

# Co-operative Inquiry: A Brief Overview

CURA Team Meeting

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# Purpose

- \* “Understand your world, make sense of your life and develop new and creative ways of looking at things; and
- \* Learn how to act to change things you may want to change and find out how to do things better.”
- \* Transformative rather than just informative

# 'With' Rather than 'On' People

- \* Replaces the traditional paradigm of researchers and subjects with that of co-researchers and co-subjects
- \* All contribute to the research
  - \* Define and manage inquiry
  - \* Participate in experience and action
  - \* Participate in reflection
  - \* Participate in validation
  - \* Co-report

# Cycles of Action/Reflection

- \* Co-determine research topic and method
- \* Become co-researchers and engage in agreed actions
- \* Become immersed in area - a open to surprises, disorientation, new perspectives
- \* Together reflect both in presentational and propositional forms on the original inquiry and look at unexpected insights that will influence next cycle of reflection and action

# Four Ways of Knowing

- \* Experiential
  - \* Direct, immediacy of perceiving, empathy, resonance
- \* Presentational
  - \* Expressive forms or imagery – dance, drama etc.
- \* Propositional
  - \* Ideas, theories, informative statements
- \* Practical
  - \* Know how - competence

# Inquiry Skills

- \* Being present and open
- \* Bracketing and reframing
- \* Radical practice and congruence
- \* Non-attachment and meta-intentionality
- \* Emotional competence

# Validation

- \* Research cycling
- \* Divergence and convergence
- \* Authentic collaboration
- \* Challenging consensus collusion
- \* Managing distress
- \* Reflection and action
- \* Chaos and order

# Initiating an Co-op Inquiry

- \* Groups development
  - \* Cognitive and methodological empowerment
    - \* Co-op develop and commit
  - \* Political empowerment
    - \* Participate decision making and authentic collaboration
  - \* Emotional and interpersonal empowerment
    - \* Safe environment – open to range of emotions and perspectives, delight in the process and one another

# Source

The Practice of Co-operative Inquiry: Research 'with' rather than 'on' people

- \* John Heron and Peter Reason
- \* <http://www.human-inquiry.com/ciacadem.htm>