

Action Research Roles

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RESEARCH CENTRE FOR

socio-interactive design



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Controlling action research (Avison et al.)

Control	Form	Characteristics
Initiation	Researcher Practitioner Collaborative	Field experiment Classic action research genesis Evolves from existing interaction
Authority	Practitioner Staged Identity	Consultative action warrant Migration of power Practitioner and researcher are the same person
Formalisation	Formal Informal Evolved	Specific written contract or letter of agreement Broad, perhaps verbal, agreement Informal and formal projects shift into the opposite form

Example: Rovsing Space

- Initiated: Researchers
- Authority: Practitioner
- Formalisation: Formal

SPACE SYSTEMS



Systems, software solutions and services for the

Rovsing is a leading Danish space systems supplier with countries. We have solid experience in the supply of fix areas:

- ❖ Test Systems
 - ❖ Critical and non-critical Software Systems
 - ❖ Independent Verification & Validation
 - ❖ Networks and Monitoring & Control Systems
 - ❖ Engineering & Logistics support
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Insider action research (Coghlan)

- ☐ “Manager-researchers’ preunderstanding, organisational role and ability to manage organisational politics play an important role in the political process of framing and selecting their action research project”
- ☐ Preunderstanding: “refers to such things as people’s knowledge, insights and experience before they engage in a research programme”
- ☐ Dual role: “When managers augment their normal organisational membership role with the research enterprise, it can be difficult and awkward, and become confusing for them. As a result ... they are likely to encounter role conflict and find themselves caught between loyalty tugs, behavioural claims and identification dilemmas”
- ☐ Organisational politics: “... in one’s own organisation is political and might even be considered subversive
 - ☐ Performing: the public role of being active in the change process
 - ☐ Backstaging: comprises skills at intervening in the political and cultural systems
- ☐ Framing: “... an issue as a problem may influence who gets involved in problem resolution”
- ☐ Change: “triggers discussion, debate and arguments between people who champion competing ideas and proposals”
 - ☐ How can we collect data about this?

Establishing credibility

- Control (initiation, authority, formalisation)
- Insides (dual roles, organisational politics)
- Problem-solving capability
 - Do you master a problem-solving approach (M)?
 - Are you knowledgeable about A?
 - Can you apply F?

Discussion

- Conditions and challenges described by Coghlan are not only valid for insider researchers, but also for outsider researchers
 - *How?*
- Problem-solving capability:
 - *Which capabilities?*
 - *How will credibility be established?*