
The 2019 ARNA organizing committee have chosen the theme of Repoliticizing P/AR. It is hoped that this will generate debate, discussion and deliberation on the future directions of P/AR in an era of neoliberal globalization characterized by social and political upheaval, and economic austerity.

While neoliberalism can be viewed as a primarily economic philosophy in which free markets are the centre-piece, implicit within it is also a system of governmentality whose locus is the individual consumer, rather than the citizen, as was the case in post-war social democracy. The transition from the politics of citizen rights to one where everyday life is organized through consumers and market relations has fundamentally decontextualized the discourse of participatory democracy. Unsurprisingly, the prevalent discourses of participation that define contemporary approaches to P/AR and participatory research are also being increasingly infiltrated and appropriated by neoliberal discourses and politics that has resulted in the commodification of increasing areas of everyday life that were formerly part of the public domain (education, healthcare, social services, environmental protection).

The 2019 conference will, therefore, continue discussion and debate initiated at the 2018 conference on Knowledge Mobilization for Equitable and Peaceful Social Progress by exploring questions connected to the democratization of knowledge production. It will also seek to provoke discussion and debate on doing P/AR in an era where research is
progressively being harnessed by governments and public institutions to imperatives defined by neoliberal and neoconservative policies and discourses. In particular, it will aim to explore forms of P/AR that contest, challenge and/or subvert this ideological drift apparent in recent decades.

Proposed **conference themes** for papers, workshops, panels and other formats for the 2019 conference will include the following:

- Action Research under Late Neoliberalism
- Activist Scholarship in the Neoliberal University
- Ethics, Responsibility and Action
- Activism in an Era of Big Data
- Youth Politics and Action Research
- Action Research and Practitioner Knowledges
- Critical Perspectives on Knowledge Mobilization
- Research as an Activist Tool
- Class Analysis and Action
- Labour Movements, Action Research and Activism
- Social Movements, Activism and Action Research
- LGBTQ, Action Research and Activism
- Indigenous Knowledges, Research and Action
- Healthy Communities and Action Research
- Critical Race/Feminist Perspectives on Research and Action
- Colonization, Contestation and Transformation
- Political Histories of P/AR under Global Capitalism
- Climate Change and Action Research
- Revisiting Critical and Eco Pedagogy
- Action Research and Education
- Pedagogies for Action and Transformation
- Action Research and the Work of NGOs
- Action Research in Communities
- Critical Perspectives on Action Research

Additional information on the 2019 Conference can be found at [www.arnawebsite.org/conferences/](http://www.arnawebsite.org/conferences/)

**ARNA Conference Organizing Committee 2019**

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