

# Action Research – Applied Research, Intervention Research, Collaborative Research, Practitioner Research, or Praxis Research?

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This article relates common ways of conceptualising action research as “intervention”, “collaboration”, “interactive research”, “applied research”, and “practitioner research” to a number of different ways of knowing, extracted from the works of Aristotle. The purpose is not to disavow any of these practices but to expand the philosophical, methodological, and theoretical horizon to contain the Aristotelian concept of praxis. It is claimed that praxis knowing needs to be comprehended in order to realize the full, radical potential in action research providing real “added value” in relation to more conventional social research approaches. Praxis knowing radically challenges the divisions of labour between knower-researchers and the known-researched. Thereby it also challenges both the epistemologies and institutionalisations dominating both conventional research and conventional ways of conceptualising action research.

**Key words:** action research, collaborative research, intervention research, practitioner research, *praxis*, ways of knowing

In this article I will address different ways of conceptualising action research according to how it seems to relate to its field or subject of study. Different conceptualisations do not necessarily imply radically different or incompatible practices. But despite practical similarities between action research schools and individual researchers, conceptualisations differ, creating some-