



# St Mary's University Sobey School of Business

## Participative research for co-ops Introduction

**Ryszard Stocki**

WSB-National Louis University  
Poland  
May, 29<sup>th</sup> 2010

e-mail: [ryszard@stocki.org](mailto:ryszard@stocki.org)

We get deeper information about the nature of our realities when our prime concern is to develop practical skills which change these realities.

Co-operative Inquiry, p. 114

John Heron



Based on Heron (1996) *Co-operative Inquiry: Research into the Human Condition*

# Introduction to Co-operative inquiry

# Defining co-operative inquiry:

- *All* the subjects are as fully involved as possible as co-researchers in *all* research decisions - about both content and method - taken in the reflection process
- There is intentional interplay between reflection and making sense on the one hand, and experience and action on the other.
- There is explicit attention through appropriate procedures to the validity of the inquiry and its findings.

# Defining co-operative inquiry:

- All the subjects are as fully involved as ~~possible~~ <sup>they wish</sup> as co-researchers in *all* research decisions - about both content and method - taken in the reflection process
- There is intentional interplay between reflection and making sense on the one hand, and experience and action on the other.
- There is explicit attention through appropriate procedures to the validity of the inquiry and its findings.

# Defining features of co-operative inquiry - contd:

- There is a radical epistemology for a wide-ranging inquiry method that can be both informative about and transformative of any aspect of the human condition accessible to a transparent body-mind, that is, one that has an open, unbound awareness.
- There are as well as validity procedures a range of special skills suited to such all-purpose experiential inquiry.
- The full range of human sensibilities is available as an instrument of inquiry.

# Traditional quantitative research

---

	Researcher	Subject
Participation in decisions	Full	Nil
Participation in experience	Nil	Full

---

Participatory

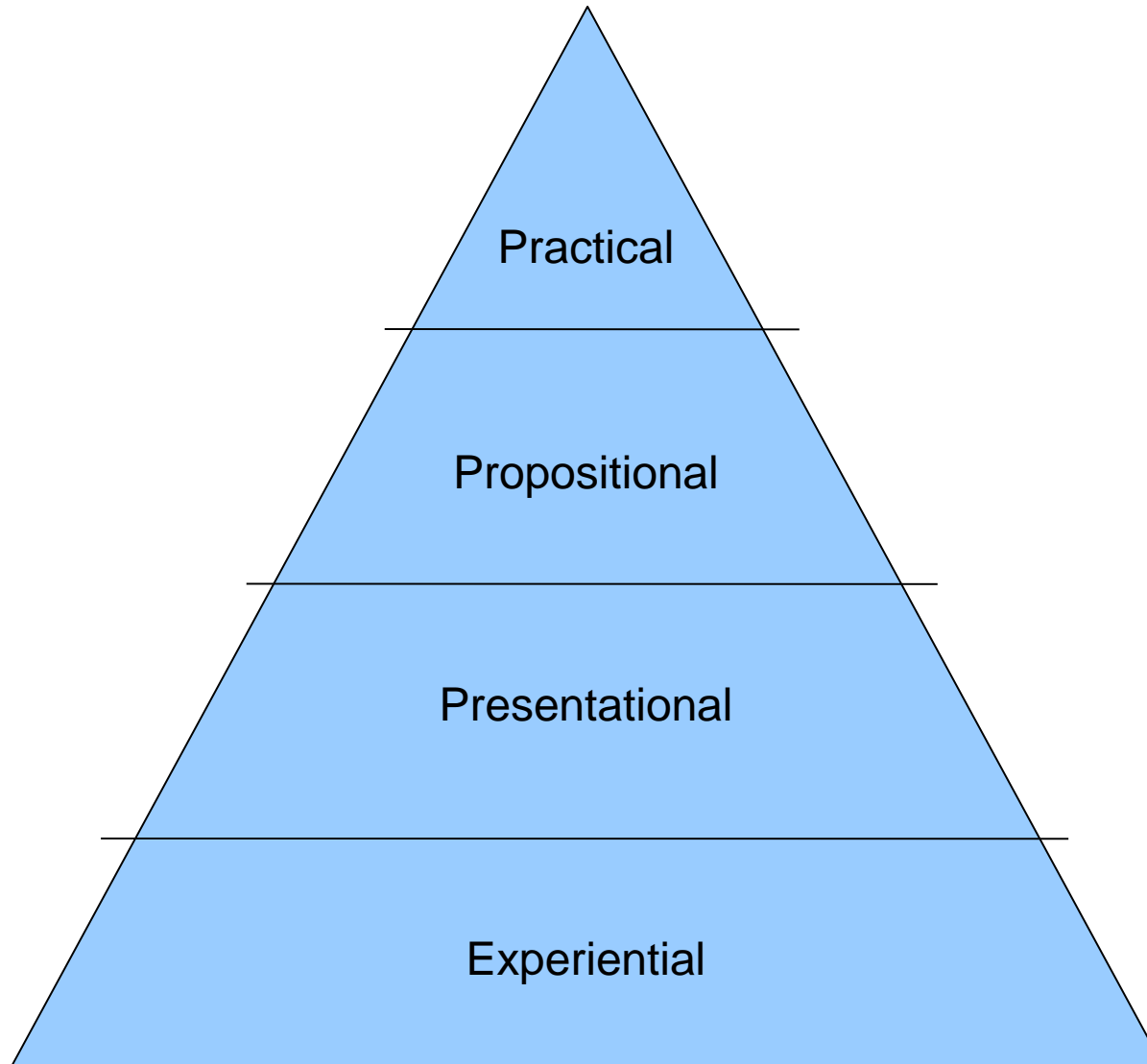
# ~~Traditional~~ quantitative research

---

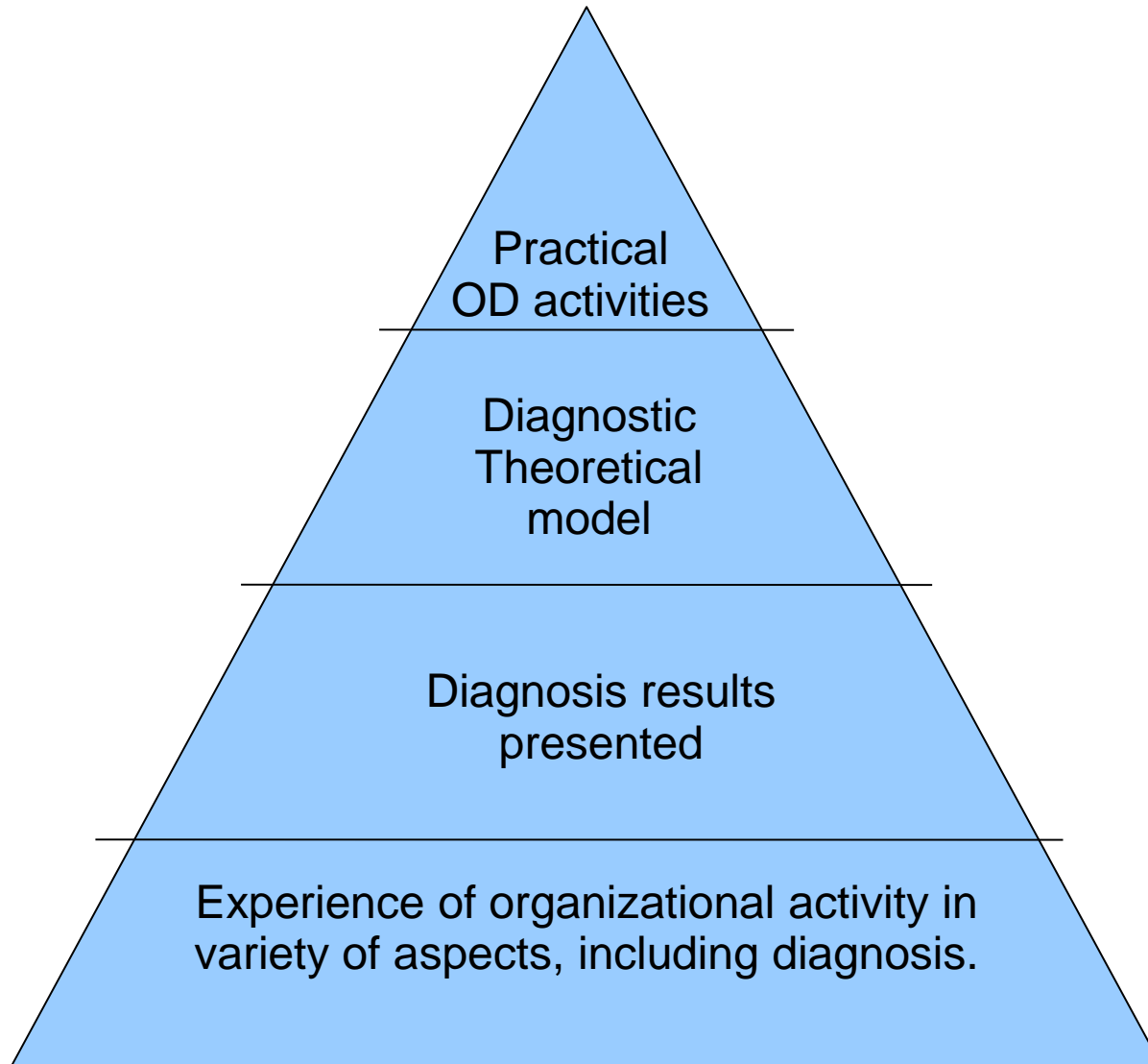
	Researcher	Subject
Participation in decisions	Full	<del>Nil</del> Partial
Participation in experience	<del>Nil</del> Partial	Full

---

# The forms of knowledge



# Knowledge forms related to Non-Profit Index



# Theoretical assumptions

- Organizational Maturity Model (normative approach)
- Total participation concept - all human beings are born to participate (eupsychian management).
- Organization development is a function of percentage of the well informed.
- Only the autonomous can be fully responsible.

# What we propose?

**Start with:** Co-operative work with a small group (ca 12 personson) on their co-op experience.

- Open boundary of the group
- Apollonian rather than Dionysian inquiry

**Then:** Preparation of quantitative co-op specific diagnostic tool.

- Quantitative, yet participative diagnosis
- Transformative rather than informative inquiry

**End in:** Supported by web platform(s) and licensed tools community of practice.



# Co-operative inquiry for Canadian co-ops

# Stages of a co-op group project

