

THE ACTION RESEARCH NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A Hybrid Gathering
at **Eastern Michigan University**, Ypsilanti, MI, USA
&
online at **Arnaweb.org**

JUNE 7 & 8, 2024
(with a CARN Study Day on June 6)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Conference Theme:

PAR in Community: Transformative Possibilities

“The site for research is the local community, acknowledging the expertise of community members, identifying the indigenous counter-narratives to the dominant versions of history and culture, and challenging the oppressive conditions that surround us”

*-Julio Cammarota & colleagues (2018), **PAR EntreMundos: A Pedagogy of the Americas** (p.30).*

The 2024 ARNA Conference team invites submissions from individuals and groups who are interested in sharing, discussing and improving collective efforts aimed not only at taking action but also building community through the Participatory Action Research (PAR) process.

We are thrilled and honored that our guide in this work at the 2024 conference will be **Dr. Julio Cammarota**, professor of education at the University of Arizona, who will help host a Study Day sponsored by CARN on June 6 and deliver a keynote address on June 7. Dr. Cammarota’s research focuses on participatory action research with Latinx youth, institutional factors in academic achievement, and liberatory pedagogy. His work has been instrumental in advancing social justice in education, youth development, and youth participatory action research (YPAR). His keynote will focus on *PAR EntreMundos* and the concept of dismantling borders and building

collectives aimed at the creation of liberatory praxis, specifically linking arms with Global South indigenous communities who embody transformative knowledge and understanding of PAR practices. We are especially interested in the various ways folks engage in PAR practices in their specific contexts and this conference will specifically highlight the ways in which PAR creates community, rejecting the ways in which unjust social systems attempt to separate us from each other, our research, and our communities. As Cammarota and colleagues (2018) wrote, “The work of a PAR EntreMundos then, can in part be a way to heal communities and ourselves by ‘wholing’ the fragmentation imposed upon us” (p. 30).

In that spirit, we hope this conference allows us to slow down and hold space with one another either in person or online to cultivate relationships that enrich and strengthen our communities. We are especially excited to explore the possibilities of art and other creative approaches to building community, conducting action research, and healing in a collective manner. We see art and other emergent data collection methods as part of the collective struggle to push back on systems of oppression in order to communicate ideas to one another, and strengthen our relationships. Dr. Cammarota agrees and has hinted that his keynote may include an artistic, communal element of dance.

We hope to see both long-time ARNA members and individuals new to ARNA engaging with folks from Ypsilanti and Eastern Michigan University as colleagues, collaborators, and co-conspirators grappling with the complicated questions and challenges we face as action and community-based researchers. We are asking for PAR conference proposals that embody this search for collective, emancipatory social change that actively engages those most affected by the problems and issues we are researching. We seek rich and varied proposals that position community members as co-researchers and deliver actionable findings exploring the praxis of PAR. We are interested in learning from perceptions of PAR in our broad community, in both Global North and Global South communities.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION AND DEADLINES

The Organizing Committee of the 2024 Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA) Conference in Ypsilanti, Michigan, is calling for abstract submissions. To present your research at the conference, your abstract will go through a double-blind peer review. A rubric is available on the ARNA 2024 website for you to know how your review is scored. Upon payment of registration fees, your attendance at the conference will be confirmed.

- You can submit your abstract on the ARNA website.
- Final Abstract Submission Deadline: **April 15, 2024**
- Results of abstract review returned to authors: **By May 1, 2024**
- Full conference registration fees are due for all presenters.

Where to Submit

[Please click here to submit your proposal through this Google Form](#)

TYPE OF SESSION PRESENTATIONS

All sessions will be 90 minutes in duration and include the following formats.

Round Table Paper Presentation Sessions

Offered ONLINE and IN-PERSON

- Between 3 and 5 paper presentations can be accommodated in each session.
- Each session will be translated and moderated by a discussant.

Panel Sessions

Offered ONLINE and IN-PERSON

- Each panel discussion can accommodate up to 5 people.
- A panel session is recommended for presentations based on research in progress or more general thematic discussions of work in one particular area or several, such as discussions of organizing community based participatory based research studies, publicizing community based participatory research, sustaining community based participatory research.

Workshop Sessions

Offered ONLINE and IN-PERSON

- Workshop sessions will include facilitators and participants.
- The workshop session facilitation focus is on interaction and learning.
- The proposal will outline learning outcomes, strategies for workshop engagement, and workshop capacity.

Art Installation

Offered ONLINE and IN-PERSON

- Similar to a poster presentation, we want to showcase an installation of PAR-related art
- We encourage creativity but hope for things like visual art that expresses an experience with action research or was used as data collection in the PAR process. Or a video of theatrical performance related to a PAR project. Or an audio file featuring music embodying findings from action research.
- Artists are also encouraged to perform or share in the workshop format, as well.

GENERAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

In the submission please specify if you would prefer to share your paper in a virtual round table paper individual presentation, panel, or workshop. We will take this into consideration during our review of the proposals for placement in the conference schedule. **All proposals** will be 300 to 500 words and should describe the overall aims/objectives of the session, followed by 100 word descriptions of each paper presentation.

- Sessions may be proposed independently or as a group. If the submission is a proposal from a group, then a contact member of the group needs to be identified.
- Proposals and sessions will be presented in English and/or Spanish
- A session organizer who is submitting but not presenting may act as chair and/or discussant.
- **Paper proposals** will follow this general format:

- Briefly outline the research and action aims of your work and the presentation;
- Explain what has been done to achieve the aims of the action and/or research (e.g., methodology, theoretical framework and methods) and the progress made (or goals you have set) towards research and action aims (e.g., findings, results, outputs, program changes, community action changes, events, or perspective changes)
- **Panel proposals** should first describe research in progress or more general thematic discussions of work in one particular area or several, such as discussions of organizing community based participatory based research studies, publicizing community based participatory research, sustaining community based participatory research. The proposal can then move on to discuss how the panel will be structured, identify any target participant group, and describe how the audience will be included for questions.
- **Workshop proposals** should describe the overall aims/objectives of the workshop; the structure of the workshop (including a general flow of activities); workshop capacity and the target participant group (ex. Community Based Organizations, New or Emerging Community Based Participatory Action Researchers, or Youth Participatory Action Researchers), if it is not targeting a general audience of action-researchers.
- **Art Installation proposals** should feature the piece of art (or theater, music, etc.) and describe how the piece originated as well as its tie to the action research process. Please include guidance on how you would like your submission displayed physically and virtually. We will try our best to meet those requests.

Please remember to use [the form to submit](#) and read [the rubric](#) that will be used to review your submission.

If you have questions, please reach out to conference co-chairs:

Rachel Radina (rradina@emich.edu)
Dane Stickney (dane.stickney@ucdenver.edu)

Thank you!