

PALAR Power: Principles, Ethics, Methodology, and Real-World Applications for Social Change

Session Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes (1-3)

1. **Principles:** After attending the session, attendees will be able to explain the principles of participatory action learning and action research (PALAR) and how they differ from traditional research approaches, as well as discuss PALAR's strengths and opportunities for improvement.
2. **Social Change and Ethics:** This session will help attendees identify opportunities to apply PALAR to achieve transformative social change while assessing and addressing ethical considerations within PALAR, including power dynamics, cultural sensitivity, and informed consent.
3. **Research Methodology:** By the end of the session, attendees will be familiar with the different approaches to assessment/evaluation and appreciate the need to assess/evaluate PALAR outcomes while maintaining transparency during the process.
4. **Practical Application:** This session will support attendees in applying PALAR principles to a specific context or case study, working collaboratively to develop an action plan that aligns with community needs and goals, and incorporating iterative design to refine the approach based on ongoing reflection and feedback.

Session Description

Brief Session Description *

Please provide a brief description of your proposed session. The brief description will be publicly shared in the printed conference program given out to conference attendees at NCORE. The printed conference program is also archived on the NCORE website following the event. This is a concise opportunity to describe your session to attendees. The maximum length is 500 characters.

In this workshop, participants will delve into Participatory Action Learning and Action Research (PALAR) and its transformative potential. Participants will identify opportunities to apply PALAR for social change focused on racial and ethnic equity. They will address ethical considerations, ensuring a responsible and inclusive research approach aligned with NCORE's values. Participants will become adept at assessing outcomes and adapting methodologies for diverse stakeholders.

Intro/Principles

While many forms of action research exist, Participatory Action Learning and Action Research (PALAR) combines multiple theories for a comprehensive, dynamic structure for community engagement. Participants will be introduced to the principles and the four recurring stages of

PALAR as a theoretical framework for social change. A series of presentations and activities will then take participants through applying PALAR to develop action plans.

Participants will begin to apply the concepts of PALAR by selecting a provided case study or a self-identified context or project that they would like to develop during the workshop. To support participants in developing their case study, presenters will share examples from their application of PALAR to an inter-institutional collaboration between a predominately white institution and a historically black university focused on informal engineering education to develop a living-learning lab with a historically underserved community.

Participants will then explore applying PALAR to attain impactful and transformative social change. The exploration of PALAR will include assessing and attending to knowledge production, power relations, and relationship building. Through centering collaboration with other participants, incorporating personal examples, and fostering an environment for sharing ideas, individuals will have the opportunity to explore not only their projects but also to discern how to integrate PALAR into their work.

Participants will learn about research methodologies used to measure outcomes in a student-led project that takes place outside the classroom, where grades do not define student success. Presenters will share their successes/pitfalls and lessons learned during the project's first year. Participants will also learn the importance of transparency when collecting data from stakeholders to ensure data authenticity. Finally, participants will use what they learned to draft a data collection plan for their project.

Participants will engage in hands-on exercises tailored to the NCORE community, guiding them in applying PALAR principles to real-world scenarios. They will collaboratively develop action plans aligned with the specific needs and goals of racially and ethnically diverse communities, incorporating iterative design for continuous improvement based on reflection and feedback. Join us for an immersive NCORE experience in PALAR, where theory seamlessly meets practical application for impactful social change.

Session Bibliography *

Please list references that will support the content of your session. (2500 characters)

Hawkins, C. K., Espiritu, G. L., & Miller, D. (2023). *Enhancing Culturally Engaging Research:(Re) Imagining High Impact Research Practices for Undergraduate Students*. New Directions for Student Services, 181, 29-40.

Watkins, D. C. (2012). *Qualitative research: The importance of conducting research that doesn't "count"*. Health promotion practice, 13(2), 153-158.

Wood, L. (2019). *Participatory action learning and action research: Theory, practice and process*. Routledge.

Zuber-Skerritt, O., & Wood, L. (2020). The transformative potential of action learning in community-based research for social action. In *Action Learning for Social Action* (pp. 34-47). Routledge.