal singer and elected legislator with the Santa Isabel Band of the Lipay Nation. The two days of the conference included 24 breakout sessions, with 70+ presentations organized as individual papers, workshops, symposiums, roundtables, poster, and Pecha Kucha sessions. Presenters joined us from throughout the Americas and from Great Britain, Greece, Japan, Mongolia, Scotland, South Africa, and Sri Lanka. The conference’s three keynote speakers included: Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor & Founding Co-Director of the Public Science Project, City University of New York; Necla Tschirgi, Professor of Practice, Human Security & Peacebuilding, Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, University of San Diego; and Thomas Scheff, Professor Emeritus, Peace Activist & Social Psychologist, University of California, Santa Barbara.

A number of special events also were included in the 2018 Conference. A reception for conference sponsors was graciously provided by Trent University. This was the first time ARNA had included a sponsors’ reception in the conference program, and the enthusiastic response of attendees indicated that it would be a welcome addition to future conferences. Also included in the conference schedule was an informal social gathering at the end of the day on Friday and a conference closing on Saturday. ARNA has traditionally used the closing session for an informal debriefing of the conference experience and for the sharing of thoughts about future conferences.

A critical incident significantly impacted the 2018 Conference. In May, the US Attorney General announced a “family separation policy” would be instituted at the border with Mexico as a part of a tougher stance on illegal border crossings. By late-May and early-June, as reports of abuse and inhumane conditions at detention facilities, numerous professional and human rights groups had begun to speak out against the policy, including the American Academy of Pediatricians, the American College of Physicians, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, among many others. In June, just 12 days before the conference, keynote speaker Michelle Fine wrote to the planning committee to express her concerns regarding the news (she was in Japan at the time) and to urge ARNA to take up the issue as a part of its conference. Although we all shared

the concerns expressed, and some of us were at that time already active in solidarity and social justice initiatives associated with the Trump administration-initiated border issues, there was little time to prepare a well-organized response. Ultimately, through the efforts of Michelle, Mary McAteer (CARN liaison to the ARNA Coordinating Group), and others at the conference, a Statement Regarding Children, Families, and Immigration Policies was drafted, posted on the ARNA website (scroll down at: <http://arnawebsite.org/news/>) and released to the media. Also, based on discussion of the statement and the larger issues of immigration and human rights, some conference attendees took further initiative in beginning to organize an ARNA-supported initiative (more on this below).



Once a conference opens, a swirl of busyness and mind-numbing logistical details engulfs the planners and sweeps up all in attendance for however long we are in attendance together. The subsequent landing from the intensity of the gathering requires some needed rest and recovery and then, hopefully, some time for reflection. The reflection follows this summary. For now, I want to thank our 2018 Conference Planning Committee and in particular Rodney Beaulieu and Miguel Angel Lopez, our Program Co-Chairs, for their work. The 2018 conference included some new blends of diversity, including a strengthened presence of presenters and attendees from Mexico, and a deepened sense of the potential role of action research in preserving the cultural heritages and languages of tribal communities throughout the Americas. The work of Rodney and Miguel made this possible. Rodney, an Assistant Professor in the Human Development Department at California State University, San Marcos, recently shared that he enjoyed learning more about applied research from the

international scholars and practitioners who attended the conference and that “the experience expanded my lens on how action research is conceptualized and practiced in an array of settings.” Miguel Angel has been an active ARNA member from the network’s founding, and has served as a member of the Coordinating Group for a number of years. He has helped to inform scholars, education researchers, and teachers throughout Mexico about ARNA and its efforts to work across the Americas.

In addition to Rodney, Miguel and me, the Planning Committee included Margaret Riel, Alan Daley, Margaret Rattanachane, Clotilde Lomeli, and Francisco Arriaga. The committee also benefitted from the support of Carolyn Huie Hofstetter and Makeba Jones of the Department of Education Studies at UCSD. Steve Jordan of the University of McGill in Montreal, Canada also participated as he could, and this connection helped with preparing for the handoff to the planning team for the 2019 conference in Montreal. In addition, ARNA entered into a contract for the 2018 Conference with Event Innovations, an event production and management company, and many thanks are due to Geri Beaty, the company President, Alexis Secka, Project Management Specialist, and Cindy Komlenic, Project Assistant. Their fine attention to the wide variety of details associated with producing an international conference was a most welcome addition to our efforts. I also want to thank Clotilde, Francisco, and Miguel Angel for their work in arranging for an outstanding team of translators to join us from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) as well as thanking all the members of the team. Muchas Gracias!!

Personal Reflection

I am still processing all that took place in conjunction with the San Diego Conference. The stress associated with living in a major border region with Mexico during a humanitarian crisis provoked by a US president, the David and Goliath juxtaposition of UCSD and action research, the strain of trying to motivate people to attend the conference during a time of fear and disimagination in education and higher education circles in the US, and a number of other factors added up to significant challenges during conference preparations and exhaustion following the conference. To respect the space limitations of the Annual Report, I will limit my reflections at this time to the following four points:

- ARNA Size and Leadership Capacity. ARNA is still a small group with a big vision. I feel that at every ARNA conference. Our ideas, hopes, and recognition of the historical significance of this moment in relation to the global problems gnawing away on our capacity to sustain life on the planet far exceed our capacity to do something about the problems. I think we have a dedicated cadre of engaged

members interested in providing leadership in mobilizing knowledge from varied forms of participatory research and utilizing that knowledge as a part of seeking creative solutions to “equitable and peaceful social progress,” true, but we struggle with putting all the pieces together. Although some ARNA members are engaged with well-organized initiatives that do generate significant impacts on various issues and social problems relevant to their local contexts, we struggle as a network to define how to scale up such initiatives in relation to sharing results and using findings and conclusions to inform the next cycles of reflection, action, and planning. The involvement of more people in strengthening the network would help in this struggle, and this points to the critical importance of building the membership base of ARNA and improving motivation to become actively engaged.

- I was encouraged by the Keynote address delivered by Professor Necla Tschirgi of the University of San Diego’s Joan Kroc School of Peace Studies. (Professor Tschirgi’s address is included in the 2018 Conference Proceedings.) Acknowledging that we live in a difficult time in which “the progressive agenda of peaceful co-existence, pluralism, human rights, human development and human society is under threat,” she asserted that “action research has a particularly critical role in the current political climate to address the crisis of governance.” In her view, this role includes democratizing knowledge as a basis for public discourse and policy and “shaping a progressive political agenda that is inclusive and humanistic.” I found her address to be inspiring and to provide important signposts for ARNA to critically reflect on as it moves forward in 2019 with drafting its third set of strategic priorities.
- The David and Goliath Syndrome. The signs and symptoms for what I see regarding this point do not necessarily add up to an abnormal condition. Feeling small in the face of someone else’s enormous power is natural, so to speak. Struggling to muster up a strong voice when the odds are seriously stacked against you is not easy. And so it is to be a practitioner of, and an advocate for, action research in an age of growing polarization, authoritarianism, and reactionary social policy prescriptions. In education, what Diane Ravitch calls the “Reign of Error” and Henry Giroux names as “America’s Disimagination Machine” deprive teachers, counselors, and educators in general of authentic voice and mostly reduces them to technicians working in routinized and creativity-crushing toxic environments. This struggle was so evident for me at our 2018 conference. Our original thought about holding an ARNA Conference at UCSD was that we were, in a sense, working in the ‘belly of the beast’ and could take some satisfaction in being a force of resis-

tance in the face of the enormous power of now dominant forms of knowledge mobilization and knowledge economy. UCSD brings in hundreds of millions of dollars in research funds each year (in October, 2018 it was announced that for the fiscal year the university “broke its own record” with \$1.2 billion in sponsored research support, making it 7th in the nation among research universities for sponsored research. We note the contrast with ARNA, as the network struggles to generate funds to cover an annual conference budget. This is a reality we face as a force of resistance. From another vantage point, the juxtaposition during our time together on the beautiful La Jolla campus highlighted how far ARNA has to go to have an impact in relation to knowledge mobilization. Nothing can be taken for granted in our efforts. In short, what stood out for me is the imperative for a strengthened strategic planning by ARNA.

- ARNA and knowledge mobilization: Persisting in a larger vision. In our initial work on the conference theme, our team articulated a series of questions that we intended to use as guides for what we wanted the conference to be. Ultimately, we did not specifically answer the questions as the conference unfolded. We can, however, keep returning to these questions to get our bearings as we navigate the troubled waters on which we will be sailing in the coming years. I see these questions now as still relevant, still powerful: Whose knowledge will count regarding both the problems we face as well as the possible solutions? Will it only be the knowledge of university-based outside experts and their large foundation supported grants? Or will the local knowledge of people who are struggling in the face of economic hardship, social exploitation, and political oppression count? If so, how is this more localized knowledge to be mobilized? Is it only in the context of populist activism that issues of hardship, exploitation and oppression can be addressed? Or are there ways that the social sciences can be invited down from the ivory towers to connect with the often harsh streets surrounding the towers in an effort to improve conditions of living for more than simply the elites who dominate through their rigidly held economic, social, and political power?
- Opportunities and Initiatives: Conferences as Building Blocks. Two opportunities began to take shape as ARNA 2018 headed towards the finish line. The first emerged from the effort of conference planners to articulate a direction for ARNA to take in responding to the family separation issue at the border with Mexico. What took shape at the conference was an idea for a project on human suffering associated with mass migration to be led by Mary McAteer, CARN liaison to ARNA, Michelle Fine, and others from the Americas and beyond. This project is still in the planning

stages but when launched later this year will provide an important example of what Professor Tschirgi discussed in her keynote address as the “critical role” for action research in the current political climate, in particular in “democratizing knowledge as a basis for public discourse and public policy.”

Related to this, a second opportunity emerged from a post-conference meeting with conference attendees from Greece. A main topic of the meeting was follow-up to the 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy, organized by ARNA in partnership with a number of global action research networks and held in Cartagena, Colombia in June 2017 in conjunction with ARNA's 5th annual conference. What we began to explore during this hour together at UCSD were ideas about convening a 2nd Global Assembly. As exhausted as we all were, we also felt an excitement about furthering development of the Global Assembly's aim of creating social spaces for experimenting with strengthening cross-cultural understandings, rebuilding a progressive political agenda that is humanistic and inclusive and seeks creative solutions to pressing global problems, and articulating the new civic literacies needed for fostering peace and restoring democracy. As of this writing, further conversations now have taken place, and we anticipate an announcement soon regarding the organizing of a 2nd Global Assembly.



Questions or comments about the ARNA San Diego conference should be directed to Dr. Lonnie Rowell, 2018 Conference Chair, at lrowell8881@gmail.com.

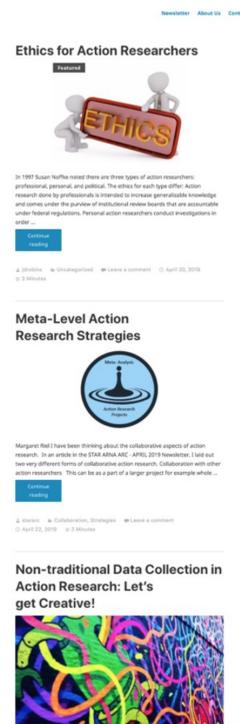
STAR ARC: Supporting the Teaching of Action Research

The STAR-Community of ARNA provides support for the teaching and learning of action research. We work together to share our ideas to improve our teaching practice, and we invite you to join us and share and learn from the STAR community. It is led by eight professors of action research from two nations. These professors, who teach action research courses, have met between ARNA conferences over the last few years to think about strategies, issues, and resources to support the teaching action research.

In the first phase, we used the distributed leadership of Learning Circles, facilitated by Margaret Riel to collectively create and develop the STAR-ARNA-ARC website. ([star-](http://star-arna-arc.org)

[arna-arc.org](http://star-arna-arc.org)). This site is arranged around a set of themes that each of us identified in the teaching of action research. We collected all of our ideas around these themes. We also shared syllabi for teaching and time-frames to compare the different ways that action research fit into graduate programs. We presented our work at the ARNA Conference in San Diego.

The second phase (June 2018-June 2019) focused on the translation of the entire website into Spanish with the help of Clotilde Lomeli Agruel and Laura Dina. We explored a number of options to expand the participation and reach of our community. The decision was to create two more interactive resources to grow the community. The launching of the April 2019 STAR-Community Blog (star-arna-arc.org/blog) coordinated by Kathy Shafer and Jennifer Robin was the first. This was followed by the publication of the STAR-Community Newsletter (May 2019) with Teri Marcos, Linda Purrington and Clotilde Lomeli Agruel as our first editors (star-arna-arc.org/newsletter).



In the future, we plan to schedule STAR Conversations (video conferencing) on issues related to teaching action research. We are grateful for new members that joined us at the ARNA conference in San Diego and we are looking forward to meeting more members at the next ARNA conference in Montreal. If you have ideas or professional needs as a teacher of action research, please join our STAR-Community and share your ideas. We want to evolve with all of you.



To learn more about ARNA's STAR ARC or to become a member, contact chair Dr. Margaret Riel at mmriel@gmail.com.

YPAR ARC

The Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) ARC launched its first official online meeting on May 22, 2019. Participants shared about their work related to participatory action research and expressed their interests in starting a reading group to review examples of YPAR and delve into more discussions about youth and knowledge production. Participants will also be meeting during the Montreal 2019 conference for a second, in person chat about planning the year ahead.



To learn more about ARNA's YPAR ARC or to become a member, contact co-chairs Paula Elias (paula.elias@mail.utoronto.ca), or Catalina Tang Yan (catatang@bu.edu).

ARNA Presents 2018 Awards

The following awards were presented at the 2018 ARNA Conference in San Diego, recognizing the contributions of ARNA members to action research:

1. 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.



2018 Recipient: Michelle Fine

Dr. Michelle Fine is distinguished professor of critical social psychology, women's studies, and urban education at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. In her latest book *Just Research in Contentious Times:*

Widening the Methodological Imagination (Teachers College, 2018), Fine explains, "Using qualitative and quantitative methods, always in deep and fraught participatory collectives, my colleagues and I aim to document, across our varied projects, what Neil Painter (1995) has termed 'soul murder.' We cultivate evidence of activism and challenge, as well as what James Scott (1990) has called the 'hidden transcripts of resistance.' We return a critical analytic gaze to the social arrangements, institutions, distributions, ideologies, and social relations that reproduce and legitimate everyday injustice" (p. 6-7). With ARNA, Michelle Fine served as a representative honoring the Life and legacy of Orlando Fals Borda at the National University of Colombia in Bogota; participated as a featured international panelist in a plenary session titled "Participatory Approaches and the Democratization of Knowledge" at the 5th Annual ARNA Conference in Cartagena; and served as a delegate to the First Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy. She returned to ARNA in San Diego in 2018, delivering a keynote address titled "Critical PAR in 'Revoluting' Times: Bearing Witness to Willful Subjectivities, Radical Wit and Deep Solidarities among Muslim American and Queer Youth."

2. Promising Action Researcher Award

As indicated in the mission statement, ARNA provides a collegial, practice-oriented, and professional development space where practitioners and students of action research across the Americas can come together to share ideas and develop initiatives that will strengthen the position of action and participatory research around the globe. 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.



2018 Recipient: Just Research Group, University of San Diego

Six graduate students in counseling at the University of San Diego, given the opportunity to explore the intersections of social justice and research through experiential learning chose to create a small-scale, short-term participatory action research project in collaboration with the youth com-

ponent of a San Diego County community-based non-profit program with a mission to “disrupt the cycles of incarceration and poverty by helping people find their way to self-sufficiency.” Group Leader Nicole Paragas along with group members Laura Gradiska, Danny Lee, Brittany Love, Julian Sesma, and Nhi Vu created and facilitated a three-workshop arts-based initiative in collaboration with participants in the community-based program’s youth services component, which is focused on helping justice-involved youth overcome neglect, abuse, criminal backgrounds, addiction and other generational barriers to achieving self-sufficiency.

3. 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 commitment to the mission and vision of ARNA, and the recipient of this award is such an individual.



2018 Recipient: Rodney Bealieu

Dr. Rodney Bealieu served as lead editor of the 2017 and 2018 ARNA Conference Proceedings, overseeing submissions made in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French and remaining calm and resolute throughout the nearly year-long process

of producing ARNA’s most complex Proceedings to date. In addition, Rodney served as Program Co-Chair for the 2018 ARNA San Diego conference. Working within diverse cultural and institutional contexts in Mexicali, Mexico and outreach to constituencies in California higher education as well as in Native American and Hispanic communities, Rodney has shown himself to be a flexible organizer, a steadfast colleague, and a person of principle.

4. 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 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.

2018 Recipient: Miguel Angel Lopez Montoya

Miguel Angel Lopez Montoya from Mexico was the first



recipient of ARNA’s Social Justice Award in 2014. At that time, we acknowledged his considerable support in putting out the call for and accepting proposals, and then putting the final touches on the program and abstract documents for our inaugural conference in San Francisco. Since then, he has tirelessly

led the ARNA en Español Action Research Community and has served on the ARNA Coordinating Group since its inception. In addition to serving as program co-chair for the 2018 San Diego conference, Miguel has overseen production of the Spanish language ARNA Annual Report and last year chaired a pre-conference workshop for the first Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy titled “ARNA and the Future of Action Research in the Americas.” Dr. Miguel Angel Lopez Montoya is the first member of ARNA outside of the surviving network initiators to be honored in the name of Eduardo Flores, and Miguel Angel, like Eduardo, has worked to build an inclusive ARNA in both Spanish and English, providing incredible support for the annual conference and having a significant impact on the future of ARNA.



To learn more about the ARNA Annual Awards or to nominate a future recipient, contact Dr. Holly Marich, Memberships & Sponsorships Chair at holmarich@gmail.com.

Web Development and Social Media Report

Approaching 3 years since the launch of ARNA’s latest web platform (www.arnawebsite.org), there has been substantial growth, within and outside of the website. With greater attention to sections such as Conferences, Proceedings and ARC’s (Action Research Communities), the website and social media following has seen promising increases in the last reporting year.

The (www.arnawebsite.org) has seen 21,000 pageviews, a 6000 increase from the previous year, with most visitors logging on to Conference and Registration information pages. Past conference pages are continually being revisited by ARNA committee members in an effort to re-populate pages with supporting documentation as a means

to archive ARNA's actions while also honouring previous work. We anticipate that the Action Research Communities aspect of ARNA will continue to grow in membership this upcoming year.

In respect to social media, we have seen substantial growth in followers for Twitter (+123) and Facebook (+57). Starting in January of 2019, the Web & Tech team began using the services of Hootsuite (a free service) to help manage posts more regularly as to increase presence on a daily basis. Proving to be successful, the team will begin to explore expanding ARNA into other platforms such as Instagram and YouTube, which to date have been under-utilized. Because platforms such as Facebook connect us globally, continued efforts to increase presence and following will be explored, by sharing the work of our community and partners, whether those be publications or events that we feel are of value to our community.

ARNA Committee members are strongly encouraged to become a part of our online communities to help share and spread the amazing work being done around the world.



To learn more about or contribute to ARNA's web and social media presence, please contact chair Rich McPherson at richcmcpherson@gmail.com.

Strengthening partnerships, opening to new collaborations and speaking French

In order to reach more academic communities and to expand expertise, knowledge mobilization areas and reach new kinds of memberships, ARNA have decided to integrate a French speaker representative into the Coordinating Group. A call has been launched to recruit francophone candidates into Canadian French speaking networks working on collaborative research, and ARNA now has a new representative. This representative is acting as a liaison with Francophone colleagues in Canada and especially in Québec.

The decision of open a position for Francophone representative is also supported by the upcoming annual conference at McGill university in Montreal (Québec). This will mark the milestone of new collaborations with colleagues who are engaged in collaborative researches for many years. There is a academic tradition in Québec and in Francophone

Canada to work closely in collaboration with grassroots organizations. These kinds of practices are even institution-ized and supported by some universities through specific internal programs.



To contribute to ARNA's Canadian French-speaking community, contact Coordinating Group representative Dr. Karine Gentelet at karine.gentelet@uqo.ca.

Arna En Espanol Report

The main activities for ARNA in the 2018 continue to be the membership drive promotion by e-mail to the Mexican and Latin American Universities, the documents and announcements two ways translation English-Spanish and vice versa, collaborate as a contact for the ARNA support for the new members and proposal's candidates.

This past year initiates an Action Research Universidad Xochicalco participation.

Spanish proposals revision and member of Jury for the Flores-Katanis Scholarship.

Participate in the Spanish documents Proceedings revision. A proposal for English version Action-Research Course at the UABC.

Participation in the ARNA 2018 Conference Planning team.



To contribute to ARNA's Spanish-speaking community, contact Coordinating Group representative Miguel Angel Lopez Montoya at miguelito@uabc.edu.mx.

ARNA Issues Call for Nominations to Elected Office

The ARNA Elections Committee will accept nominations during the summer of 2019 for the following positions:

At Large Member (French speaking), Coordinating Group

The at-large member of the Coordinating Group ensures that the point of view of regular ARNA members is taken into consideration in deliberations by the Coordinating Group.

Term of Service: Two years

ARNA en Español Chair, Coordinating Group

The ARNA en Español Chair ensures that the point of view of Spanish-speaking ARNA members is taken into consideration in deliberations by the Coordinating Group.

Term of Service: Two years

Action Research Community (ARC) Coordinator, Coordinating Group

The ARNA ARC Coordinator assumes primary responsibility for oversight and support of the ARNA Action Research Communities in alignment with the strategic plan; maintains a current roster of active and dormant ARCs, along with rosters of membership and chairs; and serves as lead author and editor of the ARC Update section of the Annual Report. The ARC Coordinator ensures that ARCs are operating in alignment with ARNA's stated mission, vision, and values and encourages regular meetings of each ARC.

Term of Service: One year [completing the two-year term of ARC Chair Niblett]

Membership & Sponsorships Chair, Executive Committee

The ARNA Membership and Sponsorships Chair assumes primary responsibility for recruiting new members and sponsors, while supporting the needs of existing members and sponsors in alignment with the strategic plan; maintains a current and past Membership and sponsorship database with support from the Administrative Support Staff Assistant; and serves as lead author of the Membership & Sponsorship section of the Annual Report. The Memberships & Sponsorships Chair ensures that members and sponsors have a current and up-to-date roster of benefits in alignment with ARNA's stated mission, vision, and values and coordinates and chairs the regular meetings of the Memberships & Sponsorships Operational Group.

Term of Service: Two years

Web & Technology Chair, Executive Committee

The ARNA Web & Technology Chair assumes primary responsibility for oversight of ARNA's web sites, public and private document and video archives, and social media presence in alignment with the ARNA strategic plan; convenes and chairs regular meetings of the Web & Technol-

ogy Operational Group; and serves as lead author of the Web & Technology section of the Annual Report. The Web & Technology Chair works to ensure that ARNA's public web and social media presence is in alignment with its stated mission, vision, and values and supports members of the Web & technology Operational Group in fulfilling their responsibilities to the organization.

Term of Service: Three years

Chair, Executive Committee

The ARNA chair assumes primary responsibility for overall implementation of the ARNA strategic plan, develops the agenda and chairs each monthly meeting of the Coordinating Group, and serves as lead editor of the Annual Report. The ARNA Chair works to ensure that ARNA's actions are in alignment with its stated mission, vision, and values and supports members of the Coordinating Group in fulfilling their responsibilities to the organization.

Term of Service: One year as Chair-Elect, two years as Chair, one year as the immediate Past-Chair



To learn more about holding ARNA elected office or to nominate yourself or a colleague, please contact Dr. Janel Seeley, ARNA Knowledge Mobilization chair, at janelseeley@gmail.com.

ARNA 2020 Conference Preview

ARNA 2020 will take place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico during the dates of June 3 to June 6 (June 3 is noted as a CARN and preconference workshop day). The conference will be co-sponsored by a consortium of local community agencies, including the Fundacion Punta de Mita, and La Red de Asociaciones Altruistas de Puerto Vallarta y Bahia de Banderas.

The theme chosen for the conference is:

ARNA 2020: Co-creating Knowledge and Empowering Communities Co-creando Conocimiento y Empoderando a la Comunidad

The hope of the Conference Organizing Committee is that the focused theme, keynote speakers, and presentations will generate interest in the place of community based participation in action research - CBPAR. The list of keynote speakers will be announced in Fall, 2019.

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a partnership framework approach to research that equitably involves community members, organizational representatives, researchers, and others interested in every aspect of the research process including establishing the research question, developing data collection tools, and analyzing and disseminating the findings. CBPR is based on the understanding that all partners in the process equitably contribute expertise and sharing in the decision-making and ownership of the research. The aim of CBPR is to increase knowledge and understanding of a given phenomenon, to integrate the knowledge gained for interventions of policy and social change to benefit the community and to act as a catalyst for change.

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is derived from several research approaches based on communities collaborating with researchers (ex. Community Based Research), or community members engaging in all aspects of the research process (ex. Participatory Action Research and Action Research). The historical roots of CBPR can be traced back to the development of participatory action research by Kurt Lewin and Orlando Fals Borda and the popular education movement in Latin America associated with Paulo Freire. By its nature and historical roots, CBPAR can be considered applied research; seeking to change issues that are critical to communities and focusing on engaging community members in research directed at addressing social concerns. As a framework for research conducted in, for, and by communities, CBPAR recognizes that:

- Community knowledge is irreplaceable and provides key insights that ground truths.
- Communities have equal inclusion and collaboration in the identification, research, and resolution of community issues
- There is value and legitimacy in the knowledge of

individuals, families, and others in the community

- CBPAR has a specific goal of collaborative research that engages stakeholders in an iterative research scientifically based process.

Community in this type of research is often self-defined, but general categories of community in CBPR can include a geographic community, a community of individuals with a common problem or issue, or a community of inquirers with a common interest or goal. CBPR encourages collaboration of research partners who can provide expertise that is seen as useful to the investigation by the community and fully committed to a partnership of equality and dedicated to producing outcomes usable to the community. CBPR equitable partnerships require sharing power, resources, credit, results, and knowledge, as well as a reciprocal appreciation of each partner's knowledge and skills at each stage of the project, including problem definition/issue selection, research design, conducting research, interpreting the results, and determining how the results should be used for action.

There is an abundance of scholarship exploring how to study the process and outcomes of CBPR. The ARNA 2020 Conference provides an important resource venue for understanding more and also offers an opportunity to present new investigations and problematize this approach to action research for co-creating knowledge in order to work with and learn from communities.

Proposal submission will begin in October 2019. A more detailed Call for Proposals is pending and is planned for sharing in August, 2019. Information on the 2020 Conference will be located at <http://arnawebsite.org/conferences/>.



To learn more about the ARNA 2020 Puerto Vallarta Conference or to volunteer, contact Conference Chair Adriana Garcia (adrigarcia5531@gmail.com) or Coordinating Group Conference Liaison Dr. Candace Kaye (santakaye@gmail.com).



#ARNA2020

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PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO
JUNE 3 - JUNE 6



Proposals will be accepted from **October 1, 2019 until April 1, 2020.**

More information on the 2020 Conference is available at

arnaweb.org/conferences/

