Research and Social Transformation: Notes about Method and Methodology in Participatory Research

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This text is a contribution to methodological reflection on research, based on the experience of a research team who explored various aspects of the participatory budget in the State of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil). It is situated within the context of participatory research, and deals with the following topics: method and methodology: the insertion of research and education within the same process of knowing; research and its ethical and political commitment; research as public action directed towards the constitution of the public sphere. The intense interaction in the research process, attending to the assemblies of the participatory budget in various municipalities, being present at council meetings, talking to communities and community leaders as well as participating in academic circles, contributed to understanding research as integrated within the movement of knowledge, values, cultures, worldviews, and above all, people towards the achievement of their goals.

Key words: participatory research, socio-political commitment, method, public

Introduction

Whoever engages in research knows that at some time, and in a variety of ways, he or she will have to compose the corpus of the data from which to extract or reconstruct the meanings which will roughly correspond to the re-