



Sioo School for Action Research

As announced earlier, the Sioo School for Action Research organizes

a one-day seminar on 1 March 2016
in The Colour Kitchen in Utrecht

Program

(Sessions with David Coghlan will be in English, all other sessions and conversations will be in Dutch.)

09.30 – 10.30	Opening session in plenary, facilitated by David Coghlan
10.30 – 12.30	First round of two parallel workshops *
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.30	Second round of two parallel workshops *
15.30 – 16.00	Break
16.00 – 18.00	Plenary session facilitated by Danielle Zandee: table discussions The table discussions will be organized around a few thoughtful questions, addressing key challenges in action research. This will allow us to share and deepen our insights from the workshops with David Coghlan and Hans Vermaak, as well as to reflect on our own action research projects.
18.00 – 18.15	Closing session, ideas and plans for future activities of the School for Action Research
18.15 – 19.30	Informal networking, dinner buffet

* Participants can choose to join in Hans Vermaak's workshop in the morning and work with David Coghlan in the afternoon, or the other way around.

Hans will focus on designing action research projects, considering the interplay between four contexts that are always at stake in his perspective on action research, while David will explore the challenges and possibilities that come with being an action researcher in your own organization.

Hans Vermaak:

Designing an Action Research project as interplay between four contexts

Hans will share his experience of a recent action research project. It relates to the intended transformation of the Dutch Youth Care that is decentralized to the municipal level. The research was done for and with the governors' collective of the Amsterdam Youth Care. In the first round of research, last fall, it was focused on the much needed cooperation between the care in schools and the care in neighborhoods. The research was recently published.

Design choices in this inquiry were made with the help of a model that Hans touched upon at the first masterclass of School for Action Research, in March 2015 in Barchem. In this model he regards action research as interplay of four contexts: adding practical value, improving institutions, developing professions and researching theory. Combining these multiple contexts can be both a source of innovation and of headaches. In tailoring one's research design there are several choices to make: focusing on certain boundary region(s), arranging support for this boundary work from another context, and sharing boundary roles with others.

Hans will present both the design considerations and the different outcomes of the study as a basis for discussion. This presentation will take less than half of the workshop. He is open to discuss both the content and process of his research, but would appreciate exploring the 'design language' to reflect on participants' choices in their own action research.

David Coghlan:

The challenges of doing action research in your own organization

The workshop will explore the phenomenon and challenge of doing action research in your own organization. By this is meant, taking a role with regard to a change or improvement initiative in the organization in which you are an insider, i.e. have a formal employment and organizational role, and where you seek to study that initiative as it is designed, implemented and evaluated.

Such an action-researcher role in the mode of insider action research involves key challenges. Engaging in face-to-face working with significant others to achieve the goals of the project involves working with what is familiar and perhaps unquestioned, holding and managing the researcher role with existing organizational roles and being politically alert and ethically authentic. At the same time you attend to your personal learning in and through the action of the project and seek to offer a contribution to knowledge outside of the immediate circle of the project.



Location

This study / network event will take place in The Colour Kitchen in Utrecht:
Prinses Christinalaan 1 (Zuilen), 3554 JL Utrecht.

<http://utrecht.thecolourkitchen.com/nl/contact-en-route>

Fee / registration

The fee for this event is EUR 269,--, including lunch and dinner buffet (no VAT).

For registration and/or questions please contact Wilfred Verweij: wilfredverweij@sioo.nl /
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