

Knowledge as Change ***Ineke Buskens***

Presentation Outline

- What are you trying to find out?
 - And why?
- How is Research Managed?
- How do you use your findings?
- Information for Change: Discussion

What is research?

Doing research means being human

- We all are constructing knowledge all the time. We cannot not do research.

Our research is us and we are our research.

- We are present in our research at every moment and in every decision, but most of all in the purpose of it and the way we stay aligned with this purpose: what is it we are trying to find out and why?

Research: Methodologically Speaking

Research “is”...

- .. a journey into the unknown by the composite of a Researcher, a Research Question and a Research Participant (group).
- The reflection on this journey – meta hodos logos – is the act and area of research methodology

Research Question

- Different research paradigms facilitate different questions: “whether”, “what” and “how”.
- The relationship between research purpose, research question and research methods informs how we strive for quality in research
- Research for change and the “Holy How” question: the quest for practical knowledge

Researcher

Research is all about you and yet it is not about you at all

What is the you, we are speaking about?

Research itself is change and changes

What is created that was not there before?

Personal transformation is inevitable

Are “you” willing and able to change?

Research Participant (Group)

What do you know about the research participant (group)?

- What is the quality of your knowledge?
- Why do you want to be involved with them?

Is there a fit between the research participant (group) and your research method of choice?

How is Research Managed?

How do YOU manage the journey of the composite of researcher, research participant (group) and the research question towards the purpose?

What do we as researchers need to “be / do” to manage our research?

- Critical Awareness
- Confidence
- Coherence
- Connection

Critical Awareness

- Towards self and other
- Reflexivity as the most important quality strategy in research for change
- The other as mirror of the self

Confidence

- Knowing that you have the capacity to know that which not has been known before
- Humbleness, open mindedness and asking for support

Coherence

- Become the change you want the world to be (Mahatma Gandhi)
- All change begins with acknowledging ones participation in the old state of affairs (Ineke Buskens)
- Coherence is a process, a commitment, an effort and a focus. In processes of change, coherence is a “contra-factual principle”

Connection

- The connection with self should balance the drive towards critical awareness: Know Thyself has to be embedded in a discipline of Care for the Self.
- Whilst research is a solitary journey, we need co-travelers: colleagues, peers, buddies.
- As we are inextricably intertwined with our research participants, it is important to continue acknowledging this connection, to continue the journey out of this connection.

How do you use your findings?

- Are you still aligned with the purpose?
- Ethics: no harm
- Go for biggest impact

Information for change: Discussion

Research: From information to knowledge to information to.....change?

Information for change:

1. Can information bring about change?
2. When / under what conditions will information bring about change?
3. How / what would be needed for information to bring about change?