A community learning offering by the OASES Graduate School | with resourcing support from the Action Research Issues Association Incorporated | and Action Research Centre 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn

Here is an action research course which will offer you an opportunity to develop and deepen your understanding of this popular form of practice-based inquiry – its philosophy, history, theory, concepts, design, facilitation and practice – conducted in the enjoyable, stress-free, co-learning conditions that characterise the OASES Graduate School.

Action research is a major new discipline for purposeful social change. After growing steadily for more than 80 years, it has recently ‘taken off’, both in Australia and internationally – in business, management, higher education, industry, information technology, hospitals, health, welfare, community and human services, schools and community development. It is also gaining increasing popularity and recognition for its applications in fields as broad as organisational learning, evaluation, cultural and needs analysis, urban and rural planning, architecture, planning, design, capacity-building and citizenship, agricultural extension, renewing the strengths of indigenous and excluded communities, re-envisioning the economy, pursuing environmental sustainability and working with the contradictions in developing countries. Many traditional university social science courses are also seeking to incorporate action research, as the demand for formal knowledge of this leading-edge research methodology increases in many workplace and industry settings.

The course will also present a new deep theory of action research – one that brings together the contemporary fields of complex systems thinking, ecobiology and the new physics, integral psychology, and sociology – conceptualising action research as a meta-epistemology of human inquiry (Wadsworth 2008a, 2008b, 2010*).

This new thinking has been described as ‘unquestionably original and in major ways innovative’ (Professor Raewyn Connell, Education, University of Sydney) – ‘Sound and persuasive, insightful, important and inviting’ (Michael Quinn Patton, evaluator USA) – and ‘highly original... an ambitious integration of concepts. Credible and useful. Grounded in pioneering empirical research’ (Danny Burns Professor of Organisational Learning, UK) Source: LivingSystemsResearch.com

It promises an exciting leading-edge ‘ideas stretch’ that identifies inquiry as the dynamic of all living systems and able to be applied at any scale: from the individual ‘organism’, to pairs, small groups, communities, services, organisations, societal level, nation states and even globally. You will be able to use this framework to analyse how and why change does and does not take place, how systemic frustrations develop, and how to use action inquiry to more effectively drive the kinds of ethical changes and their stabilising you are seeking. Useful exemplars will be explored.

* Key resources on human inquiry for living systems included in course cost
This mastery class is with internationally-known action researcher, facilitator, theorist and author, Yoland Wadsworth and specialist associates (selected in response to enrolments and small groups e.g. from schools, health promotion, community development, management, local government, etc.)

Yoland is author of Australia’s most popular best-selling research and evaluation books Do It Yourself Social Research and Everyday Evaluation on the Run (both in 3rd editions 2011 Allen & Unwin). She is an experienced workshop and consultancy provider, working at the forefront of developments designed to better serve, assist and resource those seeking fuller lives, better services and a move away from all forms of epistemic and other injustice.

The innovative design of the course aims to address difficulties experienced with many one-off workshops, by featuring pre and post-class co-learning consultancy sessions on-site (site of your choosing: work or home, individual or small group) – as well as two blocks of class time input and group work together – strategically separated by time to enable reflection and application.

For those only seeking at this stage an introductory exposure to this deeper way of understanding action research, without specific focus on its advanced applications in practice onsite, there is also a very short version of the course as a single block of class time.

Dates: Early-mid July 2013 Initial individual (or co-located small group) on-site/homesite 2-hour co-learning consultancy meeting, plus 2 hours of reading preparation

First whole group gathering for presentation, responses and discussion:
DAY 1 – Friday 19 July all day
DAY 2 – Saturday 20 July afternoon

Two weeks later:
Second whole group gathering for presentations, responses and discussion:
DAY 3 – Friday 2 August all day
DAY 4 – Saturday 3 August afternoon

Mid-to late August 2013 Final individual (or co-located small group) on-site/homesite 2-hour co-learning consultancy meeting, plus 2 hours of reading follow-up

Cost: Short course – All components includes pre and post onsite consultancy at one-quarter of normal cost, plus Days 1-2 and DAYS 3-4. The required readings are included in cost = $1600/$980 A Certificate of Participation will be provided.
Or Very short course 1.5 days Days 1-2 on 19th and 20th July only, readings included = $800/$480

To register email: info@oases.edu.au For more details or to discuss the individual or small group on-site co-learning consultancy, email LivingSystemsResearch@gmail.com
Closing date for registration: 8 July 2013

For more on other OASES courses, philosophy, policies see: http://oases.edu.au/ | OASES Graduate School, Community Learning and Research Centre | 2 Minona St | Hawthorn, VIC 3122, Australia |