

# The relationship between creative methods and participatory research

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# Overview and aims

- Based on article:

Brown, N. (2021). Scope and Continuum of Participatory Research. *International Journal of Research and Method in Education*. [DOI: 10.1080/1743727X.2021.1902980](https://doi.org/10.1080/1743727X.2021.1902980).

- Introduction to participatory research and arts-based methods
- Examples from my own research
- Conclusion

# Underpinning of participatory research

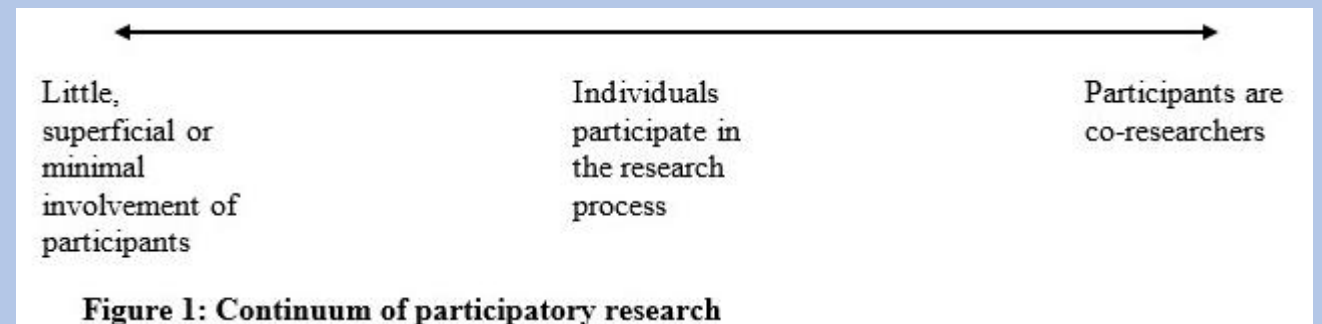
- questions of hierarchy, power and location of knowledge
- recognises the expertise of research participants
- seeks to engage individuals through handing over responsibility within the research process
- questions of whose research it is and what the purpose of research is
- participatory research is considered as political and activist

# Scope and continuum of participatory research

distinguish between involvement and participation

involvement of expert participants (patients in health research or consumers in market research)

participation as equal partners



3 criteria according to Tandon (1988):

- 1.) have a role in setting the agenda of inquiry
- 2.) take part in the data collection and analysis
- 3.) have control over the use of outcome and the whole process

# Creative and arts-based methods

- definitions vary, but largely seen as drawing on artistic or playful forms of expression
- arts-based approaches are used for their powers of expression, evocation and illumination
- emphasis on radical, politically grounded social justice



minimising hierarchy  
reducing power-differential  
calling for action

# Forms of creative and arts-based methods

- elicitation approaches
  - narratives
  - vignettes
  - visual materials and representations
  - photo-elicitation
- artistic workshops
- diary methods
  - timelines
  - photographs or other visual materials
  - drawing, sketching
  - narrative approaches

# 3 examples from my own research

Case Study 1: New methods to teach reflective practice

Case Study 2: Assessments: letting students decide

Case Study 3: Representations in fibromyalgia research

	Formulation of research question	Data collection or generation	Data analysis	Dissemination of findings
Case study 1	+	+	-	+
Case study 2	+	-	-	+
Case study 3	-	+	+	-

**Figure 2: Summary of participant engagement in the three case studies presented**

	Formulation of research question	Data collection or generation	Data analysis	Dissemination of findings
Case study 1	-	+	-	-
Case study 2	-	-	-	-
Case study 3	-	+	+	+

**Figure 3: Overview of inclusion of arts-based approaches in the three case studies**

# Creative methods and participatory research

- most participatory research designs are situated between the two extremes of the continuum
- arts-based methods do not automatically translate into a participatory research design
- for ethical reasons researchers should not aim for fully egalitarian research to maintain participants' interests and wellbeing



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