

What Will I Do? Toward an Existential Ethics for First Person Action Research Practice

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How first person practice engages with the process of valuing has not received much attention in action research. This article takes the question, ‘what will I do?’ as the foundation for first person ethical inquiry. It explores the process of how we are able to experience, to understand and to make value judgements about what is ‘worthwhile’ or ‘truly good’, and so to make choices and to take action. The article marks a move away from a focus on ethics as a set of coherent concepts and definitions, to a focus on interiority where ethics are considered in terms of appropriating the activities of valuing, a move from a system based on logic to a system grounded in method, from ethics imposed from outside to personal authenticity

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Within the general discussion of ethics in action research theory and practice, exploring how first person practice engages with the process of valuing leading to decision and action has not received much attention. In taking the question, ‘what will I do?’ as the foundation for first person inquiry/practice, this article explores how action researchers may engage with the process of making value judgements as to what is worthwhile that lead to action. While asking questions is natural and spontaneous, it is a conscious activity that is not given much focus. The usual focus for attention is the question we are asking rather than the process of questioning. What is involved in questioning