What is Good Action Research?

Our consensus on quality

- They were further developed in dialogue by the editorial board of the Action research Journal.
- Seven criteria are presented as questions to allow for evaluation.

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Are objectives relevant to the action research and the choices they have made in meeting those, explicit?
2 – Partnership and Participation

Are participative values and concern for the relational component of research clear?
Participation refers to a continuum: From consultation with stakeholders to stakeholders as full co-researchers, as appropriate to the work.
We all stand on the “shoulders of giants.” How does our work create explicit links with and/or contributions to a wider body of practice-knowledge in the action research domain?
How clearly are action research process and related methods articulated and illustrated? Accounts of practice need to “show” and not just “tell” about process and outcomes. For example, include the voices of participants! And cite all influences!
5 – Actionability

How much does our work provide ideas that guide action in response to stakeholder need?
To what extent is our self location as change agents acknowledged?
Which values are evident? Our work needs to be significant in content and process. By significant we mean having meaning and relevance beyond their immediate context in support of the flourishing of persons, communities, and the wider ecology.
IN SUMMARY

- Seven criteria can be used to evaluate action research.
- They derive from reflection on many examples of action research over decades.
- The criteria are actively used to evaluate papers during peer review in the Action Research journal. Authors really appreciate the transparency.
- In sum they show the dimensionality of our work which promises rigor and vigor.

Hilary Bradbury-Huang, Ph.D. is professor of organizational psychology at OHSU. She is founding editor of Action Research journal, the premier, peer reviewed journal for the community of action research. More information about the community is available at actionresearchplus.com.