

Action Learning Action Research Association (ALARA)

Eighth ALARA World Congress 2010

Melbourne, Australia 6th – 9th September
Plus two pre-congress skill-sharing days (4th - 5th)

Participatory Action Research and Action Learning:

Appreciating our Pasts, **C**omprehending our Presents, **P**refiguring our Futures



A critical and reflective review of the philosophical foundations of PAR, AR and AL, with an appreciative look at present – and future – concrete practices in their real-life contexts.

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Alan Rayner, Professor Budd Hall, Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Yoland Wadsworth

Key Themes of the Congress: **1. Philosophical** foundations of research and learning as participatory social change/praxis. **2. Power** in the Action Learning and (Participatory) Action Research relationship and in social-change-at-large. **3. Action Research and Learning Methodology** for transformation. **4. Innovations in practice** and the contribution of **systems** approaches.

Congress Program: **DAY 1: Whose (and what) shoulders are we standing on?** The origins of AL, AR, PAR: what are our legacies, our sources, historical, philosophical, practical, in general and in specific areas of application? **DAYS 2 & 3: Our present(-s)** Where are we at today with AL, AR, PAR? The 'State(-s) of the Art(-s)' and how are we all contributing to and learning from today's stories? Day 3 will be organised by and spent in a location 'representative' of one of the several 'streams' of application of PAR, AL, AR. **DAY 4: Prefiguring:** How to grow and evolve PAR, AL and AR practice/praxis in the hazardous times we inhabit? We reflect and explore questions of the next steps we should best take in the immediate future environments we co-create.

Evolving **Streams** of applied PAR, AR and AL include: An 'Ecology' stream, with several evolving foci including wilderness, agriculture, socio-culture, an 'Education' stream with possible foci on tertiary, secondary, early and alternative; 'Community Development/ International Development / Personal Development', 'Welfare, Wellbeing and Health', 'Systems / Business / Organisational Development' and AL, AR and PAR, 'Indigenous Peoples and PAR'.

The Congress will be held at **Bayview Eden**, Situated at 6 Queens Road, Melbourne.

Call for Abstracts for proposed contributions to the Congress

Given our *participatory* inclinations, we would like to spend much time in *practice-based, theme- or issue-focused and context-specific discussion and conversation*. Whilst creating sufficient space for plenary talks/panels and the presentation of formal papers, we are also looking forward to receiving proposals / abstracts for workshops, poster sessions or discussion groups based on brief 'catalyst papers'. Presentation / discussion sessions at the Congress will normally be of 1 1/2 hours duration.

The Organising Committee will receive abstracts for proposed contributions (up to 300-400 words) from interested individuals and groups until **April 29th 2010**. Please email to alara@borderlands.org.au with 'ALARA Congress Abstracts' in the subject line; or contact us on +61 - (0)3 - 9819 3239 (ask for Jacques Boulet) for more information.

The abstracts will be reviewed by a team of carefully chosen peer-reviewers and, normally, intending participants / presenters will be informed about the acceptance (or otherwise) of their proposed contributions at the latest by **June 1st 2010**. Those needing early confirmation about the acceptance (or otherwise) of their proposal / abstract should indicate this in an accompanying email / letter and we will attempt to process the review within two weeks of its receipt.

We plan to include *all* Congress contributions in a CD to go into the Congress 'kit' and will need all relevant materials by **July 31st 2010**. We are also discussing an additional refereeing process leading to the publication of a selection of papers/contributions after the Congress.

The ALARA website will be regularly updated as to developments in the AR, AL and PAR 'streams', thematic developments and presenters.

For more details on abstract submissions, the preliminary program and the ALARA World Congress please see www.alara.net.au