



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ARNA 2023

PAR! A Virtual Celebration of Diverse Methodological Approaches in Participatory Action Research

June 1-2, 2023

www.arnaweb.org

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

Available for Download at arnaweb.org/reports/

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Greetings from the ARNA Chair

With the September meeting of the ARNA Coordinating Leadership Team meeting, I began serving as Chair of ARNA. Our new Coordinating Leadership team joining me includes:

- Karina Cruz, ARNA En Español
- Don Pepion, Indigenous Ways of Knowing
- Debasmita Roychowdhury, Membership & Sponsorships
- Suzy Thomas & Aubrey Uresti, ARC Co-Chairs
- Joe Shosh, ARNA Past Chair
- Dane Stickney, Treasurer

ARNA continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the action research landscape within our organizational network of the Americas and beyond, promoting scholarly inquiry in our annual conference, and supporting dissemination of valuable information throughout the year. It is with great enthusiasm that I take on this role and embark on a journey of collective growth and educational advancement.

I want to welcome us all to the new ARNA year and to join you in celebrating what we have accomplished shared in this Annual Report. As indicated in the Report, our ARNA task continues to collectively establish the groundwork and ground swelling of a flourishing ARNA. This means not just claiming access to the astonishing range of resources we have available in our ARNA membership community, but also paying attention to how we can continue to strengthen the learning, collaboration and outreach of the ARNA community. We are all indeed part of a collective effort for building togetherness and strengthening one another in our pursuits. Through our efforts, we can aspire to create spaces that embrace diversity, amplify voices, and inspire positive change. Please remember, as members of this organization, your ideas matter. As we move forward together, let’s reinforce our commitment to fostering community and actively participating in translating our commitment into meaningful and practical applications.

Joe Shosh has so ably brought together the voices of the action of our ARNA community in this 2023 Annual Report. I invite you to take the time to read the report carefully and joyously. I would like to share a few of the highlights:

- On June 1 and 2, 2023 the virtually presented 11th ARNA Conference with the theme, ‘PAR! A Virtual Celebration of Diverse Methodological Approaches in Participatory Action Research” attracted nearly 100 presenters, sharing a rich and varied program including 29 papers, workshops and panels in parallel sessions. Each presenter at the conference has been invited to submit a full paper to the Annual Proceedings. While the annual ARNA Proceedings continue to be unable to capture the rich and nuanced conversations that take place during the community of sessions at the annual conferences, they can chronicle and celebrate the vast research being conducted by our members.
- We celebrate CARN in the Annual Report. The CARN and ARNA collaboration continues to grow with ongoing work between the two groups. The 2023 ARNA virtual conference began with a highly successful CARN study day which focused on Youth Participatory Action Research and included paper presentations, panel sessions and workshops and included contributions from both ARNA and CARN members.
- Action Research Community (ARC) co-chairs Suzy Thomas and Aubrey Uresti lead the diversity of these communities. Please enjoy perusing the reports of all our communities: Early Childhood Education, Graduate Students, Health Equity. Musical Learning,PAR & Popular Education, School Counseling, School Leadership, STAR: Supporting the Teaching of Action Research, and Youth Participatory Action Research.
- The distinguished ARNA Action Research Award recipients recognized at the 2023 conference are:
 - 2023 Eduardo Flores Leadership Award – Jean McNiff
 - 2023 ARNA Community Development Award - Suzy Thomas and Aubrey Uresti
 - 2023 ARNA Social Justice Award - Milahd Makooi
 - 2023 ARNA Promising Researcher Award - Dave McPartlanPlease read about these outstanding individuals who have given so much to the field.
- Despite a fluctuating economy affected by an unstable global context, the ARNA Treasurer’s report indicates that ARNA has remained financially sound this year. We have managed our financial resources wisely, for example, investing in live simultaneous translation for all spaces within the 2023 virtual conference, knowing that conference registrations and sponsorships were not likely to cover the entire cost. Plans are underway to seek additional support for continuation of such invaluable services as we seek to return to a fully balanced ARNA budget for 2024.

- The ARNA Web and Tech Team offer our organization so much. Better, faster technology has made it easier to share information, today and digital process has taken the lead at the forefront of global conversations. Quicker information exchange has certainly brought the world closer together as we continue to explore ways to do so in ARNA. This year, as with any year, the 2023 ARNA conference stood out for its technological success with the technical team playing a crucial role. There have also been advancements in ARNA’s Web Portal. Please read about the vital, dynamic part the Web and Tech Team offer in the Report.
- The report of our Membership and Sponsorship activity presents information on the final membership and sponsorship numbers associated with the 2023 ARNA virtual conference. This report also describes initiatives taken for maintaining as well as increasing membership and sponsorship participation. Enjoy!
- The ARNA 2024 Annual Hybrid Conference will take place June 7 and 8, led by Dane Stickney and Rachel Radina at Eastern Michigan University with a theme of PAR in Community: Transformative Possibilities. This event promises to be a platform for sharing knowledge, engaging in fruitful discussions, and building meaningful connections.

I would like to close the Chair’s Message with a note of gratitude. What we have accomplished is indicated in the Annual Report. What we hope to accomplish in the future cannot happen without the engagement of our community.

I invite you to stay engaged and reach out come to me on my new ARNA dedicated email candace.arna@gmail.com to discuss your ideas or just have a conversation. I check it daily.

I wish us all a great year of flourishing and discovery.

General correspondence about should be directed to Candace Kaye at candace.arna@gmail.com.



2023 Conference Celebrates Diverse Methodological Approaches to PAR

Participatory Action Research is making unprecedented progress in the field of inquiry, because it not only penetrates all action in all areas of human activities, but also determines what questions can be explored for the future within a community investigation. These aspects were celebrated at the Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA) 2023 conference program, encompassing with abundance collaborative explorations in a multiplicity of settings.

The virtually presented 11th ARNA Conference with the theme, ‘PAR! A Virtual Celebration of Diverse Methodological Approaches in Participatory Action Research’ on June 1 and 2, 2023 attracted nearly 100 presenters, sharing a rich and varied program including 29 papers, workshops and panels in parallel sessions over the course of the two days of the conference. It was a special honor for the celebration to begin with a welcoming speech by Jean McNiff, who spoke passionately about the uniqueness of each individual and their contributions to action research.

The passion, purpose and power of the vast diversity of methodological approaches in Participatory Action Research (PAR) were the focus of our conference. The conference presentations included 21 with English as the first language and 8 with Spanish as the first language. Presenters represented more than 16 nations: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela within the Americas and Austria, Greece, India, Ireland, Mongolia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom from the wider world. The presentations were offered with both simultaneous translations and commitment of presenters to have their presentations made bilingually for the conceptual ideas.

By taking part in these thought-provoking sessions and participating in networking and building community opportunities, the participants had the opportunity to interact with colleagues to ponder and stimulate future adventures in PAR and the action research process. The presentations represented PAR work from all over the world within a wide-ranging understanding of PAR. This understanding promoted meaningful participation of community members as co-creators of knowledge in meaningful conversations that matter to communities and celebrated an assets- and strengths-based approach to research that focused on culturally relevant interventions.

Thus, the conference provided a unique opportunity for all participants 1) to update their knowledge and also to celebrate as a PAR community, 2) to have an exciting opportunity to enhance knowledge of PAR, and 3) to interact with colleagues in events sponsored by ARNA’s Action Research Community (ARC) Chairs, Suzy Thomas and Aubrey Uresti. Their planned activities supported a creative exchange of ideas and helped celebrate the community.

The conference concluded with the annual ARNA Awards Ceremony. The 2023 awards celebrated the following individuals (more information is given in the AWARDS section of the 2023 Annual Report): 2023 Eduardo Flores Leadership Award, Dr. Jean McNiff; 2023 ARNA Community Development Award, Dr. Suzy Thomas and Dr. Aubrey Uresti; 2023 ARNA Social Justice Award, Milahd Makooi; 2023 ARNA Promising Researcher Award, Dave McPartlan.

What the celebrants experienced so positively within the

two days of the conference and the CARN Study Day is a testament to the hard work and joy by all those involved within the six months of preparation. The conference would not have been such a success without their diligence and commitment. Conference leadership continues to recognize with deep appreciation the conference sponsors that included Trent University, St. Mary’s College of California, Doña Ana Community College of New Mexico State University, The Center for Collaborative Action Research, The Collaborative Action Research Network, and Taylor & Francis Publishing.

Each conference registrant has been invited to find a place in ARNA community to continue their interest in action research. The conference registration included a one-year complimentary ARNA membership that offers participation in ARNA virtual events throughout the year ahead and the opportunity to join one or more of ARNA’s vibrant Action Research Communities, or even to consider helping to create a new one. For more information, visit the ARNA ARC website at <https://arnawebsite.org/arcs/>.

We celebrated in our conference as the basic foundation of participatory action research (PAR) that reflected the words of Orlando Fals Borda, a Colombian researcher and sociologist, one of the most important Latin American thinkers, and one of the founders of PAR who declared: “Do not monopolise your knowledge nor impose arrogantly your technique, but respect and combine your skills with the knowledge of the researched or /grassroots communities, taking them as full partners and co-researchers. Do not trust elitist versions of history and science which respond to dominant interests, but be receptive to counter-narratives and try to recapture them. Do not depend solely on your culture to interpret facts, but recover local values, traits, beliefs, and arts for action by and with the research organizations. Do not impose your own ponderous scientific style for communicating results, but diffuse and share what you have learned together with the people, in a manner that is wholly understandable and even literary and pleasant, for science should not be necessarily a mystery nor a monopoly of experts and intellectuals.

Youth Researchers Shine at Annual Pre-Conference CARN Study Day



The Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) and the Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA) invite you to a study day focused on Youth Participatory Action Research.

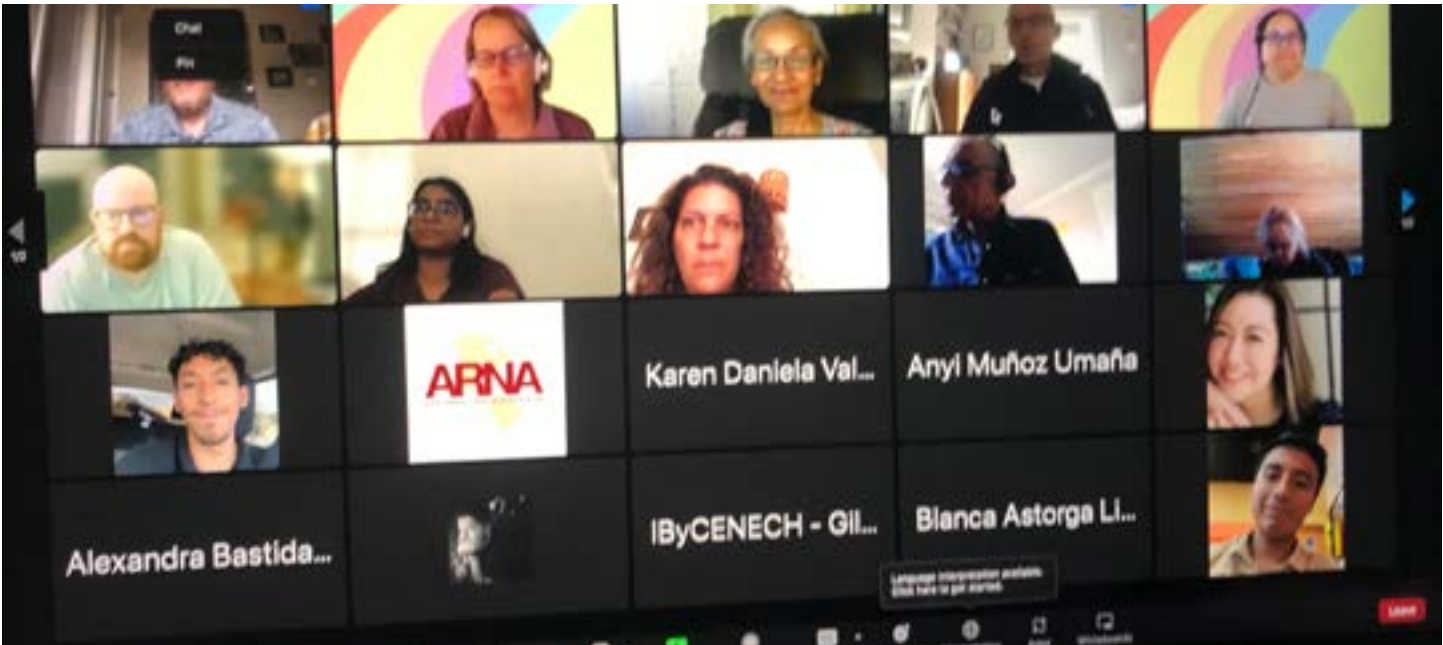
Wednesday, May 31, 10a-4p (eastern)/8a-2p (mountain)
Free registration: <https://tinyurl.com/CarnStudyDay>

On May 31, 2023, the Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) sponsored a Study Day featuring the members of the Action Reach Network of the America’s (ARNA) Youth Participatory (YPAR) Action Research community. The focus of our YPAR ARC is to grow and develop a global and intergenerational group of practitioners, academics and young people. Nearly 70 participants from around the world registered for the study day, which features youth and adult action research practitioners from around the world. While most of the participants joined virtually, a handful of educators and students came together in person at the University of Colorado-Denver, who graciously provided access to a high-tech hybrid space for the event.



The day kicked off with a presentation from students from a middle school in Arvada, Colorado. Supported by teacher Milahd Makooi, the students examined a tragic death on a local street, conducted their own research around traffic safety, and worked with elected officials to implement three protective measures on the street. This clear powerful example of YPAR set a strong tone for the day.

Makooi and his students then joined academics Dave McPartlan (University of Cumbria), Rachel Kulick (University



Correspondence about the ARNA 2023 Virtual Conference should be directed to Conference Co-Chairs Candace Kaye (candace.arna@gmail.com) and Dane Stickney (dane.stickney@ucdenver.edu).



of Massachusetts-Dartmouth), Rachel Radina (Eastern Michigan University), Kostis Sipitanos (University of Crete), and Dane Stickney (University of Colorado-Denver) in a workshop about how YPAR can make classrooms pop.

A team of academics and college students from Ohio and California shared about a participatory process of academics mentoring college students who in turn mentor younger students. Student Taz Foster, Dr. Genesis Ross, and Dr. Lateasha Meyers, presented powerful findings that

occurred, especially, from the interactions between college and K-12 students. Kulick, Makooi, and three middle school students then led a workshop on the power of vulnerability in the classroom. Participants engaged in a variety of activities that helped them explore themselves and feel comfortable being vulnerable in the online space.

A group of high school students from Jefferson County, Colorado, took the virtual stage next, sharing their findings from a YPAR project aimed at mental health services and stigmas at their school. The youth, supported by school counselor Scott Merkel, landed not on one specific root cause but instead on a joint approach of normalizing and destigmatizing peer counseling supports and educating students on how to recognize and mediate their own mental health struggles.

The day ended with Radina, McPartlan, and Stickney leading a discussion about the ethical concerns present when adults partner with youth to conduct real-world, social justice research. That session provided especially rich dialogue among the participants, presenters, and youth. The entire study day, however, provided a rich opportunity for youth and adults from around the world to collaboratively learn about the power of youth research and the important yet delicate role adults play in the process. By involving young researchers involved in YPAR we also believe this day enhanced our development aims for ARNA's YPAR ARC.

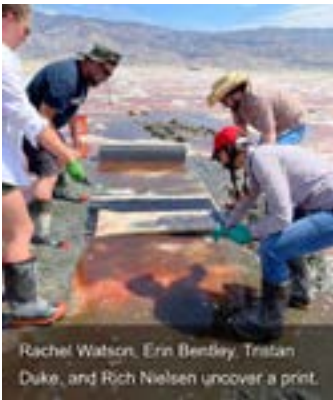
Special thanks to CARN for sponsoring, ARNA for supporting planning, and Marvin Lynn, dean of the School of Education and Human Development at CU-Denver for providing hybrid space and technology support.

• **PAR-Based Collaboration Seeks Environmental Justice**



• My notebook entry is dated June 26th, 2019. I scan the page and note that I made the entry during Carl James's session at ARNA 2019 in Montreal, Repoliticizing P/AR. In the bottom right-hand corner, I wrote *epistemicide* and then circled it. Just above, I wrote *For whom are we doing the research?* I can tell by the notebook entry that I was, in 2019, remembering the ARNA 2017 during which I encountered, for the first time, liberation for my core philosophical approach to my life's work. I will never forget being in Cartagena, where the diversity of participants at ARNA was mirrored by the colors of the landscape – warm pinks and purples of sunsets melding into the cool blues and greens of the sea. Sitting in a conference room, with equally vivid beauty, I was surrounded by nearly 600 other action researchers. My heart sang as I absorbed shared sentiments that reductionist positivism is epistemicidal to the Other. Bathing in the shared view that pluriversity is a valid way of living, I felt like I was coming out of a closet formed by “objective” hard science.

• I am many things. I am a coach; Along with my partner Dr. Christine Boggs, I have co-coached the men's and women's Nordic Ski Team at the University of Wyoming for 25 years. I co-founded the University's International Nordic Ski Training Program. In 2011, I began coaching team USA at the World University Games, and while this was a phenomenal experience, I realized that integration of curriculum would convert this experience



• to one that was truly transformative. Thus, using the tenants of Action Research and Action Learning, we designed immersive curriculum around the 2015 World University Games in Strbske Pleso, Slovakia. Centering on skiing and climate change, this curriculum has evolved into a stable course, called Body as Planet, Planet as Body, in

the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources as well as in the Division of Kinesiology and Health. In all iterations of this course, we have utilized a PAR cycle to inform our learning outcome development, course assessment and future action!

For whom are we doing the research?
The evolution of the Body as Planet, Planet as Body course has been deeply impacted by the question. In later iterations, students have shifted their focus from the impact of climate change on skiing, to the way in which anthropogenic planetary dysbiosis is paralleled by increased human body-mind dysbiosis. I scan through my notebook from ARNA 2019 and find the following scrawled in impassioned script, *“I need [to be able to write] about the earth becoming disabled through the same injustices that often increase disability, disease and unwellness in people. If people's resilience in owning identity do we learn something new about the earth's resilience? Can we understand her as also embracing her new identity while still fighting further injustices against and upon her?”* Our 2019 curriculum deeply integrated the writing of Eli Clare and students read and designed action research centered on Clare's book *Brilliant Imperfection*. Our 2023 curriculum asked students to apply PAR and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)/Indigenous Ways of Knowing to their work with our partners at the Owens Dry Lakebed. The now-dry lakebed has been one of the greatest sources of airborne dust laden with toxic metals like arsenic in North America. We partnered with Kathy Bancroft of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone tribe and each of the students presented their PAR projects at ARNA 2023. We were deeply fortunate to present second in a round table presentation, our work flanked by Donald D. Pepion's Becoming Piikani: A Native American Worldview and Will Makoyiisaaminaa and Michale Vendiola's Surfacing Swinomish Success in Education. Part of this rich, three-part session, I realized that indigenous ways of knowing offer an ontological underpinning to PAR that inherently acknowledges the inextricable link between environmental and social justice.



I am a professor. I taught General Microbiology labs and lectures for almost thirty contact hours a week for almost twenty years. Impassioned by what I knew about what professors wanted students to be able to do, and its contrast with what skills our coursework allowed them to master, I designed a capstone course that facilitates students in doing original research from inception to completion. The course begins and ends with the question, “For whom are we doing the research?”. We begin with community partners,

ranging from The Laramie Downtown Clinic that serves uninsured patients, to the Optics Division of Metabolic Studio - science artist who call attention to the injustices of environmental degradation through their photography. Students design their field and benchtop research around the issues and problems of our partners. I lead them through the arc of “traditional” research and then, gradually, we deconstruct the method, discuss the way that it sustains oppression of minoritized and marginalized Others and finally, lead students to the tenants of PAR, Queer Theory, Crip Theory, Afrofuturism and Feminism. Many students choose to continue their first-semester research into later semesters, and often their research is PAR. For example, Jaynie Welsh, a 2020 student completed a PAR study called Transdisciplinary Knowledge Creation is Anything but Rubbish. She showcased the collaboration between university student researchers, local seventh grade students, city officials and engineers to find solutions to an old, decommissioned landfill that was leaking toxic chemicals into ground water.

I am a faculty developer. I have trained hundreds of college educators across the state of Wyoming in active, inclusive pedagogy. We believe that immersing educators in the same type of classroom learning that students would experience is the best teacher. This summer of 2023, the educators were learners in a problem-based learning course centering on the environmental injustice of Owens Dry Lakebed. In teams they worked across scientific disciplines, ranging from chemical engineering to ecology, to design research that would enable them to apply their knowledge to addressing the problem. In all nearly cases, they unknowingly utilized a PAR approach. They began by asking, For whom are we doing the research? Their plans initiated with engaging the people of the Owens Valley in dialogue to determine what was most needed. I found myself drawing the PAR cycle on the board, explaining it to the college educators and realizing that well-designed curriculum leads learners to liberative PAR research.



After ARNA 2023, Joe Shosh asked me to write a brief summary of the importance of PAR to my work. I hope,

To learn more about the ARNA YPAR group, please contact Dane Stickney at dane.stickney@ucdenver.edu.



instead, that this summary has enunciated that PAR is the heartbeat of my identity. Inherent in its tenants is not only the permission to center academic research on those who are generally most marginalized by it, but also permission to embrace and even celebrate my alternative, pluriverse self. I am many things and the permission to be so has allowed me to float gloriously, as if on the waves of a Cartagenian sea, away from the epistemicidal landscape of reductionist hard science and into the epistemithrive of PAR.

You can learn more about Rachel's 2023 Body as Planet, Planet as Body course at <https://www.uwyonordic.com/environment-natural-resources-class.html>. Correspondence should be directed to Rachel Watson at RWatson@uwo.edu.



Annual Proceedings: An Invaluable Community Resource



As ARNA Proceedings Editor, I am delighted to continue the renaissance of the ARNA Proceedings begun two years ago. *Renascence* is a noun derived from the Latin word *renascentem* meaning born again. In 2014, ARNA began to curate our conference proceedings. Beginning in 2021 the ARNA Proceedings continued to grow as a rebirth celebration of the diverse expert voices who create and present at our annual conferences. Now the Proceedings help to build a strong connected community and to move forward as a publication entity within the internationally recognized Action Research Network of the Americas!

While the Proceedings are unable to capture the rich and nuanced conversations that take place during the community of sessions at the annual conferences, they can chronicle and celebrate the vast research being conducted by our members. The Proceedings editorial board invites you:

- to explore the most recent exciting abstracts from the 2023 Conference, <https://arnawebsite.org/proceedings/2023-2/>
- as a 2023 ARNA Conference presenter to submit a full

- manuscript of your conference presentation by February 1, 2024,
- to present at the 2024 ARNA Conference,
- to submit to the 2024 Proceedings.

We would like to extend our continued gratitude and support to all of our ARNA members and applaud them for the ongoing positive impact of their research efforts. Well done!

Candace thanks the ARNA Proceedings Editorial Board with the support of Ana Espinosa, Administrative Assistant; Gabriel Zacarias Ramirez and Rich McPherson, ARNA Technology Consultants; and gratitude to Joe Shosh.

To learn more about the 2023 conference proceedings, contact editor Candace Kaye candace.arna@gmail.com.



ARNA's Action Research Communities (ARCs) Take Action

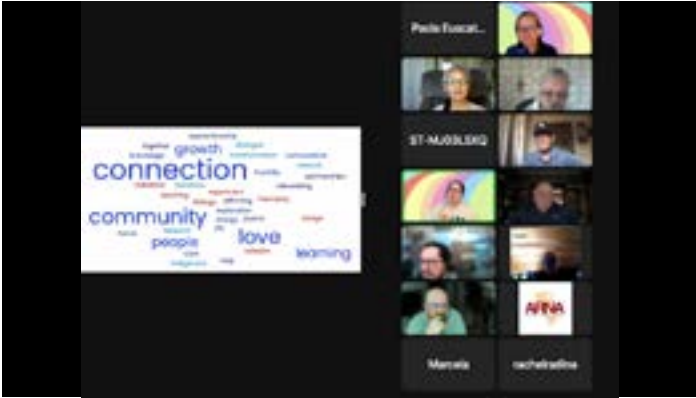
Purpose of the ARCS: The Action Research Communities (ARCs) are comprised of ARNA members who share research interests, spend time together in subcommunities in the months between the annual conferences, engage in collaborative projects related to the focus of the ARC, and present their work at ARNA conferences. ARCs serve as mostly virtual spaces for consultation, connection, and collaboration on research projects. There are currently 11 ARCs in ARNA, and you can learn more about the ARCs on the ARNA website at: <https://arnawebsite.org/arcs/>.

Outreach: We focused on outreach and collaboration across the ARCs in 2022-2023 and are proud to report that we had two successful events, a school-based ARC conversation that brought together the School Counseling, School Leadership, and Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) ARCs to discuss current issues in K-12 schools; and a Winter YPAR event, showcasing youth action research projects that were then shared at ARNA 2023. We are delighted to learn that both of these events resulted in ongoing collaborations, specifically in the connections between the School Counseling and YPAR ARCs.

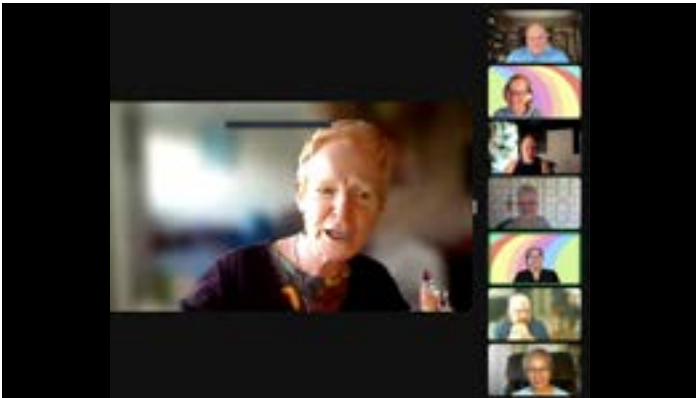
New ARCs and ARC Leadership: The International ARC, approved by the ARNA Coordinating Group in September of 2022, extends the presence of ARNA and forges connections with action research colleagues in Asia, Africa, and Europe. We are very excited to welcome this ARC into our ARNA family, and grateful to Dr. Candace Kaye for her

leadership in initiating and chairing the ARC. We are also delighted to welcome new leadership in the Graduate Student and PAR/PE ARCs, and we hope that ARNA members will consider supporting these new chairs and their efforts to invigorate these ARCs. These ARCs, along with the Health Equity, School Counseling, and School Leadership ARCs, are actively seeking new members, so please consider joining one of these communities if their research areas overlap with the work you are doing.

Highlighting ARC Accomplishments: As you will see from reading the ARC reports, the ARCs have exciting news to share. We especially wanted to highlight that the YPAR ARC was featured at the 2023 CARN Study Day and that the STAR-C has a Summer 2023 newsletter on their webpage. In addition, the Community Development ARC has been engaged in some creative activities—please check out the posters for the gardening initiative and the memory cafés.



ARC Events at ARNA 2023: We both very much enjoyed highlighting the role of the ARCs again at ARNA 2023. Our theme in preparing for the conference and working with ARC chairs and the Coordinating Group was JOY, which we defined as “Just One You.” We encouraged folks to consider their unique contributions to ARNA and the ways in which they experience joy in their lives, their work, and in our organization. These activities are captured in the screen shots of the Word Clouds that we generated in our brainstorm. We developed a JOY playlist with favorite songs that ARNA members identified as inspiring feelings of joy (please check it out at: <https://tinyurl.com/ARNAjoy-playlist>). The essence of this activity is also captured in this



screen shot of Health Equity ARC Chair Nancy Murphy singing “You Gotta Have Love in Your Heart.” We invited ARNA members to participate in interactive warm-up exercises to open both days of the conference, beginning with a padlet activity that had a map of the world for attendees to show where they were from. We asked folks to set their intentions for the conference and to share what they offered to our Zoom space, which resulted in a powerful conversation. Our brown bag social time on Day 1 focused on the vision board exercise that we began with the Coordinating Group before the conference. Participants created vision boards that represented their unique interests and their connection to ARNA. The vision board project will be up on the ARC page later this fall, so please stay tuned! The brown bag on Day 2 involved a scavenger hunt (yes, on Zoom!) on the theme of collaboration, which led to a productive discussion about the ARCs and a lot of smiles as people identified connections with one another. Our overall goal was to support and build our sense of community through expressive arts activities, social time, and risk taking that allowed ARNA members to connect and to get to know one another better. We also wanted to bring a playful spirit of fun into the conference, and we got feedback that we were successful in that goal!


Directions for 2023-2024: We were so energized by the ARNA 2023 conference and thrilled to see the positive energy generated by ARC chairs, along with the new leadership and exciting direction of so many of the ARNA ARCs. We want to keep this momentum going! The main way we can do this is to encourage the larger ARNA membership to please consider joining an ARC. If you'd like to learn more about the ARCs, please read on! The individual annual reports submitted by the ARCs reflect the mission of each ARC, recent research activities and interests, and goals that members have identified. The reports also reveal the passion and dedication of the ARC chairs, the challenges faced and strategies to overcome those challenges, and the impressive accomplishments of individual ARC members and entire ARCs. We appreciated their thoughtful reflections and the plans they shared; as you can see, some are still emerging from pandemic-related challenges in maintaining connections or identifying projects to pursue. There is much promise and much evidence of productive engagement among individual members and ARCs as groups.

Have an idea for a new ARC? Wonderful! Please check in with ARC Co-Chairs Suzy Thomas and Aubrey Uresti. The process for submitting an application for a new ARC involves writing a brief statement that is reviewed by the Coordinating Group. Once approved, ARCs can develop with autonomy and decide how often and in what ways they want to meet or connect. There is a space for each ARC on the ARC page, and we encourage ARC chairs to expand their presence through videos, photos, and other

material that will attract new members. We also invite ARC members to submit proposals to participate in the annual ARNA conference. Finally, ARC chairs are asked to submit a brief annual report outlining their area of focus and activities. Please see the ARC reports that follow.

Check us out on the ARNA website: <https://arnawebsite.org/arcs/>.

If you are interested in joining or forming an ARC, please contact the ARC Co-Chairs:
Suzy Thomas stthomas@stmarys-ca.edu
Aubrey Uresti auresti@ucdavis.edu



KIDS FOR KIDS GARDEN

getting back to our roots

THE GARDEN COORDINATOR'S VOICE: "This is their garden, the adults just experience it with them."

IN ONE PARENT'S WORDS: "They teach us, we just facilitate their learning."

WHAT CHILDREN CAN DO: "We give them space, respect of what and where they have access to plant anything."



DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES



Inspired to help in any way we can

MEMORY CAFES REIMAGINED

THE DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY: A community where people with dementia and their families can connect, share, and learn from each other.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all who are interested in joining the community.

CONTACT US: donnabenson59@yahoo.com



Community Development ARC


The ARC previously had a sole focus on the UN SDG Food for All and has now morphed to be inclusive of any community-based project that is directed to achieving any of the UN's SDG's. Progress has been made in the Kid's for Kids Gardening initiative. A poster was prepared by the kids and Moms. As well, Memory Cafes were held for families and people with dementia in a small rural community in British Columbia. Here again, a poster was prepared by the team. In addition, to encourage growing local food, we are having a "Challenge" using photo voice and asking people to select food and flower garden pictures (i.e., Tasteful Gardening) to submit. Thirteen pictures will be selected for a community calendar.

For the next cycle of inquiry, the objective is to see what could be accomplished, using a Global Action Research approach to include other academics, moms and their kids, people with dementia and their families, and community organizations. The intention is to be inclusive, intergenerational, and use the arts.

Entering a new year, because we wish to scale and collect evidence on what is working or not, we must investigate funding opportunities. Please let us know if you have ideas for funding sources!

On the dementia front, Dr. Howard Feldman, UCSD has written a paper putting out a challenge for creating Dementia Friendly Communities and identifies several obstacles and opportunities. One item "on the list" for the ARC is to write a conceptual paper about what impact Action Research could perhaps have meeting the challenges put forth by Dr. Feldman. We look forward to reporting significant progress at ARNA 2024 -- funding success, scaling of current projects to collaborate across communities, new friends, and publishing results to help advance our wish for knowledge sharing and transfer. And we absolutely know we will take the ARNA joy into these endeavors.

To learn more about the Community Development ARC, contact Donna Benson at donnabenson59@yahoo.com.




International ARC

ARNA has moved beyond the Americas in scope, presence, and connection as indicated in membership and conference program presentations. For example, in Mongolia there is a passionate commitment to action research as seen in university student clubs and coursework and publications. ARNA also has maintained an ongoing connection to CARN and continues to be inspired by ARNA colleagues in Asia, Africa, and Europe. The new International ARC approved by the ARNA Coordinating Team in September 2022 defines a community within ARNA where international cultural complexities can interface with action research principles for discussion and where the new ARC can initiate symposiums, workshops, conversations that open ARNA to important connections that have become even



more apparent after the last two years of pandemic induced isolation. Candace believes the new ARC connects to the multi-vocality of ARNA mission statement, "exploring the diversity of perspectives among ARNA members regarding applications of action research and participatory research in relationship to the challenging socio-political and geo-political issues of our times."

To learn more about the ARNA International ARC, contact Candace Kaye at candace.arna@gmail.com.



Musical Learning Community ARC

Musical Learning Community - Comunidad de Aprendizaje Musical

The Musical Learning Community (MLC) is a group of musicians, educators, artists, and researchers with a shared vision about creating and sharing, and about learning the arts and social action. We work together developing multiple programs across the continent and fostering relationships around the globe.

La Comunidad de Aprendizaje Musical (CAM) está conformada por un grupo de músicos, educadores, artistas e investigadores que comparten una visión sobre el aprendizaje en las artes y la acción social, así como en el crear y en el compartir con otros. Trabajamos de manera colectiva desarrollando múltiples programas a lo largo y ancho del continente, así como cultivando relaciones alrededor del mundo.



Before a note is ever sung, plucked, or strummed it lives in us.

We carry music with us everywhere we go. It stirs in us - eager for the chance to join the songs of our friends, family, and communities.

Your story is your song. Let's find harmony together!

The Musical Learning Community ARC connects people, voices, and experiences to compose the song of life.


All are invited to join the Musical Learning Community - no audition required!



To view a past performance of the MLC, please visit us at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2_W8P36Z1s.

A little about me: I am a former K-12 music teacher turned higher education professional and aspiring action researcher. A (somewhat) recent Ph.D. graduate, my dissertation research leveraged arts-based action research methods to provide a platform for LGBTQ+ students at a faith-based university to share their stories through musical expression and composition. Currently, I am working to further explore the use of co-composing in creating shared meaning.

For more information, contact E.J. Pavy (ejpavy@gmail.com).



PAR & Popular Education ARC

Daniel and Catalina are excited to serve as PAR/PE ARC co-chairs, cultivate collaborations, and organize virtual gatherings to learn and share with one another.

Catalina Tang Yan 趙嘉蓮 is a transdisciplinary scholar who uses a decolonial and racial equity lens to study the narratives that create epistemic justice at the intersection of health, language, disability, and education. Her research focuses on the ways critical youth and community-based participatory action research approaches can create equitable social policy, unsettling pedagogy, and applied research.



Daniel Bonilla Montenegro is currently teaching at Fundación Universitaria Área Andina in Colombia. He's also the coordinator of social transformation at Fundación Kadebra. He's a psychologist with interests in vulnerable communities, community-based research, and decoloniality. Daniel brings relevant experiences in teaching, research, and service to enrich the PAR and Pop Ed ARC as well as ARNA.



To contribute to the PAR and Popular Education ARC, contact Catalina Tang Yan 趙嘉蓮 at catalina.tang@gmail.com or Daniel Bonillo Montenegro at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-andr%C3%A9s-bonilla-montenegro-ab090425/>.

School Counseling ARC

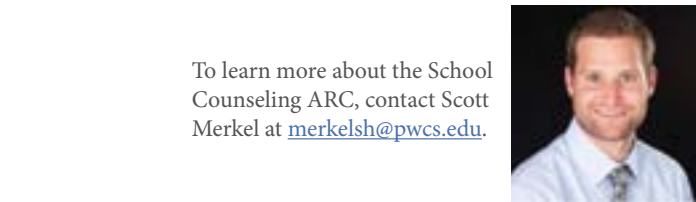


The School Counseling ARC consists of practicing school counselors, counselor educators and graduate students in school counseling. The mission of the group is to connect, collaborate, and share best practices for implementing action research initiatives in schools. The School Counseling ARC shares completed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

School counselors engage in plenty of work that lends itself to improving systems, better understanding community and school culture, and supporting stakeholders to envision better futures. Action research provides a perfect framework to grapple with challenging themes like those aforementioned and put new ideas into motion to evaluate the relative efficacy using dynamic data protocols. Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, the School Counseling ARC worked with the Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) ARC to generate some great opportunities to support youth action research projects in a few local schools. This partnership was strengthened through a collaborative action research session for students engaging in YPAR and student voice work at the University of Colorado at Denver. One student YPAR project that was born out of this partnership and was further cultivated through the work at CU Denver was able to present their work at the ARNA/CARN Study Day in May, and those youth representatives are presenting at the Colorado Society of School Psychologists in November. These outcomes highlight the power of collaboration and resource sharing to create meaningful contributions to the broader action research community.

The School Counseling ARC is also looking to recruit more members and is using different recruiting strategies to try and identify other practitioners that are engaging in action research, or may have an interest in learning more about how to integrate action research into their counseling practice.

To view the School Counseling ARC knowledge base and affiliated resources, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/sc-arna-arc/home>.



To learn more about the School Counseling ARC, contact Scott Merkel at merkelsh@pwcs.edu.

ARNA Early Childhood Education ARC

Overview
A major purpose of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Action Research Community (ARC) is to exchange action research projects between early childhood educators to build a professional learning community for those interested in teacher action research in early childhood. During the post-pandemic, there was a serious teacher shortage in the field of ECE as many ECE teachers left the field after working as frontline workers to support families and children who needed in-person interactions for two years. There was much small scales action research on teachers and developing support systems for early childhood educators. ECE educators and professionals in San Francisco and the Bay Area had one virtual gathering to share their research in May 2023. Here is a summary of them:

1. Annual SFSU Early Childhood Action Research Community Meeting
San Francisco State University (SFSU) hosted the 9th annual EC Action Research meeting in May 2023. The meeting agenda was to make teacher action research presentations and discuss disseminating AR projects by ECE teacher researchers in various venues. Topics for the Action Research project became more diverse than during the Pandemic: play as inquiry methods in ECE, critical ethnographic action research on BIPOC ECE educators, art and music in the ECE curriculum, and social justice and advocacy in leadership. Most teacher action research projects showed how teachers could have an opportunity to reflect on themselves through the action research process and reframe teachers' role in meeting children's needs in the post-pandemic.



2. Annual 2023 ARNA conference
Unfortunately, the ARC ECE leadership team could not join the annual ARNA conference this year due to personal reasons. However, teacher researchers in San Francisco and the Bay Area plan to join the following year's conference to share their studies in 2024. The leadership team will organize a series of meetings to prepare proposals for the upcoming conference accordingly.

Plans in 2022-2023: Critical Ethnographic Action Research in PK3 ECE Instruction Credential
Recently the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) has been developing a new teaching credential for Early Childhood Educators called PreK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Credential that will require preschool teachers to show they are trained in how to teach reading (Fensterwald, 2022). Within this push for reading instruction, the new credential also emphasizes the preparation of preservice teachers to be fully aware of the culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse communities where they teach to provide best practices for social justice and equity for all students (CTC, 2023). Interestingly, much of the ECE workforce in America comprises educators who experience marginalization in one or more ways based on race, gender, language, and/or economic class. Of particular note for the current work, well over 50% of early childhood educators in California identify as BIPOC (CSCCE, 2017). It is an alarming idea if someone thinks that only because a teacher is a BIPOC, they can teach children well who have diverse cultural backgrounds.

The leadership team will work on an action research project to explore how the Critical Ethnographic Action Research (CEAR) approach can play a significant role in the development of California's new PreK-3 credential to

promote a deep view of the value of diversity and equity for high-quality, reflective teaching. This research will discover how the CEAR approach can help the program faculty develop their courses to support preservice teachers to learn better multilingual and multiliteracies practices for children from diverse cultural backgrounds.



Networking

Unlike last year, networking was more actively happening at the local and international levels this year. The leadership team was connected to the ECE educators in Oaxaca, Mexico, and Hiroshima, Japan, and developed a collaborative action research project to support teachers of young children. While educators in Oaxaca have been exposed to action research at various levels, educators in Japan were very much interested in learning more about this inquiry method for professional development. We plan to facilitate regular online forums, develop collaborative action research projects, and share them at the annual ARNA conference.

To learn more about the Early Childhood Education ARC, contact Mina Kim at minakim@sfsu.edu.



Graduate Student ARC

Dear fellow graduate students,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the Graduate Student Action Research Community! As practicing scholars with a passion for creating positive change, we have embarked on an exciting journey that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on our local communities and with the help of this group, the world beyond!

The purpose of this community is to foster collaboration, innovation, and support among graduate students who are eager to engage in action research. I am currently pursuing

- a doctoral degree in Education Leadership at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA.



Through the Graduate Student ARC, I hope we can achieve some key objectives:

- **Collaborative Learning:** By pooling diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences, we can enrich each other's understanding of action research and learn from one another's unique insights.
- **Empowerment:** As grad students, we have the potential to bring about substantial change through our research. By supporting and empowering each other, we can tackle challenges with confidence and determination.
- **Networking:** Building a strong network of like-minded individuals is invaluable. We can connect with researchers and practitioners who share our passions and interests, international connections that may extend beyond our academic careers.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Workshops and discussions will provide a platform to exchange knowledge, share research findings, and receive constructive feedback to refine our projects into practical applications that can make tangible differences.
- **Publication and Recognition:** Our community can support members in disseminating their work through publications, conferences, and presentations, ensuring that our efforts are recognized on a broader scale.
- Our community will be characterized by openness, respect, and a willingness to embrace diverse viewpoints. I encourage active participation, both by sharing your experiences and by offering support and encouragement to your fellow researchers.

In the coming months, I will schedule our first meeting and share events that will kickstart this venture. I urge you all to actively engage and propose ideas. Let's seize this opportunity to make our mark as graduate students committed to action research!

To learn more about the Graduate Student ARC, contact chair Rachel Sherman at ras622@lehigh.edu.



Health Equity ARC

This year has been a quiet one for the Health Equity ARC. Health Equity ARC members continue to pursue academic and clinical practice and two members are getting close to completing their doctoral degrees.

On an individual level, one of our members, Michelle Vasquez, who is a PhD student at the Dreeben School of Education, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio Texas had three recent presentations and also an award:

- June 2023: 11th International Digital Storytelling Conference in Washington, D.C.. Co-presenter, with Ciji Couvertier "Story-based Strategies for Advocacy and Change Using Digital Storytelling" focusing on health equity and action research.
- May 2023: 19th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry Conference, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Co-presenter, with Dr. Alfredo Ortiz Aragon, Dr. Arthur Hernandez and Amaha Sellassie," From Storytelling to Storydoing: Action Research for Community Health and Wellbeing" focusing on participatory methods for community voice and power at the.
- April 2023: 22nd Annual Region 5 Texas Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) Texas Conference 2023, Baylor University. "Digital Storytelling for Social Change: Amplifying the Voices of Parents of Children with Autism through Action Research"
- Awarded best paper presentation at The 22nd Annual

Region 5 Texas Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education - Texas NAME Conference 2023!

Another member, Nancy Murphy and colleagues she worked with in Washington, DC were fortunate to have their inside action research study published. Murphy, N., Athey, E., Larbi, A., & Elias, N. (2023, March 17). Retaining Patients in HIV Care: An Insider Action Research Study. Social Publishers Foundation. Along with the paper, a manual describing the detailed practices the team undertook to carry out the retention work was also published.

<https://www.socialpublishersfoundation.org/knowledge-base/retaining-patients-in-hiv-care-an-insider-action-research-study/>.

The Health Equity ARC continues to be resource for those who are interested in the intersection of health care/health equity and action research.

To learn more about the Health Equity ARC, contact Nancy Murphy at nphlox@gmail.com.



Retaining Patients In HIV Care: An Insider Action Research Study

By Nancy Murphy, Erin Athey, Alfred Larbi, & Nnemdi Elias

Red Bank, NJ, US

Social Services and Wellness

Wellness

About The Author

Nancy Murphy, Erin Athey, Alfred Larbi, & Nnemdi Elias
Murphy - Nurse Practitioner;
Athey - Nurse Practitioner & Founder/CEP of C3 Cares; Larbi - Manager of Site Contracts & Budgets; Elias - Physician Red Bank, NJ, US

1 Article Published

Dr. Nancy Murphy is a nurse practitioner. She holds a PhD in Social Welfare from the Graduate Center, City University of New York. She is an experienced clinician, patient advocate, implementation specialist and

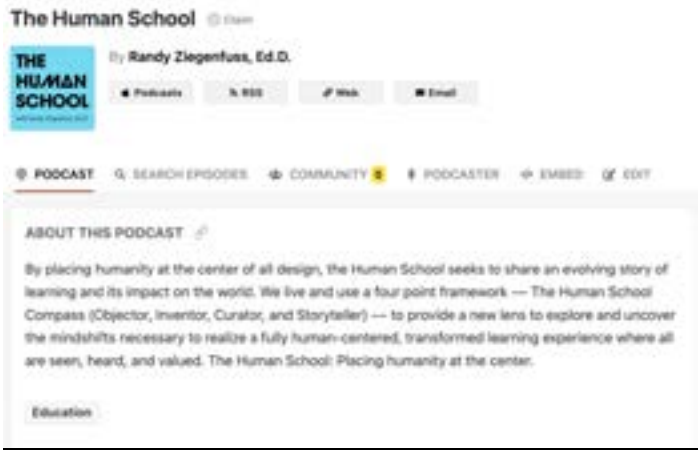
School Leadership ARC

Imagine a quiet, empty theatre. For some time, it's been dark and silent with amazing and inspiring stories just waiting to be told.

One day, a group of artists, inspired by leadership and school transformation, decide to awaken this sleeping giant and transform it into a stage stories, large and small.


This is the vision of our Leadership ARC at ARNA in the coming year, standing at the precipice of its own grand reawakening! The curtains are ready to rise, revealing a stage set for inquiry, collaboration, and transformation of our educational systems.

Interested in joining the cast? We're calling all educational leaders interested in transformation to join the ensemble.



The School Leadership ARC is set for its grand reopening; let's bring it to life, together. For more information on my current thinking, please visit the Human School website at <https://www.thehuman.school/> and tune in to the podcast at <https://www.thehuman.school/podcast>.

To learn more or participate in the School Leadership ARC, please contact Randy Ziegenfuss (ziegenfussr@moravian.edu).



Supporting the Teaching of Action Research (STAR) and the Power of Collaborative Community Action Research

The STAR-Community



Supporting the Teaching of Action Research Community (STAR-C) is one of the ARNA Action Research Communities. STAR-C is led by professors of action research from six countries. These educators have met monthly over the last few years to think about strategies, issues, and resources to support the teaching of action research. In the spirit of action research, the community continues to evolve.

Collectively, the STAR Community posed the central guiding question—What resources would best support the teaching of action research and how might they be shared? This central guiding question is the foundation for what became five cycles of action and research occurring over five years and now continuing into 6th year.

- **Cycle 1:** The Learning Circle and Website Construction (2017-2023) We began with Learning Circles, a structure that helped us collectively to create the STAR website. We selected a set of topics that we agreed were essential in teaching action research. Each community member selected one of the topics and organized the learning circle to share our written ideas around that topic. Our website continues to evolve with the addition of chats and newsletters.
- **Cycle 2:** Dual Language and Social Media (2018-2023) We centered on developing the Spanish translation of the STAR-C website. Clotilde Lomeli Agruel took the lead on the initial effort and continues to serve as our primary translate with some help from other members. We also forged a closer partnership with the Action Research Tutorials (ART) and the Social Publishers Foundation (SPF). We joined the Action Research Tutorials Facebook Group to gain access to a larger

- community of professors of action research.
- **Cycle 3:** Extended Reach-Blog and Newsletter (2019-2023) As the website translation was taking place, we worked to extend our reach to involve more people. The STAR-C Newsletter and the STAR Blog were introduced in 2019 as two central means of outreach. The STAR-C Newsletter was proposed to provide a more in-depth look at important Action Research themes and to provide an opportunity for authors outside of STAR-C to become involved by sharing their perspectives and work. The newsletter is published 2 times a year in English and Spanish, featuring articles and sharing news about resources, upcoming conferences, and events. The STAR Blog presents issues of importance for the practice of teaching and learning action research and provides a hub for the discussion both for the Newsletter articles and for other topical issues.
- **Cycle 4:** The STAR-C Chats – Our Own Process of Professional Development (2020-2023) In 2020 we changed the name of the group from STAR ARC to STAR-C), by trimming the double AR. With the name change, we redesigned the banner of the website. We also added one more interactive component- STAR-C Chats. The idea for STAR-C Chats emerged from Learning Circle conversations as a means for more dynamic interaction with the greater AR community and as a way to further promote the STAR-C website, tutorials, newsletter, and blog participation. We now alternate monthly meetings between STAR-C Learning Circles and STAR-C Chats around topics central to teaching action research.
- **Cycle 5:** Extending our Reach (2022-2023) The STAR-Community has participated in every ARNA conference since we began in 2017. For the first virtual ARNA conference in 2021 we made a video of the STAR-C activities. STAR-C of Action Research Network of the Americas




This helped us share our history with others in video format, which was especially useful for online sessions. This year at the ARNA conference we shared the video and then moderated a dialogue around the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) and what it means for the

teaching of action research. We are also working hard to integrate our activities so that when a newsletter edition comes out, the authors are invited to extend the conversation by posting a blog inviting interaction.

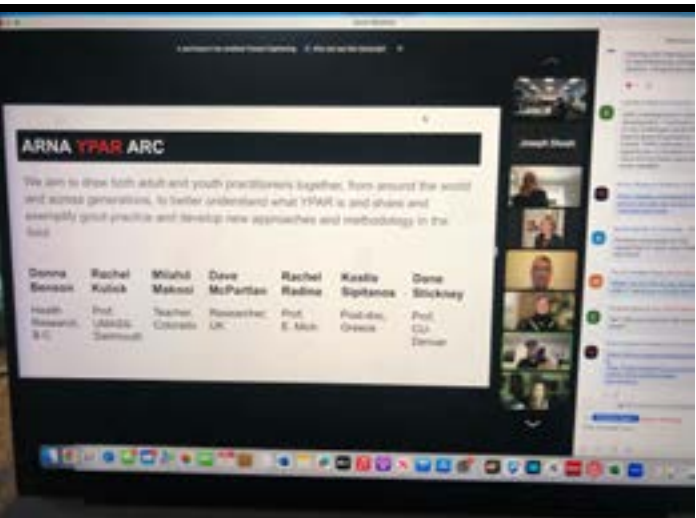
We are open to new members joining at any time. We are always interested in evolving new ideas for the STAR-Community to support those who prepare new action researchers.

To learn more or join the STAR-C, please contact Margaret Riel at mmriel@gmail.com.



Youth Participatory Action Research ARC

The Youth Participatory Action Research Action Research Community has been busy this year, meeting 12 times since November 2022 in the hopes of better understanding what YPAR is and how it is best implemented. While the YPAR ARC, made up of academics and youth from around the world, has been active at different levels in the past decade, this year we were able to deepen our focus while building an international, intergenerational collective.




The intergenerational aspect has always undergirded studies in YPAR, as young people identify social justice issues that matter to them, conduct their own research, develop equitable policy solutions, and deliver them to adults in power. It is difficult, however, to truly partner with young people because of age gaps and all of our busy schedules. This year, however, we were able to work with young people to better understand YPAR and co-plan presentations for the CARN Study Day, which featured our ARC. In November, students at Arvada K-8 in Colorado and their teacher

Milahd Makooi invited the YPAR ARC into their classroom virtually to see YPAR in action as the young people worked to bring safety measures to a deadly street. Since then, our collective worked with the youth and Makooi to regularly meet, communicate, and plan the CARN Study Day. Makooi also won ARNA's Social Justice Award for facilitating the powerful project.

The international focus has been completely new and emerged from the 2022 ARNA conference, where ARC chair Dane Stickney, UK doctoral student Dave McPartlan, and Eastern Michigan professor Rachel Radina, and UMASS-Dartmouth professor Rachel Kulick all attended, presented, and coalesced around YPAR interestings. McPartlan's international connections looped in Konstantinos Sipitanos, a Greek YPAR practitioner working with young people in Greece, Spain, Italy, France, and Portugal. Together, with Makooi and his students, they formed the core of the YPAR ARC. McPartlan's work won him the 2023 ARNA Promising Action Researcher Award.

After hosting the CARN Study Day on May 31, the YPAR ARC presented at the ARNA conference, and students Makooi's class and Sipitanos' European program have been interacting via asynchronous online videos. The group is currently pursuing grant funding to deepen the partnership and hopefully run simultaneous global YPAR projects connecting by regular online interactions.

For more information, contact
ARC chair Dane Stickney at
Dane.Stickney@ucdenver.edu.





ARNA Partners Closely with Europe's CARN

The CARN and ARNA collaboration continues to grow with ongoing work between the two groups. The 2023 ARNA (online) conference kicked off with a highly successful CARN study day which focused on Youth Participatory Action Research and included paper presentations, panel sessions and workshops and included contributions from both ARNA and CARN members. This day contributed to the continued development of the ARNA YPAR ARC as it grows to include research projects both in the US and Europe.

The latest CARN Bulletin has been published and is available online here:
<https://www.carn.org.uk/resources/carn-bulletins/>



CARN Conferences 2023

We are delighted to invite you to take part in our annual international events

Collaborative Action Research Network Conference, 26th – 28th Oct. 2023

and our

Spring Networking Event, 6th – 13th May, 2023

The 2023 CARN conference will be hosted by the CARN Coordinating Group, and will be held in **Frienda Meeting House, Manchester, UK**, from 26th – 28th October 2023

Our Free Spring Networking Virtual Event, featuring Keynotes from Cathy Sharp, Stephen Kemmis and Marie Brennan, runs from 6th – 13th May 2023. Outline details can be found on our [Flyer](#). To help you see what is available and plan your engagement, we have now made available our [conference overview](#), and our [detailed programme](#).

The Annual CARN Conference, 26th – 28th October, taking place in Manchester. Full details can be found below:
<https://carnconference2023.org/>


Whilst this is a full in person conference, planning is underway to include online elements also.

For more information, contact the CARN liaison to the ARNA Coordinating Leadership Team Dave McPartlan at davemcpartlan@icloud.com.




New Coordinating Leadership Team Begins Service

The following ARNA members were nominated to serve on the Coordinating Leadership Team, were approved by the Elections Committee and, running unopposed, were elected by acclamation.



ARNA En Español Chair
Dr. Karina Alejandra Cruz Pallares has served as a professor and director of primary education, a technical-pedagogical advisor, a professor at the Autonomous University of Chihuahua, the UPN and the José E. Medrano Superior Normal School, and an Academic Advisor to the National Executive Committee of the S.N.T.E. Member of the National System of Researchers (SNI) and the Mexican Council for Educational Research (COMIE). She is currently a professor-researcher at the Normal School of the State of Chihuahua where she has been Head of the Research Area, PRODEP Institutional Representative and is Leader of the Academic Body in Consolidation “BCENELUB-CA-3”. The author of 2 books, 19 chapters, and 14 articles published articles in scientific journals in the last five years, Dr. Cruz looks forward to supporting a more equitable world for all as Chair of ARNA En Español.



Indigenous Ways of Knowing Chair
Dr. Donald D. Pepion, Emeritus Professor at New Mexico State University, is honored to serve as Lead Representative for Indigenous Ways of Knowing with the ARNA Coordinating Group. In 2007, he initiated a graduate minor in Native American Studies (NAS) under the auspices of the New Mexico State University Department of Anthropology. He taught and managed the long-standing undergraduate minor for several years. Two of the most important courses included Indigenous Was of Knowing and Indigenous Research Methodologies. The significant overarching principle is Native knowledge and worldview, which is different from Euro-Western thought. While there is more than adequate literature supporting this statement, nonetheless, Western positivism rejects most Indigenous knowledge and research. However, Indigenous and allied scholars are challenging and transforming the situation with support from entities like ARNA. As a Freirean Indigenous scholar, Dr. Pepion can join ARNA to facilitate in seizing the opportunity to transform academic structures and Eurocentric knowledge systems.



Memberships & Sponsorships Chair
Dr. Debasmitta Roychowdhury is professor of English at the Doña Ana Community College, New Mexico State University (NMSU). She is a PAR pedagogue working together with learner-researchers to enhance critical literacy in college composition classrooms. An ARNA member since 2019, Dr. Roychowdhury has served as Membership & Sponsorships Chair since 2021. Through her service, she has learned that an organization facing unexpected obstacles can prevail with commitment, love, respect, and democracy. She looks forward to taking on additional responsibilities as the ARNA Membership and Sponsorships chair with renewed intention and purpose for the coming years.



Action Research Communities (ARC) Co-Chairs
Drs. Suzy Thomas and Aubrey Uresti, members of ARNA since its inception in 2013 and co-Chairs of the ARCs since 2019, where they have focused on ensuring strong ARC representation in the annual conference program with love and joy as well as hosting ARC events between conferences. Dr. Thomas is Professor in the Kalmanovitz School of Education at St. Mary's College of California, where she currently teaches courses in the Counseling Department and Collegiate Seminar program. Dr. Uresti is Assistant Professor, Counselor Education Department, San José State University.



Chair, Executive Committee of the Coordinating Leadership Team
Dr. Candace Kaye, Affiliated graduate faculty member in the School of Teacher Preparation, Administration and Leadership in the New Mexico State University College of Health, Education and Social Transformation, served as a US Fulbright Scholar at the Mongolian National University of Education where she received an honorary doctorate and was the first foreigner to receive the Science Leader Award from the Mongolian Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Currently, her contribution to the field of action research concentrates on publications and investigations based on her activities in Mexico and her ongoing service to ARNA that has included serving as Co-Chair of two annual ARNA conferences, editing the ARNA Proceedings and initiating a new International ARC. As Chair of the Executive Committee, Dr. Kaye will assume primary responsibility for overall

implementation of the ARNA strategic plan, develop the agenda and chair each monthly meeting of the Leadership Coordinating Team, and serve as lead editor of the Annual Report. She will work to ensure that ARNA's actions are in alignment with its stated mission, vision, and values and support members of the Leadership Coordinating Team in fulfilling their responsibilities to the organization.

To learn more, contact
Candace Kaye at
candace.arna@gmail.com.

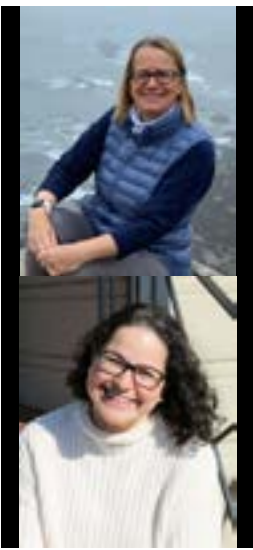


ARNA Awards

The following awards were presented at the Closing Ceremony of the ARNA 2023 Conference.



2023 Eduardo Flores Leadership Award
Jean McNiff, independent researcher and writer, is Professor Emerita at York St John University, UK, and also Visiting Professor at universities in China, Malaysia, and South Africa. One of the most prolific and widely cited action research authors, Jean was instrumental in the initial conversations that led to the formation of the Action Research Network of the Americas. An ARNA member since its inception, Jean delivered ARNA's very first keynote address titled "The invention and Reinvention of Knowledge" at the inaugural ARNA Conference in San Francisco, California in May of 2013. Jean's books on action research are core texts in professional education courses globally, and she is often invited to give lectures and provide consultancy work for organizations across the professions. Her latest publication entitled Representations of the Academic: Challenging Assumptions in Higher Education (Routledge, 2023) "challenges widely accepted, traditionalist scientific notions of 'the academic' – prevalent in higher education institutions globally – in order to promote best practice, and redefine the field as accessible, inclusive and forward thinking." She believes in the power of so-called ordinary people to speak for themselves, so she tries to bring the university to everyday contexts and everyday contexts into the university, for it is only by involving everyone, she feels, that the world will become a better place for us all.



2023 ARNA Community Development Award
No members of ARNA have done more to support the development of our action research communities than our ARC Co-Chairs **Suzy Thomas** and **Aubrey Uresti**. Founding members of the organization, Thomas and Uresti were instrumental in helping to plan ARNA's very first conference at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco in 2013. For the past three years, they have coordinated the ARCS with great charm, skill, and grace. A needs assessment helped them to determine

how best to support ARC chairs as they went on to develop an inspirational new ARC webpage (<https://spark.adobe.com/page/ocydv9gbfEtCJ/>) and the first in an ongoing series of virtual conference sessions to support ARC members at the Puerto Vallarta Conference in 2021. In addition to meeting and supporting ARC chairs throughout each academic year, Thomas and Uresti have hosted important new public virtual events, including, among others, a Fall Mixer, a YPAR event titled "Youth Voice and Research Showcase" featuring youth student researchers from Colorado public schools, and a Cross-ARC Collaboration in School-Based Settings. The 2023 Virtual Conference showcases ARNA's varied and vibrant action research communities, including Community Development, Early Childhood Education, Graduate Studies, Health Equity, International Affairs, Musical Learning, PAR & Popular Education, School Counseling, School Leadership, Supporting the Teaching of Action Research, and YPAR.



2023 ARNA Social Justice Award
Milahd Makooi's past year has been one of tragedy and healing, all mediated with his 8th grade students through YPAR. One day after presenting at the 2022 ARNA conference, Milahd and two friends were crossing the street after a night on the town. An intoxicated driver hit one of Milahd's friends, killing him instantly. A few months later when class started, Milahd, an 8th grade social studies teacher in Arvada, Colorado, erected an ofrenda or altar to his friend and invited his students to add items that honored their loved one. Soon, the students asked about Milahd's friend and, upon hearing the story, wanted to do something to make the street where the accident happened safer. This launched them into a year of YPAR -- using class time to have dialogue with city council members, spending lunch periods Zooming with elected transit officials, and keeping in constant communication with ride share administrators. In the end, three of the students' four proposals for making the

street safer were adopted by adult power players. Beyond that, though, the students reported empowering personal growth. And, perhaps most astonishingly, the YPAR process helped heal Milahd. Along the way, the class allowed the YPAR ARC members to visit and interact with youth and educators. It has been an immensely powerful experience for all of us. Not only has Milahd shown us what YPAR can look like in a classroom, but he's revealed possibilities we hadn't yet fully imagined.



2023 ARNA Promising Researcher Award
Dave McPartlan, a doctoral candidate University of Cumbria in the UK, exemplary member of ARNA's YPAR Action Research Community and a most promising YPAR researcher. His dissertation titled "Young Researchers in Schools: A Participative Action Research Study Into the Efficacy of a Whole School Mental Health Strategy" describes a process of working with youth in an ethical and dialogic way to assess and revise a mental health program in a secondary school. A former teacher with many years of experience in senior leadership within the secondary sector in the UK, Dave is interested in developing his research from a mental health in schools perspective and from the methodological perspective of young people contributing to school improvement as co-researchers. He is interested in methodological innovation connected to young people as collaborators to ensure they are central to improving their own life chances and the lives of their peers.

Questions or nominations for 2024 Awards should be directed to ARNA Awards Committee Chair Dr. Joseph Shosh at shoshj@moravian.edu. Joe would like to express his appreciation to Candace Kaye for serving as 2022 and 2023 Awards Chair.



Treasurer's Report

Despite a fluctuating economy affected by an unstable global context, ARNA remained financially sound this year with a modest deficit. The coordinating committee planned and executed a robust virtual conference on a shoestring budget of less than \$7,000. With a balance of more than \$25,000, ARNA is on stable financial footing heading into 2024 and our hybrid conference online and at Eastern Michigan University.

ARNA June 2022-July 2023 Overview Balance Sheet	
2023 Virtual Conference Expenditures	
Zoom expenses (exceeding membership)	210.85
Translation (interpreters Marcela Escalante, Paul Devereaux, and Ana Uribe)	4,708.34
Technology coordinators (Rich McPherson and Gabriel Zacarias Ramirez)	506
Conference manager (Pat Jackson)	1,000
Total Conference Expenses:	6424.99
ARNA Operational Expenses	
Bank of America International wire fees	151
ARNA reports and translation	1260
Website development/licensing	515.20
Zoom memberships	1,200
Total Operational Expenses:	3,116.20
Total Expenses 2022-2023:	9,541.19
ARNA 2022-2023 Revenue	
Sponsorships (St. Mary's, New Mexico State, CARN)	1725
Conference Transactions (via Eventbrite)	5,879.69
Non-Conference memberships	514.65
Total Revenue:	8,744.34
Deficit:	-796.85
Ending ARNA account balance (July 31):	25,327.56

Questions about ARNA's finances should be directed to Treasurer Dane Stickney at dane.stickney@ucdenver.edu.



ARNA Web & Tech Annual Report

This year, the recent ARNA conference stood out for its success, and the technical team played a crucial role. During the two-day event, two Zoom rooms were set up to accommodate attendees from both the region and around the world. A key feature was the offering of bilingual sessions, reinforcing inclusion and ensuring the active participation of our global community.

The technical team’s commitment was evident in the weekly coordination meetings. Their task of organizing and providing support to the presenters, addressing their specific needs, ensured an event without significant issues and with a minimum of major technical interruptions.

Advancements in ARNA's Web Portal

ARNA’s Web & Tech team has had a pivotal year. One of their main priorities has been the continuous improvement of our portal, arnawebsite.org, with the aim of strengthening the interaction between action-research communities. Now, visitors can stay up to date with the latest news, upcoming conferences, and obtain relevant information about previous conferences. Year after year, we have recorded all the proceedings, which are available now at <https://www.arnawebsite.org/proceedings> and accessible to the public.



Within this portal, there are features worth mentioning. One of the main innovations is a more intuitive and smooth navigation, making the updated proceedings more accessible. Furthermore, we offer our action-research community the opportunity to submit their own proceedings to be published through this portal. It’s essential to note that all the submission instructions are clearly detailed on the site, ensuring effective and seamless collaboration. They are available in four languages: English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Another point to highlight is that we facilitate contact access among our communities by providing information about each one in our ARCs directory, which is accessible from <https://www.arnawebsite.org/arcs/>

Looking forward, through this leadership transition period,

the website will continue to evolve with changes in core pages like Conferences and Proceedings, among many others. These changes will make navigation more user-friendly while highlighting the incredible work our community is doing in their respective areas.

To learn more about or contribute to ARNA’s web and social media presence, please contact Gabriel Zacarias at gzacramz@outlook.com.

ARNA Recruits Members and Sponsors

This report presents information on the final membership and sponsorship numbers associated with the 2023 ARNA virtual conference. This report also describes initiatives taken for maintaining as well as increasing membership and sponsorship participation for ARNA 2023 conference.

2023 Membership and Sponsorship

This year, ARNA organized a virtual conference. The conference theme was “PAR! A Virtual Celebration of Diverse Methodological Approaches in Participatory Action Research”. Attendees from US, Canada, Britain, South Africa, South America, Europe, and Asia participated virtually in the conference. The total membership numbers for the 2023 virtual conference is 149. We received financial sponsorships from five Institutions. These academic entities supported ARNA by contributing to the conference through various means and avenues. We are grateful to have continuing support from the following Institutions:

- Dona Ana Community College
 - Trent University
 - Saint Mary’s College of California
 - Center for Collaborative Action Research
 - Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN)
- ARNA is indebted to these institutions for their kind and generous contributions.

Membership Drive for the Virtual Conference 2023

The ARNA membership renewal cycle has been associated with its annual conference. This is also the time for attracting new memberships. Providing relevant information about the 2023 virtual conference, ARNA began its membership email campaign at the beginning of the year 2023. We were pleased to have eighty-five (85) renewed memberships. Immediately after the ARNA 2022 conference, we began campaign for membership renewal. We encouraged the past members to take advantage of the ARNA membership affordability, networking opportunities,

leadership endeavors through ARCs, and academic research resources offered by the ARNA.

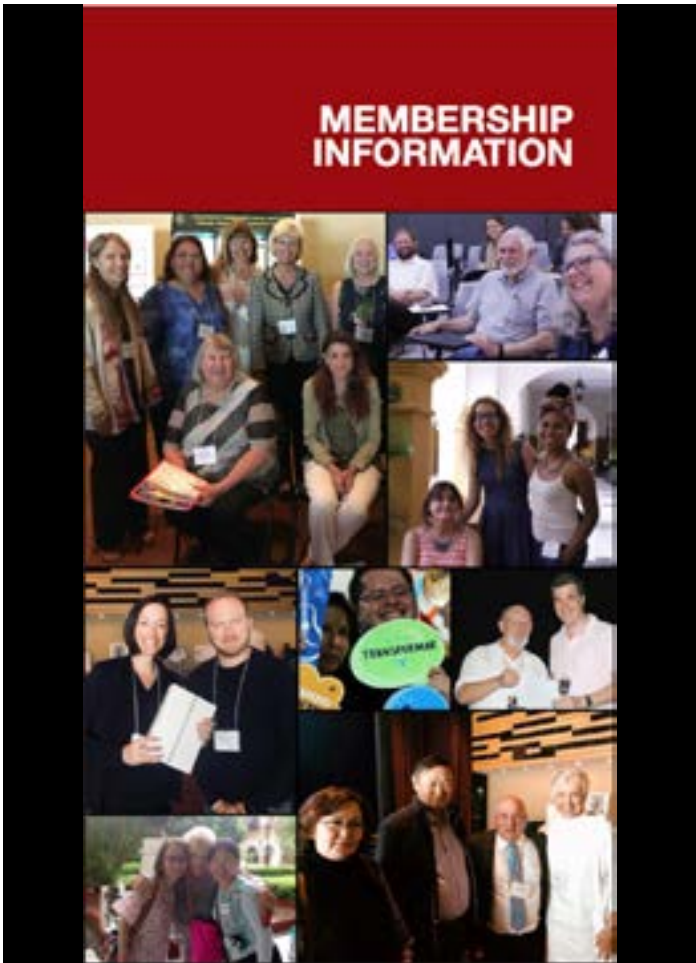
Benefits and Privileges of ARNA Membership

- Reduced conference registration rates
- Participation in a selection of members-only ARCs (Action Research Communities)
- Participation in a calendar of members-only interactive Video Events
- Opportunities for service and leadership in the leading action research network of the Americas
- Opportunities to publish your research in the annual conference proceedings
- Voting privileges for incoming executive members and ARNA ballot issues

ARNA Offers Different Categories of Membership. These are:

- Professional Membership
\$50 Global North; \$25 Global South
- Student Membership
\$25 Global North; \$12.50 Global South
- Emeritus or Retired Membership
\$25 Global North; \$12.50 Global South
- Special opportunities for current members who teach action research courses: Enroll your students in a one year free student membership.

Please visit the ARNA Membership site for more information: <https://arnawebsite.org/membership/>



What ARNA Offers and Why Become a Sponsor

ARNA is a leading action research organization of the western hemisphere working to bring awareness about the value and necessity of action research for strengthening professional practices for social change. We believe in building a democratic society through education, research, activism, and action. Our mission is to unite college and university students and faculty with communities and practicing professionals conducting inquiry into critical social issues such as education, healthcare, human services, and community development throughout the Americas. We are committed to taking action locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to promote action research conducted with commitments to honesty, integrity, inclusiveness, multivocality, engagement, and social progress within sustainable democratic societies.

The ARNA coordinating committee has begun its ground-work for the 2024 hybrid conference. Once again, we are hoping to have enthusiastic sponsorship support from our past, present and the future sponsors. Please visit the ARNA Sponsorship site for information on different categories of sponsorship: <https://arnawebsite.org/become-a-sponsor/>

In Closing

As the membership and sponsorship chair, I remain committed to honing and applying my expertise and experiences for effective and successful campaigns for ARNA. This year too, I enjoyed meeting members while working for the organization. ARNA has a plan in place for increasing the membership and the sponsorship numbers by 2025. Starting this year (2023), ARNA will intensify its efforts to fulfill this goal and continue to reach out to local and global community partners.

Correspondence about ARNA Membership and/or Sponsorship should be directed to Debasmitha Roychowdhury at droychow@nmsu.edu.



The 2024 Annual Conference



ARNA’s 2024 Conference Planning Team is pleased to announce that ARNA 2024 will be presented in a hybrid format with site-based activities taking place in Ypsilanti, MI from June 6 to June 8, 2024. Eastern Michigan University is excited to serve as the host institution with sessions and whole conference gatherings taking place on campus as well as online. For the second year our ARNA conference will focus on Participatory Action Research (PAR). Participatory action research (PAR) is an approach to action research emphasizing participation and action by members of communities affected by that research. It seeks to understand the world by trying to change it, collaboratively and following reflection. PAR emphasizes collective inquiry and experimentation grounded in experience and social history. Within a PAR process, “communities of inquiry and action evolve and address questions and issues that are significant for those who participate as co-researchers”.The CARN Study Day, set for June 6, has yet to be planned but will take place in community space and engage local students, activists, and residents. The 2024 conference will be the first with an in-person component since the 2022 conference in Cedar City, UT, and builds on the strong momentum of the 2023 virtual conference. We are extending a special invitation to local youth as well as community members engaged in action-oriented projects. We also hope to involve college students from the Midwest, allowing an opportunity for them to share, learn, and become ongoing members of ARNA. Ypsilanti has an active arts community, and we want to give them a stage to share their visual art, spoken word, music, and more. Details about participating in and presenting at ARNA 2024 are forthcoming, but please feel free to reach out to conference program chair. More information can be found on ARNA’s website at <https://arnawebsite.org/conferences/>.

Correspondence about ARNA’s 2024 hybrid conference hosted by Eastern Michigan University should be directed to Conference Chair Rachel Radina at rradina@emich.edu.



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2024 Conference

PAR in Community
Transformative Possibilities

Hybrid Gathering: June 7 & 8, 2024*
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI
& online at [ARNAwebsite.org](https://arnawebsite.org) *CARN Study Day June 6

