

## **Action and Interactive Research**



# Action and Interactive Research

Beyond Theory and Practice

Edited by

Lennart Svensson and Kurt Aagaard Nielsen

**SHAKER**  
PUBLISHING

© Copyright Shaker Publishing 2006

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

Printed in The Netherlands.

ISBN 10: 90-423-0289-5

ISBN 13: 978-90-423-0289-1

Shaker Publishing BV

St. Maartenslaan 26

6221 AX Maastricht

Tel.: 043-3500424

Fax: 043-3255090

[http:// www.shaker.nl](http://www.shaker.nl)

# Preface

This book is part of a long-term co-operation between the University of Roskilde in Denmark and the University of Linköping in Sweden in which a lot of researchers and doctoral students have been involved.

In 2004 a doctoral course was organised in Action Research with more than 20 participants from the Nordic countries. Some of the contributions in this book are based on the papers presented there.

Different organisations have supported the editorial work with this book – the University of Roskilde, the National Institute for Working Life, the University of Linköping (the Helix programme), and APeL (a R&D centre; see [www.apel.nu](http://www.apel.nu)).

We want to thank the authors for their co-operation in the editorial process. We also want to thank Andrew Crabtree (Roskilde University) for a patient cooperation bringing our texts into a proper English language, and Torbjörn Santérus for the editorial and lay-out work.

*Kurt Aagaard Nielsen and Lennart Svensson*

# Contents

List of illustrations • viii

Contributors • ix

## PART I

1. LENNART SVENSSON AND KURT AAGAARD NIELSEN  
Introduction and Background • 1
2. LENNART SVENSSON AND KURT AAGAARD NIELSEN  
Action Research and Interactive Research • 13
3. GUNNELA WESTLANDER  
Researcher Roles in Action Research • 45
4. KURT AAGAARD NIELSEN AND BIRGER STEEN NIELSEN  
Methodologies in Action Research • 63
5. LISE DREWES NIELSEN  
The Methods and Implication of Action Research • 89
6. EWA GUNNARSSON  
The Snake and the Apple in the Common Paradise • 117
7. THOMAS TYDÉN (ED.)  
The Organisation of Action Research in Nordic countries • 143
  - Denmark: Steen Elsborg • 145
  - Finland: Touimo Alasoini and Elise Ramstad • 158
  - Norway: Morten Levin • 170
  - Sweden: Thomas Tydén • 179
8. OLAV EIKELAND  
Validity *of* Action Research and Validity *in* Action Research • 193

## PART II

9. ANN-CHRISTINE LARSSON  
Interactive Research • 241
  10. MIA HUSTED AND DITTE TOFTENG  
The Common Third • 259
  11. EVA AMUNSDOTTER  
Interactive Research for Gender Equality in Workplaces • 277
  12. CHRISTOPHER KJAER  
On-line Courses Supporting Local Project Work • 297
  13. MARJA VEHVILÄINEN  
Situated Agency in Interactive Research • 317
  14. RONNY SANNERUD  
Methods for Developing the Construction Site as a  
Learning Space • 333
  15. JENS CHRISTIAN ELLE  
Other Futures are Possible • 353
  16. EVA SCHWENCKE \*  
Free Space in Action Research  
and in Project Oriented Traineeship • 371
  17. KURT AAGAARD NIELSEN AND LENNART SVENSSON  
How to Learn Action Research • 389
- INDEX • 399