

Skolimowski, H. (1994) *The Participatory Mind: A new theory of knowledge and of the universe*. London; Penguin.

Let us summarize our discourse so far in a Hymn to Participation.

Hymn To Participation

*Participation is the song of creation.
Participation is the whispering of life unfolding.
Participation is the common thread of all evolution.
Participation is the common prayer of amoebas and angels.
Participation is the oxygen fuelling the process of transcendence.
Participation is the song of our individual experiences.*

*Whenever life emerges participation blossoms,
As the joy of life,
As the bond of solidarity,
As the pool from which all living beings drink,
As the yeast promoting growth and maturity.*

*When life discovered the meaning of participation
It had discovered its most important modus for growth.
Utterly simple and utterly profound is the meaning of participation.
Nothing happens in evolution without participation.
The language of solidarity is the language of participation.*

*To be aware is to participate.
To be asleep is to be estranged from participation.
To be alive is to sail on the wings of participation.
To be morose is have one's wings of participation clipped.*

*Love is the deepest form of participation.
Where there is love there is participation.
Loveless participation is an anaemic involvement.
To participate is the first step to loving.*

*How deeply can you enter into the immensity of the universe?
As deeply as you can embrace it in the arms of your participation.
Everything else is a mere shadow. The real thing
Is our immense journey of becoming through participation. (p.158-9)*

Participatory Research Programmes

Let us address some of the detail. How do we do that participatory research?
What are some of its main characteristics?

The participatory research is the art of *empathy* –
Is the art of *communion* with the object of enquiry –
Is the art of learning to use *its* language –

Is the art of *using* its language –
Is the art of *talking* to the object of our enquiry (although this may at first sound strange, let us remember that stranger things are now happening in this life) –
Is the art of penetrating from *within* –
Is the art of *in-dwelling* in the other –
Is the art of *imaginative hypothesis* which leads to the art of identification –
Is the art of *transformation of one's consciousness* so that it becomes part of the consciousness of the other.

Some of these requirements seem to be almost too much for our minds trained in the rigours of objectivity. Yet surprisingly, most of these attributes of the participatory research are not alien to us. We know them from our own personal experience. (pp. 160-161).