

# Getting Started with Action Research

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Welcome

# Agenda

- **What is Action Research?**
- **Action Researchers in action**
- **How Did Action Research Get Started?**
- **Varieties of Action Research**
- **Why should I Adopt Action Research?**
- **Doing Action Research**
- **Any Other Ideas?**

# What is Action Research?

- **Action and Research at the same time**
- **Practitioners are the researchers**
- **Aims to create change**
- **Guiding principles**

# Action Researchers in action

- We have a problem
- Let's think about it
- Coming up with an Action Plan
- Putting the Plan into action
- Observe the results
- Think some more ...

# How Did Action Research Get Started?

- Precise origins are unclear
- A theory of Action Research – Kurt Levin mid 1940s.
- Post WWII Curriculum Development movement
- Teacher-Researcher movement 1970s

<http://www.cchs.usyd.edu.au/arow/reader/rmasters.htm>

# The Action Research Spiral

**Kurt Lewin's best remembered contribution to Action Research.**

# Varieties of Action Research

- **Technical**
- **Practical**
- **Emancipatory**
- **A question of power**

<http://www.cchs.usyd.edu.au/arow/reader/rmasters.htm>



# Why Should I Adopt Action Research?

- **Control Over Teaching Situations**
- **Implement Changes Successfully**
- **Increased Ability to Innovate**
- **Building Collaboration and Team Skills**

# Doing Action Research

## Stages in an Action Research Project

- **Action Research Cycles**
- **Identify the Problem**
- **Involve the participants**

# Doing Action Research

## Stages in an Action Research Project

### **Cycle 1**

Plan

Act

Observe

Reflect

### **Cycle 2**

Plan

Act

Observe

Reflect

# Doing Action Research

## Some Techniques for Data Collection

- **Records**
- **Feedback from Students**
- **Diagnostic Devices**

# Any Other Ideas?

- Web resources  
Southern Cross University  
<http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/arhome.html>
- University of Sydney, Faculty of Health Sciences  
<http://www.cchs.usyd.edu.au/arow/>
- Hong Kong Action Learning Project  
<http://alp.polyu.edu.hk/>
- Queens University  
<http://educ.queensu.ca/~ar/>
- University of East Anglia  
<http://www.uea.ac.uk/care>

# End

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