

Training in Participatory Learning & Action (PLA) Research

Are you interested in planning or doing participatory research with vulnerable groups? This 4-day outreach training may be ideal for you.

What is PLA?

PLA is an approach to research in communities that emphasizes participation, learning and action. Essentially, PLA is research with people, never on people. Since the 1990's, this rigorous research approach has developed across many countries and in many cultural contexts, mirroring the global shift away from top-down approaches and towards genuine bottom-up involvement of local people in research activities. PLA's innovative methodology enables all voices, especially the least powerful, to be heard. PLA techniques (mapping, ranking, brainstorming, time-lines) are practical, visual and accessible to literate and non-literate alike. This makes PLA a powerful tool that enables many 'easy-to-ignore' groups to contribute with ease to research. PLA encourages people to learn, work and act in a co-operative manner to achieve agreed goals and to generate positive change. PLA is currently used worldwide by communities and researchers and can be



applied to almost any topic, in any cultural context, with any type of group. This type of participatory research is recommended by the World Health Organisation for engaging vulnerable groups in research. It is also consistent with the core policy of Pharos, the centre of expertise on health disparities, and of the Chair on Health Disparities and Person-centred Integrated Primary Care, Department of Primary and Community Care, Radboud University Medical Centre, who are endorsing and facilitating this training.

4-Day PLA Training - content and process

PLA training employs:

- a people-centred, interactive learning process
- user-friendly language
- group learning methods (demonstrations, practice sessions, discussions, feedback)

Fee: € 1.450,- Includes all tuition, training practice materials, lunch. You can apply until February 14th 2019. A maximum of 20 participants can be accepted for the Utrecht training.

Participants will

- learn about the principles and pragmatics of PLA research
- gain a range of core practical PLA research techniques they can immediately use in their own work
- receive step-by-step guidance in how to apply PLA techniques and how to plan a PLA 'sequence' of techniques for research purposes
- gain insight into planning and engaging in PLA with vulnerable, 'easy-to-ignore' or 'hard-to-reach' groups.



2019 The Netherlands: 4-day outreach PLA training from The Centre for Participatory Strategies (CPS)

Established in Ireland in 2002, CPS specialises in Participatory Learning & Action (PLA) research training workshops. The co-founders of the Centre, Dr. Tomas de Brún and Dr. Mary O'Reilly-de Brún, are cultural anthropologists with 30 years' international experience in PLA research; they have delivered innovative PLA training programmes across Africa, U.S.A. and Europe. The first four-day outreach PLA training for The Netherlands will take place in Utrecht, 2019.

Dates

February 21st & 22nd and April 11th & 12th 2019
(Thursday & Friday)

The training is open to:

- non-professional and professional researchers
- project co-ordinators, project members, community-based researchers and peer researchers
- all who are planning or engaging in research with vulnerable, 'easy-to-ignore' and 'hard-to-reach' groups (e.g., migrants, ethnic minorities, persons with financial debts, persons with literacy challenges, etc.)
- persons who wish to commission or facilitate a PLA approach to research in communities.



Please note:

- No previous research experience or knowledge of participatory methods is required for participation.
- The language of instruction is English.
- Articles and documentation are provided in English.



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