

# ALARA 2024 Conference

**ACTION LEARNING AND ACTION  
RESEARCH FOR TRANSFORMATIONS**

UTS, SYDNEY, 7-8 NOVEMBER



Participatory and transformative *Action Learning and Action Research* within, across and beyond disciplinary boundaries and sectors, including *Health; Education; Community development; Sustainability; International development; Arts; Business and organisations; Activism; Systems.*

# Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the ALARA 2024 Conference, a unique gathering dedicated to exploring the transformative power of Action Learning and Action Research across disciplines and sectors. This year's conference, hosted at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), offers a dynamic platform for both face-to-face and virtual participation, ensuring that we can come together from all corners of the world to share knowledge, engage in meaningful discussions, and foster lasting collaborations.

The theme of this year's conference—"Action Learning and Action Research for Transformations"—encourages us to reflect on the participatory and transformative nature of our work within diverse fields, including Health, Education, Community Development, Sustainability, Business, the Arts, Activism, and beyond. The interactive nature of our conference will provide ample opportunities to not only present papers but also participate in workshops, poster sessions, and artistic displays, all of which aim to elevate audience engagement and inspire actionable change.

We look forward to the innovative ideas, inspiring discussions, and collaborative efforts that will emerge from our shared commitment to participative practice and research. This is a space where boundaries are blurred, where new ideas are born, and where collective action can lead to real-world transformations.

## Keynote



Ernie Stringer

After an early career as a primary teacher and school principal, Ernie was a lecturer in education at Curtin University of Technology, in Western Australia. From the mid-1980s, based at Curtin's Centre for Aboriginal Studies, he worked collaboratively with Aboriginal staff and community people to develop a wide variety of innovative and highly successful education and community development programs and services. His work with government departments, community-based agencies, business corporations, and local governments assisted them to work more effectively with Aboriginal people. In recent years, as visiting professor at the University of New Mexico and Texas A&M University and as visiting scholar at Cornell University, he taught research methods courses and/or engaged in projects with African American and Hispanic community and neighborhood groups. As a UNICEF consultant, he recently engaged in a major project to increase parent participation in schools in East Timor. He is author of *Action Research* (Sage, 2007), *Action Research in Education* (Pearson, 2008), *Action Research in Health* (with Bill Genat; Pearson, 2004), and *Action Research in Human Services* (with Rosalie Dwyer; Pearson, 2005). Until recently, he was a member of the editorial board of the *Action Research Journal* and past president of the Action Learning, Action Research Association (ALARA).

## Special International Presentation

Lesley Wood is an internationally recognised scholar in Higher Education, Community-based Research, Postgraduate and Staff Development. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Moravian University, USA and has been inducted into the elite Academy of Community-engaged Scholarship (ACES) as well as the Academy of Science, South Africa (ASSAf). She has held Adjunct Professor appointments at Edge Hill University, UK and Griffith University, Australia and is currently a Research Associate at Nelson Mandela University, South Africa.

Lesley is a full professor and founder Director of the Community-based Educational Research (COMBER) entity at North-West University, South Africa. She has a transdisciplinary background with a Master's degree in Health and Welfare Management and a doctorate in Education, both from the University of Port Elizabeth. She has extensive experience in supporting postgraduate students and academic staff in article writing, theses writing, and grant applications. She has strengths in critical, reflective methodologies and practices and participatory approaches to research. As Director of COMBER, she displayed excellent leadership and mentoring skills. She is regularly invited to present workshops both at home and abroad on various aspects relating to research, teaching and capacity-development in Higher Education.



Lesley Wood

## Parking



## Wireless Access

1. In your device's Wi-Fi settings, connect to 'UTS-Guest' and wait for the captive portal to appear.
2. Scroll down to 'Attending a Conference or event? click here'.
3. Click on the hyperlink and input access code **ALARA2024**
4. Check the terms of use and click log in.

# ALARA 2024 Conference

TIME	ROOM 1: 10.4.460 HTTPS://ZOOM.UTS.EDU.AU/J/87276923367	ROOM 2: 10.4.430 HTTPS://ZOOM.UTS.EDU.AU/J/84259145624	ROOM 3: 10.4.440 HTTPS://UTSMEET.ZOOM.US/J/83455543629
09:00-09:30	OPENING AND WELCOME (ROOM 1)		
09:30-11:00	AR WORKSHOP PLENARY (ROOM 1) <b>STRINGER</b>		
11:00-11:30	MORNING TEA		
11:30-13:00	SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH POSITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ACTION LEARNING FRAMEWORKS <b>WOOD ET AL.</b>	PRACTICAL USE OF VARIETY DYNAMICS TO CHANGE OWNERSHIP OF POWER AND CONTROL IN COMPLEX POWER SITUATIONS <b>LOVE &amp; COOPER</b>	TBA
13:00-13:30	LUNCH		
13:30-14:00	OPTIONAL SESSION: DEVELOPING AREOL INTO A MOOC – INVITATION TO A THINK TANK <b>HARVEY ET AL.</b>	LUNCH	
14:00-14:30			ACTION LEARNING AND IMPLEMENTATION IN PRACTICE: WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE PROGRESS <b>MOLINEUX</b>
14:30-15:00	THE PRACTICE OF REFLECTION FOR, AND IN, ACTION RESEARCH <b>HARVEY ET AL.</b>	DISCERNMENT IN ACTION: TRANSDISCIPLINARY GENERALISM AS A CRAFT TO ENVISION AND ACT FOR WHOLE PERSON AND PLANET WELLBEING <b>LYNCH &amp; ROSETONE</b>	THE POLITICS OF ACTION INQUIRY(RESEARCH): A STORYTELLING INQUIRY <b>HILL &amp; RIXON</b>
15:00-15:30			EXPLORING THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A TELEMONITORING PROGRAM FOR DIABETES PATIENTS IN A VICTORIAN HEALTH SERVICES NETWORK IN AUSTRALIA USING ACTION RESEARCH <b>NAIR &amp; JURMAN (ONLINE)</b>
15:30-16:00	BREAK		
16:00-16:30	ACTION RESEARCH IN SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOMS: IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF COMMUNICATION <b>HADELAN ET AL. (ONLINE)</b>	TBA	NEED ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS IN DEVELOPING CRITICAL READING MATERIAL BASED ON AUGMENTED REALITY <b>YULIANAWATI ET AL</b>
16:30-17:00	LEARNING THAT MATTERS: A NEW PEDAGOGY FOR BUSINESS SCHOOLS FACING GRAND CHALLENGES <b>HARAKE &amp; VIOLA (ONLINE)</b>	TBA	COLLABORATIVE ACTION RESEARCH BY LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS: TRANSFORMING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE WELL-BEING SOCIETY <b>KUSAGO (ONLINE)</b>
17:00-17:30	ALARA AGM (ROOM 1)		

## Day One

# ALARA 2024 Conference

TIME	ROOM 1: 10.4.460 <a href="https://zoom.uts.edu.au/j/84622995562">HTTPS://ZOOM.UTS.EDU.AU/J/84622995562</a>	ROOM 2: 10.4.430 <a href="https://zoom.uts.edu.au/j/81449948001">HTTPS://ZOOM.UTS.EDU.AU/J/81449948001</a>	ROOM 3: 10.4.440 <a href="https://utsmeet.zoom.us/j/81690267395">HTTPS://UTSMEET.ZOOM.US/J/81690267395</a>
09:00-09:30	REFLECTION - THREE GROUPS (ONE PER ROOM)		
09:30-10:00	"LIKE A KEY AND LOCK": PRESCHOOL TEACHERS' GROWTH THROUGH ACTION RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT <b>VELDSMAN</b>	ACTION LEARNING: POWER AND CONTROL IN REAL WORLD HYPER-COMPLEX SYSTEMS SITUATIONS <b>LOVE &amp; COOPER</b>	INTEGRATING CREATIVE METHODS INTO PRACTICE-BASED ACTION RESEARCH: USING SONGS, SONGWRITING, POETRY AND IMAGES TO ENHANCE DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION <b>TALMAGE (ONLINE)</b>
10:00-10:30	IT TAKES A VILLAGE: DEVELOPING ACTION RESEARCHERS THROUGH A TRANSDISCIPLINARY PEER-MENTORING COLLABORATIVE <b>HEGGART ET AL.</b>	A PAR APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMPETENCIES AND SYSTEMS THINKING IN PRESERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION <b>HAY ET AL.</b>	ENHANCING NURSE EDUCATION TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF QUALITY CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS TRANSGENDER <b>MORISON (ONLINE)</b>
10:30-11:00	LEARNING ABOUT LEARNING: ME AND MY STUDENTS <b>HANNA</b>	A CONTEXTUALLY ADAPTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE DATA INNOVATION USING ACTION RESEARCH <b>SANTOS ET AL.</b>	UPDATE ON THE AH HA PROJECT - WHEN YOU FEEL YOU ARE GETTING LOST GO BACK TO YOUR PARTICIPANTS <b>ORR ET AL. (ONLINE)</b>
11:00-11:30	MORNING TEA		
11:30-13:00	USING DIALOGUE TO CONDUCT ACTION RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION <b>LEWIS &amp; SHANKARAN</b>	ADDRESSING CHALLENGES FACED BY SYSTEMS THINKING STUDENTS IN IMPLEMENTING THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN THEIR EVERYDAY ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES <b>MCKENZIE &amp; GOIRAND</b>	BUILDING CAPACITY FOR COLLABORATION IN ACTION RESEARCH: USING THE 6ES OF DISTRIBUTED LEAD(ER)SHIP <b>JONES &amp; HARVEY</b>
13:00-14:00	LUNCH		
14:00-14:30			DEVELOPING A HIGH-PERFORMANCE VIRTUAL TEAM: AN ACTION RESEARCH STUDY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND <b>DAL CENGIO ET AL.</b>
14:30-15:00	(RE)PRESENTING COMPLEXITY: THE USE OF ARTS-BASED METHODS IN PLACE-BASED SYSTEMS CHANGE INITIATIVES <b>RILEY</b>	A PARTICIPATIVE WORKSHOP USING SOFT SYSTEMS METHODOLOGY <b>MOLINEUX</b>	SISTERHOOD TAKES WOMEN'S ULTRA-SMALL BUSINESSES IN BURKINA FASO ONE STEP AHEAD: DOCUMENTARY-BASED WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS SKILL DEVELOPMENT <b>MORISHIGE ET AL.</b>
15:00-15:30			PARTICIPATORY ACTION LEARNING AND ACTION RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE LEARNING IN A HIGHER EDUCATION CONTEXT <b>MAHADEW (ONLINE)</b>
15:30-16:00	BREAK		
16:00-16:30	REFLECTION AND FEEDBACK -PLENARY (ROOM 1)		

## Day Two

# Campus information

The UTS campus is located at the southern gateway to Sydney's Central Business District. You'll find our main faculty and administrative buildings clustered within three adjacent yet distinct locations.

**Broadway:** The heart of the campus, this is the location of faculty buildings for Science, Health, Arts and Social Sciences, Engineering and IT, and Design, Architecture and Building. Our neighbours in this growing education, digital and creative hub include the ABC and the Central Park complex, home to the world's tallest vertical garden, while Central Station is just a five-minute walk. If you need a landmark, it would be the 120m-high 'Brutalist' UTS Tower with its UTS 'sky signage' that lights up the night sky. Our 'open campus' means our inner hub is open to anyone who'd like to visit.



# Getting around

The UTS campus is located within Sydney's growing education, innovation and creative hub at the southern gateway to Sydney's central business district.

Our vibrant campus is next door to Central Station and part of a precinct that's home to the ABC, the Powerhouse Museum, TAFE Ultimo, the International Convention Centre (ICC), Darling Harbour and Chinatown.

Our campus design reflects our commitment to future-focused learning, high-impact research, and effective partnerships with industry and community.



# Staying safe

UTS Security is on campus 24/7 each day of the year and offers a range of services that keep students and staff safe.

In an emergency  
On-campus security  
Dial 6 from a campus phone or 1800 249 559 from any phone.  
Off-campus assistance  
Dial 000 for Police/Ambulance/Fire Brigade



# Notes



## What's on?

There is always a lot going on in Sydney. If you use the QR Code beside this paragraph, you will be taken to a website with lots of information for things you might be interested in.



## Parking

Use the QR Code for more information about parking at UTS.

