

## Action Research for Transformation in Education Contexts

Member of these groups: EJOLTs, Living Ed Theory research post-doc Skype- Find other group members on the living-posters homepage and in the living-posters directory & archive

I am interested in researching social aspects that impact on the holistic well-being of learners, teachers and community members. I operate from a participatory transformative paradigm and partner in research with various stakeholders within education contexts to help them to develop capacity to take action for sustainable change.

My research has included projects with learners, teachers, school leadership, governmental officials and the wider community.

I lead the research entity Community-based Educational Research (COMBER) within the Faculty of Education at North-West University. Specific expertise includes: HIV and AIDS in education, and related social justice issues; sexuality education; prevention of substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

My methodologies are participatory, with specific focus on action research for social change and for professional development in Higher Education.

The research is educational on two levels: i) by involving people in their own learning about how to improve their quality of life, the research process itself is a conduit for learning and development that will have sustainable influence and ii) it is concerned with the contexts where the intentional aim of any group of people is to gain knowledge and skills that they believe will help them to improve towards their collective vision. Since we comprise of academics in the fields of educational psychology, learner support, adult education and creative arts, the focus of our work tends to be in these areas. We use critical forms of participatory research to disrupt injustice and construct more just policy at our work tends to be in these areas. We use critical forms of participatory research to disrupt injustice and construct more just policy at micro, meso and macro levels within formal and informal educational contexts.

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Exploring Children's Narratives of HIV and AIDS through Creative and Expressive Arts 2018-2020

NRF: Developing and inclusive and sustainable framework for mutual learning and development through community-university partnership 2019-2021.

### Key publications:

McAteer, M. & Wood, L. 2018. Decolonising knowledge: Enacting the civic role of the university in a community-based project. *South African Journal of Education*, 38(4): 1-10.

Zuber-Skerritt, O. & Wood, L. (Eds). 2019. *Action Learning and Action Research: Genres and approaches*. Bingley, UK: Emerald

Wood, L., McAteer M., & Whitehead, J. 2019. How are action researchers contributing to knowledge democracy? A global perspective, *Educational Action Research*, 27(1): 1-7. DOI: 10.1080/09650792.2018.1531044

Wessels, E. & Wood, L. 2019. Fostering teachers experience of wellbeing: A participatory action learning and action research approach. *South African Journal of Education*, 39(1): 1-10.

Setlhare, R & Wood, L. 2019. A collaboratively constructed action leadership framework for sustainable learner support in contexts of adversity, *Educational Action Research*, DOI: 10.1080/09650792.2018.1559070.

Mathikithela, M. & Wood, L. 2019. Youth as Participatory Action Researchers: Exploring How to Make School a More Enabling Space. *Educational Research for Social Change*, 8(2): 77-95.

Wood, L. (forthcoming), "The Principles, Possibilities, Politics and Potential Pitfalls of Community-Based Educational Research." In L. Zhang (Ed.), *Oxford Encyclopedia of Educational Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press. doi: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190264093.013.948

Wood, L. 2020. *Participatory Action Learning and Action Research: Theory, Practice and Process*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge.

Zuber-Skerritt, O., Wood, L. & Kearney, J. 2020. The transformative potential of action learning in community-based research for social action. *Action Learning, Research and Practice*, 17(1): 34-47.

### COMBER Website:

<http://education.nwu.ac.za/comber>

### Global University for Lifelong Learning:

<http://www.gullonline.org/>

### Website:

<http://www.spanglefish.com/lesleywoodactionresearch/>

### Google scholar:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=GD-eFwIAAAAJ&hl=en>

### Youtube:

<https://youtu.be/4apH4TFio18>

