

What Knowledge – Which relationships? Sharing Dilemmas of an Action Research^{*}

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Taking as points of departure two concrete research projects carried out in Denmark, the article discusses some of the dilemmas faced by the action researcher while she takes turns with ideas of collaboration and community, both in relation to knowledge production, and in relation to the creation of research relations. It argues that an unfolding of a first person perspective can inspire deconstruction of constraining meaning-making processes and motivate critical dialogue about conditions for social change. It also suggests that sharing the dilemmas of the researcher with other participants can additionally open alternative tracks for understanding relations in collaborative research.

Key words: knowledge production, action research relations, subject positions, first person perspectives, theory-building

Introduction

Within action research you find a number of central ideas about cooperative inquiry,¹ promoting for example collaborative project formulation, collaborative knowledge production, joint ownership and equality in the relation between researchers and practitioners (Bradbury/Reason 2001; McNiff 2002;

^{*} We understand a dilemma as a state of uncertainty or perplexity.

¹ Co-operative inquiry is a concept of Heron/Reasons (2001: chapter 16).