

Participatory Action Research is a framework for creating knowledge that is rooted in the belief that those most impacted by research should take the lead in framing the questions, design, methods, analysis and determining what products and actions might be the most useful in effecting change.

Assumptions of PAR →	Commitments → Conditions for Collaboration-At best-PAR Collectives Agree:	Methods/Practices A Sampling PAR Methods & Practices:	Questions Worth Asking Throughout the PAR Process:
All people have valuable knowledge about their lives and experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To value knowledges that have been historically marginalized and delegitimized (ie, youth, prisoner, immigrant). · To value traditionally recognized knowledges (ie, scholarly). · To share across the various knowledges and resources within collective so members can participate as equally as possible. 	Qual/quantitative research methods trainings; Knowledge building sessions relevant to research from youth, elders, historians, statisticians, judges, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Who should be a part of the research collective? · Does the research necessitate same-only focus groups/research teams? Is there a need for purposefully diverse inclusion?
All people have the ability to develop strong critical analyses (of the world, data, social experiences, etc.).	To collaboratively decide appropriate questions, research design, methods and analysis as well as useful research products.	Develop concepts and theory from rounds of “rough drafts” of methods/analyses that the group creates and re-creates; Discussions of/and theory of change exercises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What needs to be in place within the collective to facilitate participation? · How do different collective members and allies to the research use the data in distinct ways?
All people have multiple identities, and carry important histories, connections and responsibilities to various communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To create a research space where individuals and the collective can express their multiplicity and use this multiplicity to inform research questions, designs and analyses. · To creative risk-taking in the interest of generating new knowledge; that individuals and the collective are “under construction” – that ideas, opinions are in formation, expected to grow, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Methods that allow for multiplicity: Surveys with scaling and answer strategies that are less likely to box people into restricted responses; Identity mapping; Focus groups; Graffiti museums. · Vary activities to allow members to excel in some and fumble in others to highlight within-group diversity and encourage risk-taking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · How does the research/project connect to ongoing struggles for social justice? · Who owns the data?
All people and institutions are embedded in complex social, cultural and political systems historically defined by power and privilege.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To interrogate and engage power relationships within the collaborative and throughout the research. · To excavate and explore disagreements and disjunctures rather than smooth them over in the interest of consensus (as they often provide insight into larger social/political dynamics at play in the research). · To strategically <i>work</i> the power within the group when necessary to benefit both individual and collective needs/agendas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Re-member that which has been excluded, forgotten (bodies, knowledge, histories of resistance, oppression). · Seek outlier data – the strange, transgressive “cases” to understand how margins are created and defined. · Surface counter stories – i.e. probe social injustice <i>and</i> resistance, damage <i>and</i> possibility, conditions/experiences of neglect <i>and</i> privilege. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In whose voice(s) will the work be written/performed/published? · How will both the coherence and rich difference of the collective be represented? · What is the purpose of the research? · Whom does the research want to reach, educate, provoke to action?
The production of knowledge is not objective, or value-free.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To think through consequences of research and actions. · To attend theoretically and practically to issues of power and vulnerability within the collective and created by the research. 	Create multiple research products; Seek audiences who will respect and engage research findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · How might research be used/misused? What warnings/cautions against misuse be inserted?
Social research is most valid using multiple/triangulated methods to help capture interconnected individual, social, institutional and cultural layers.	To use a variety of approaches best suited to address the questions being asked. (This requires strong awareness/honesty about what types of data/knowledge can and cannot be derived from certain methods.)	Surveys, Interviews, Focus groups, Archival data, Maps, Oral Histories, Photo-voice, Participant observation, Cross-site visits, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What other disciplines/discourses might be useful for communicating the data? · Who is made vulnerable by the research? · How can supports and protections be created for people sitting in institutions under scrutiny during/after the research?
Participation is not automatic.	To ongoing negotiation of conditions of collaboration; building research relationships over-time.	Think through project beginnings/endings and consider multiple (meaningful) ways of participating, entering and/or exiting the research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What is the audience being asked to do?
Change is an ongoing process.	To conceive of action on multiple levels over the course of the PAR project – some of which occur in one project, some of which link multiple projects over cross-sectional moments over time (past and future).	Scholarly/popular/youth articles; Presentations; Community feedback sessions; Symposiums, Performance/theatre; Data postcards; Campaigns; etc. Sometimes simply conducting research in a closed institution is subversive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What is necessary to shift collective responsibility into collective action? · Where does the collective want to incite change?