

It takes a village:
developing action
researchers through a
transdisciplinary peer-
mentoring collaborative

Susanne Pratt
Keith Heggart
Pernille Christensen
Shankar Sankaran



Problems with current models of PhD supervision

- Lack of Multiple Perspectives
- Supervisory Burden
- Emotional and Professional Isolation
- Mismatch with Real-World Careers
- Limited Skill Development
- Failure to Address Industry Needs
- Lack of Formal Training for Supervisors
- Inconsistent Feedback and Support



Is Action Research a solution: institutional reluctance?

- Too contextual
- Too involved
- Too time-consuming and complex
- Too unethical
- Too hard

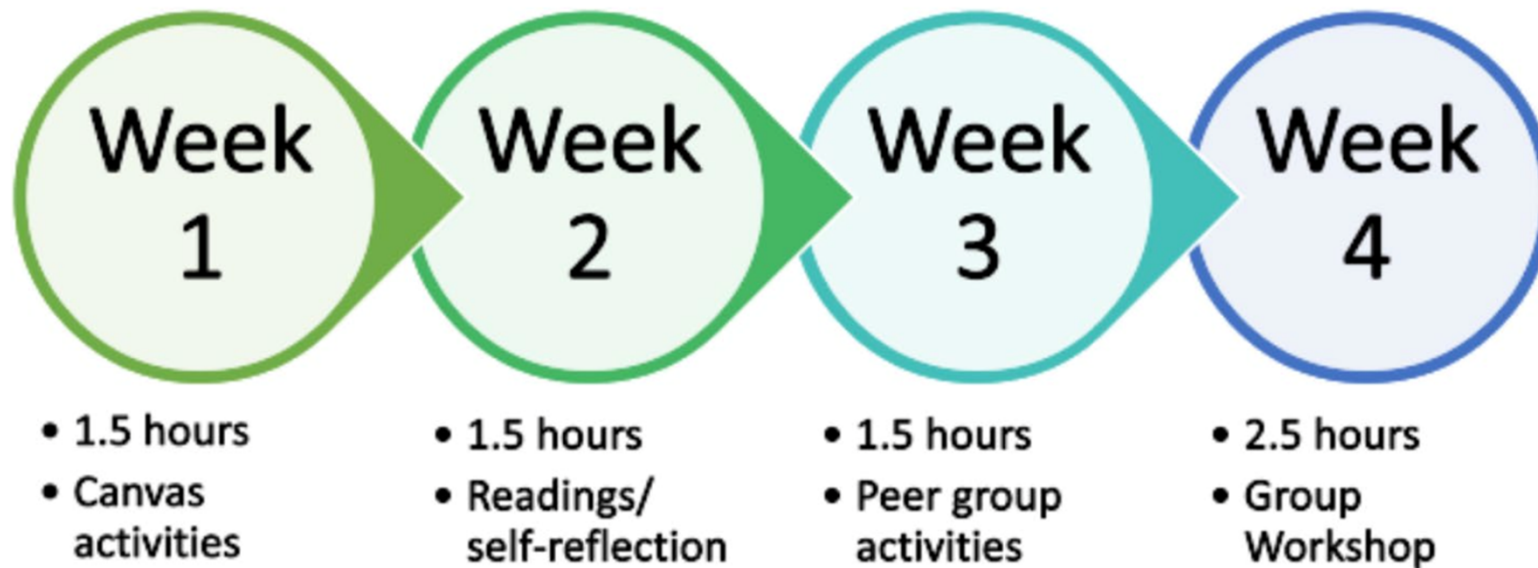


Is Action Research a solution: beyond academia?

- Widely used in education, healthcare, community development, social services
- Emphasises localized solutions to complex problems
- Empowers practitioners to work alongside communities and organisations
- Iterative real time engagement



The PAR Collaborative




Participant Feedback

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Participation in the PAR Collaborative has helped you develop as a researcher	3	2	0	0	0
Participation in the PAR Collaborative has been of benefit to you personally	3	1	1	0	0
Participation in the PAR Collaborative has been of benefit to you professionally	3	1	1	0	0
I feel connected to other research students, researchers, and to the University	2	2	1	0	0
I feel integrated in a broader research culture	3	1	1	0	0



What was valuable?

“The smaller group catch ups were really helpful to bounce ideas around and see how other people are undertaking their research. Being able to talk with people earlier in their journey and later in the process really helped contextualise what was important and what wasn't, and how some parts of the Action Research process could be framed.”






What was less
valuable?

“Developing the social bonds in the groups might also help with the longevity of the groups in the workshop programme.”



Highlights

“The mix of peer learning, meeting real life practitioners and mentors as well as the open discussions in the workshops was a fantastic experience for me. The social bonds that were established with my peer learning group have been maintained after the workshops which really helped me with my confidence in my study that was difficult for me to get in my face”





Implications
for Future HDR
Training Models