

2013

Action Research Network of the Americas

Joseph Shosh

Moravian College, jshosh@moravian.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.nl.edu/ie>

Recommended Citation

Shosh, Joseph. (2013). Action Research Network of the Americas. *i.e.: inquiry in education: Vol. 4: Iss. 2, Article 7*.

Retrieved from: <https://digitalcommons.nl.edu/ie/vol4/iss2/7>

Copyright © 2013 by the author(s)

i.e.: inquiry in education is published by the Center for Practitioner Research at the National College of Education, National-Louis University, Chicago, IL.

Action Research Network of the Americas

Joseph Shosh

Moravian College, Bethlehem, USA



Figure 1. Spanish and English at 2013 conference

The Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA) was established in November 2012 through the efforts of a team of organizers determined to build an action research network for the western hemisphere. This network would feature participation by individuals and groups from the far north of Canada and Alaska to the tip of South America. ARNA unites college and university students and faculty conducting practitioner inquiry in education with fellow action researchers in public schools, private schools, community settings, and workplaces throughout the Americas.

ARNA members are committed to taking action locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to promote action research conducted with a commitment to honesty, integrity, inclusiveness, multi-vocality, engagement, and achievement within sustainable democratic societies. To date, the ARNA website (<https://sites.google.com/site/arnacconnect/>) has received more than 2,200 visits from 70 countries throughout the Americas and around the world.

The inaugural ARNA conference, titled “The Invention and Reinvention of Knowledge: Action Research Across the Americas” was held at the historic Fort Mason Center in San Francisco, California on May 1-2, 2013, featuring keynote addresses by action researchers Jean McNiff and Lesley Wood, as well as dozens of paper presentations, workshop sessions, and roundtable discussions. The first ARNA membership drive concluded on October 30, and resulted in the registration of 95 new members. Founding memberships may be purchased at the rate of \$150 annually for professionals and \$75 for students through December 31.



Figure 2. Jean McNiff



Figure 3. Lesley Wood

The 2014 ARNA Conference will take place on the campus of Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, May 22-24, 2014. The pre-conference Action Research Study Day (May 22) is the first Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN)-sponsored Study Day on the east coast in the Americas. Participants in the CARN Study Day, “What Happens to Action Research After the Master’s Degree?” will tour three American secondary schools—NYC iSchool in New York City, Warren Hills Regional High School in rural New Jersey, and Liberty High School in eastern Pennsylvania—where

teams of Moravian College education alumni have used action research to transform teaching and learning for adolescents. ARNA invites action researchers, including teachers, school counselors, community-based youth workers, healthcare professionals, and other educators to participate in the Study Day and the regular conference on May 23 and 24.

The 2014 ARNA conference will explore this theme of “Enacting our Beliefs: The So-What of Action Research” through symposia, panel discussions, workshops, poster presentations, roundtable dialogues, and working group meetings. Proposals that focus on the theoretical and practical outcomes of a wide range of action research activity including participatory action research projects are invited. The call for proposals is available for download at <https://sites.google.com/site/arnaconnect/2014-arna-conf>.

ARNA welcomes participation in one or more of its Working Groups and seeks new Working Groups to strengthen the network. Current groups include ARNA en Español, the Conference Planning Team, Early Childhood Education, Knowledge Mobilization, Memberships and Sponsorships, the Pennsylvania State Working Group, School Counseling, School Leadership, and Web and Technology Development.



Figure 4. The ARNA 2nd Annual Conference

ARNA members envision multiple layers of collaborative and effective action in which local action research efforts improve professional practice, leading to a demonstrable greater good for all participants. ARNA seeks practitioner inquiries that are coordinated and celebrated across regions, extending the benefits of the inquiry to wider constituencies. ARNA aspires to support the sharing of action research methodologies and findings within nations to form openly accessible databases of practitioner inquiries and to inform policy decisions. Through ARNA, action researchers from diverse points of the Americas come together both virtually and physically to share action research findings and support one another in promoting local, regional, national, and international agendas which further promote practitioner inquiry.

Joseph M. Shosh chairs the Education Department and serves as director of the action research-based graduate education program at Moravian College. A recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English Paul and Kate Farmer English Journal Writing Award, the James N. Moffett Award for Classroom Research, and Cornell University's Merrill Scholar Teaching Award, he has published his teacher action research studies in English Journal, Teaching Education, and Action Researcher in Education, among others. A co-founder of the Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA), Joe served as co-chair (with Lonnie Rowell) of the 2013 inaugural conference in San Francisco and serves as co-chair (with Cathy Bruce) of the 2014 conference in Pennsylvania.