

Editorial

This issue of the *International Journal of Action Research* (IJAR) follows a very challenging IJAR Symposium hosted by Orkestra, the Basque Institute of Competitiveness, at the University of Deusto, in San Sebastian (Spain). The first issue of 2020 already introduced the basic theme of the conference: bridging. Articles on action research and social movements, action research and universities and organisations opened the discussions which were followed in the conference with various others connections to be understood and developed. There will follow a special issue on action research, policies and politics, an issue of action research papers originated in the PhD seminar held as part of the symposium, and still a further issue on key concepts of action research. All this to say that action research is a dynamic field that is expanding in a diversity of directions, and takes roots in different social and political contexts.

In this issue, we are pleased to offer to our reader five inspiring papers. The first one, Norman Chivasa analyses the role of action research for village savings and loan associations in Zimbabwe. In his perspective, these institutions have become, especially in developing countries, one of the critical survival strategies amidst poverty and inequality, thus helping low income communities to make their savings, and to eke out a living. One of the comparative advantages of using action research, according to the author, is that it creates spaces for ordinary people to share their experiences, reflect, and come up with context-specific solutions, as they take responsibility for their financial wellbeing, thus helping to meet their socio-economic needs and aspirations. This is particularly relevant in the context of COVID-19, when social inequalities and poverty all over the world are tending to increase.

Ronaldo Akiyoshi Nagai and Alvair Silveira Torres Junior investigate if it is possible for restaurant owners and chefs to implement innovative processes and product development based on consolidated practices such as Lean Product and Process Development (LPPD). Moreover, if it is possible to identify similarities in the product development process of renowned chefs, like Michelin-starred chefs, and LPPD approaches. Their findings, based on a five step action research process carried out in São Paulo (Brazil), suggest that the Michelin chef's creational process is the closest and most adherent model for small to medium size scaled restaurants, with a high frequency of seasonal products launched during

a year, but with the prominent possibility to introduce good practices from the LPPD model.

The next article, by Corinne Butschi, Guillermina Chabrilion and Ingeborg Hedderich, is based on experiences with children in the international participatory research project called “Learning together, Living diversity”, which was carried out using the photovoice method to involve the children in the process as co-researchers. The authors put into writing the reflexive processing of the cross-border research experience of the two co-operation partners, from Argentina and Switzerland, who planned and organised the field work in two Argentinian kindergartens together. They highlight the challenges of carrying out research with participants from different language and cultural background. The paper presents an important contribution in two aspects: a) for planning and developing participatory action research at an international scale, and b) for considering children as stakeholders with their own voice in research.

Lise Billund and Poul Nørgård Dahl (Aalborg University, Denmark), present a new action research tradition: *Recognition-based Action Research*. This new tradition is based on a dialectic understanding of the connection between individual and society, where mutual recognition, both psychologically and sociologically, is seen as a condition of individual and collective development. This recognition perspective is rooted in the thoughts of philosopher Georg W. F. Hegel and links psychologist Anne-Lise Løvlie Schibbye's dialectic relationship theory with sociologist Axel Honneth's third generation critical theory (The Frankfurt School), even though neither Schibbye nor Honneth are action researchers. The authors analyse, based on examples from their research practices, the complexities of the double relationships in action research: between the researcher and the practitioners, and on the problems of the practitioners.

A report article from the 7th conference of the Action Research Network of the Americas, by Sandro de Castro Pitano, Rosa Noal and Cheron Zanini Moretti, brings to attention the relationship between politics and action research. Based on the assumption that there is no neutrality in research, how should action researchers deal with the undeniable political dimension of action research? The authors' present a systematisation of some key themes of the conference, among them, the commitment with the rupture: in relation to the traditional practices of research, the role and the social responsibility of the universities and the transforming character of participation, with emphasis in the effort for its repoliticisation and activism.

You are welcome to join us!

Danilo R. Streck
Editor-in-chief