

# Resources for Participatory Action Research

Centre for Social Justice and Community Action, Durham University, UK

## Our approach

The Centre for Social Justice and Community Action (CSJCA) focuses on research that involves university and community partners working together for socially just change. Topics we have worked on include: asylum seekers' rights; financial inclusion; racism; community-led heritage and environmental development. We specialise in participatory action research (PAR). In PAR, people who have first-hand experience of the issues being studied play a role in some or all aspects of the process of planning, doing and publicising the research, and putting the findings into practice.



## Resources

We offer training, events and a matching service for community and Durham University partners through our Participatory Research Hub. We also have a growing collection of web-based resources.



### 1. Approaches to doing research together

[www.durham.ac.uk/beacon/socialjustice/toolkits](http://www.durham.ac.uk/beacon/socialjustice/toolkits)

#### What is doing research together? (2013)

- an EasyRead introduction to community-based participatory research, written in plain language, with pictures. Also available in Welsh.

**Participatory action research toolkit: an introduction to using PAR as an approach to learning, research and action (2012)** – a step-by-step guide to doing a PAR project.

**Co-inquiry toolkit. Community-university participatory research partnerships: co-inquiry and related approaches (2011)** – an introduction to the co-inquiry approach, involving groups of people working together to study a topic of common concern.

**Community toolkit. A guide to working with universities (2012)** – guidance for community organisations undertaking research with universities, written by community partners.

**Research in transition: Developing guidelines for activist-academic research collaborations (2013)** - online resource for activists and academics thinking about research collaboration to create a fairer and more resilient society, presented in an easy-to-navigate “pattern language”.

**Mapping impact together: Alternative approaches to impact in co-produced research (2015)** - A report on mismatch between current models of “research impact” and co-produced research, with recommendations for re-thinking, measuring and doing impact.

## 2. Tackling ethical issues

[www.durham.ac.uk/beacon/socialjustice/ethics\\_consultation](http://www.durham.ac.uk/beacon/socialjustice/ethics_consultation)

**Community-based participatory research: A guide to ethical principles and practice (2012)** – a set of ethical principles for doing research together, and practice guidelines for planning, doing, sharing and learning from the research.

**Doing research together: How to make sure things are fair and no one is harmed (2013)** – an EasyRead version of the ethics guide. Also available in Welsh.

**Ethics in community-based participatory research: Case studies, case examples and commentaries (2012)** – a set of 7 cases from real-life practice in the UK, that can be used for raising ethical awareness in research planning, teaching and training.

**Performing ethics: Using participatory theatre in community-based participatory research (2014)** – a practical guide to using participatory theatre to explore ethical issues, with 7 exercises and an outline for a workshop.

**Dilemmas cafés: A guide for facilitators (2015)** – how to run a dilemmas café, involving groups of people discussing real-life ethical dilemmas relating to community-based participatory research.

## Films

**Co-inquiry group, Growing ethics, Breaking down barriers, Conference overview (February 2013)** – three short films of different participatory research projects, and a film compiled of extracts from a conference on ethics.

**Forum Theatre: Participatory ethics through participatory theatre (July 2014)** – an 8-minute film showing extracts of a workshop with LGBT Youth North West, using theatre exercises and acting out scenarios depicting ethical issues.



## Cases

**Case examples and case studies** – a growing collection of cases featuring ethical issues in community-based participatory research from around the world, for use in teaching and learning.

## Invitation to get involved!

**Feedback** - If you have used the ethics guide, or any other materials, do let us know how this helped, and also suggest ideas for improvements or additional materials. If you are interested in joining our follow-on study, please email: [socialjustice@durham.ac.uk](mailto:socialjustice@durham.ac.uk)

**Case examples** - We are inviting people to write short case examples about ethical issues in participatory research for a book and/or the website. Please contact Sarah Banks if you are interested: [s.j.banks@durham.ac.uk](mailto:s.j.banks@durham.ac.uk)