

How can I enhance my contribution to Living Theory research as a social movement?

Jack Whitehead, 27 January 2017

As I write I am learning how to contribute to the EJOLTS wiki at part of the EJOLT Community's celebration of the 10th Anniversary. The EJOLTS wiki was inaugurated by Pete Mellett in January 2018. Pete explained that the wiki might be useful to the EJOLT's community in three ways (or with three levels). In the first level we could all contribute our clarifications on the main page of the wiki at http://ejolts-wiki.mattrink.co.uk/index.php/Main_Page . I have already make contributions to the points on the main page about values and about validity and rigour.

At the second level we could all contribute details of our individual enquiries. I have started to do this at: <http://ejolts-wiki.mattrink.co.uk/index.php/Jack> as I explore the implications of asking, researching and answering my question: How can I enhance my contribution to Living Theory research as a social movement?

At the third level we could all contribute to our co-operative enquiry into enhancing the influence of EJOLTS in a social movement. My intention is to ground my contribution within the communities of learners identified in Joy Mounter's doctoral enquiry *,How can I (do I) contribute to the creation and enhancement of the educational influences of a community of learners, supporting each other and their own development?*

I have been aware for many years that my experience of living contradictions in the sense of experiencing the negation of my values, whilst seeking to live them as fully as I can in my educational practices, has been influenced by the local, regional, national and global pressures of neo-liberal economics. One of my problems in responding to this contradiction is that I have not been able to clarify for myself an alternative to neo-liberal economics. The idea of co-operative economics is giving me the opportunities to support the alternative economics in living and researching my contribution to Living Theory research as a social movement.

I presented my learning how to contribute to a Co-operative Economy at a meeting of the Bath Co-operative Alliance on the 25th January 2018 at the Oriel Hall, Larkhall, Bath. You can access my notes at:

<http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/jack/jwcoopeconomy250118.pdf>

in which I draw on the ideas of Joseph Stiglitz in responding to a neo-liberal financial sector and to the ideas of Birley on developing a co-operative economy. I focused some of the discussion at the meeting on contributing to the creation of Bath as a Co-operative City.

I intend to continue my enquiries in a keynote to the 2018 ALARA World Congress, June 17-20, Norwich University, Vermont, USA. You can access the details of all the keynotes at:

<http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/alara2018/alara2018keynotes.pdf>

together with the following description of my keynote:

The **WC Keynote Speaker for the Stream/Track Two on the AL/AR Experiences of Professionals, is Jack Whitehead**, a Living Educational Theorist based in the UK. Previously at the University of Bath, he is now a Visiting Professor at the University of Cumbria, UK and Ningxia Teachers University in Ningxia, China. ***He originated the idea that individuals could create their own explanations of their educational influences in their own learning, in the learning of others and in the learning of the social formations in which their inquiries are located, as their living-educational-theories.*** He pioneered the use of digital, multi-media narratives for clarifying and evolving the meanings of the expression of embodied values in explanations of educational influence, in research degrees. The resources on his website <http://www.actionresearch.net> are an international resource for action researchers who are generating their own living-theories with values that carry hope for the flourishing of humanity. These theories are generated from inquiries of the kind, "How do I improve what I am doing? In which 'I' exists as a living contradiction."

I have also submitted a workshop proposal with Jacqueline Delong and Marie Huxtable to the World Congress on 'Where do we go from here in contributing to *'The Action Learning and Action Research Legacy for Transforming Social Change?'*

<http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/jack/jjdjwmhalara240118workprop.pdf>

In addition to these activities I have:

- 1) together with others in the EJOLTS community submitted proposals for an individual presentation and workshop the conference of the European Association of Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) on Dialogue between ontology and epistemology: New perspectives on theory and methodology in research on learning and education, 27-28 August 2018.
 - i) An individual proposal on 'Epistemicide and Emancipation: Two approaches to professing higher education research.'
<http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/jack/jwcambridge240118.pdf>
 - ii) A workshop proposal with Marie Huxtable on A Living Theory perspective in educational research on learning and education
<http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/jack/mhjwcambridgework240118.pdf>
- 2) Submitted a paper with Lesley Wood and Mary McAteer on How are action researchers contributing to knowledge democracy? A global perspective, for consideration for publication in the Educational Action Research Journal.

