

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT and CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**ACTION RESEARCH: EXPLORING ITS TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL**

Action Research Unit  
Centre for Educational Research, Technology and Innovation  
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Thursday 19 August – Friday 20 August 2010

The **Action Research Unit** at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University was founded in 2008 with the aim of expanding opportunities for researchers, students and practising teachers to conduct action research for social and educational improvement. We are hosting the seminar with the hope of bringing together South African and international educational researchers to share their learning around action research. It is also hoped that, stemming from our discussions, we will be able to initiate a network of action researchers in South Africa to facilitate future dialogue around this methodology.

The seminar will take place from **19-20 August 2010** and will be organised through paper presentations, with ample time allowed for discussion. We are proud to announce that we have secured two international key-note speakers:

**Prof Jean McNiff** (York St Johns University, UK)

**Prof Jack Whitehead** (Bath University and Liverpool Hope University, UK)

The **theme** of the conference is: **Action Research: exploring its transformative potential**. We would invite papers covering the various approaches to action research that generate new epistemologies and practices that transform and improve educational and social situations. We particularly invite papers relating to the following four areas:

- **Taking research to the classroom** (*classroom research exploring the question "How do I improve what I am doing?"*)
- **Transforming the academy through self-study action research** (*how does action research help academics to transform their curricula and practices in line with current contexts? How can action research be used to increase accountability for quality in higher education?*)
- **Creating transformational communities of practice** (*how do researchers collaborate with teachers/community groups to address educational and social issues?*)
- **Theorising action research** (*what philosophical foundations are drawn upon in action research? Who develops theory? How is theory development changing? What constitutes good theory?*)

Relevant papers that fall outside of these themes are also welcomed.

**KEY DATES:**

Abstract deadline:	15 April 2010
Notification of: accepted papers	15 May 2010
Registration and: payment deadline	01 July 2010
Submission of full papers:	15 September 2010

**ABSTRACTS** of 250 words maximum should be sent to [michelle.myles@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:michelle.myles@nmmu.ac.za) before **15 April 2010**.

Each abstract will be reviewed for acceptance against the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme in broad terms
- Clarity and coherence
- Contribution to scholarship, innovative practice, critical reflection and validated arguments and findings

Contributors will be notified of the outcome by **15 May 2010**. All abstracts will be submitted for blind peer review.

**FULL papers** of 6000 words maximum can be submitted to [michelle.myles@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:michelle.myles@nmmu.ac.za) by **15 September 2010**.

**EACH paper** will be allocated 30 minutes – 15 minutes presentation : 15 minutes discussion.

Papers selected after blind peer review will be published in a book that will be submitted to the Dept of Education for subsidy accreditation.

**Pre-Seminar WORKSHOP**

**Writing up action research for publication**

Facilitated by Profs Jean McNiff and Jack Whitehead

**When:** Wednesday 18 August, 9-4pm

**Cost:** R150 per delegate

**Venue:** To be communicated later  
(it will be on the Summerstrand Campus)

**Cost:** R500 per delegate

**Venue:** Conference Centre, Summerstrand North Campus  
NMMU, University Way, Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth

**Accommodation:** Delegates are responsible for organising their own accommodation  
Information of suitable local accommodation can be found at  
[www.nmmu.ac.za/aru/accommodation](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/aru/accommodation)

**Airport transfer:** This can be arranged by contacting [michelle.myles@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:michelle.myles@nmmu.ac.za).  
There will be a minimal cost for this.

For more information please contact:

Conference Administrator: Ms Michelle Myles +27 (0)41 504 2565 [michelle.myles@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:michelle.myles@nmmu.ac.za)  
Head of Action Research Unit: Prof Lesley Wood +27 (0)41 504 2834 [lesley.wood@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:lesley.wood@nmmu.ac.za)