

Call for papers

ARJ Special Issue: *The inner journey and mindset shifts of transformation.*

The call to this special issue starts with recognizing that our multiplying and interconnected eco-social crises will not get solved with old ways of thinking, being and doing. The call's purpose is, therefore, to explore shifts in meaning making/perspective-taking and related mindset re-conceptualizations of the sort that support the work of transformation. We are asking: how does social reality actually transform under the surface of our doing?

The world around us can seem daunting when we look at its multiple challenges. Yet, we humans are capable of significant growth and step-like changes, consider the global Covid era innovation. We saw it's possible to shift perspectives, break old boundaries and respond creatively both as individuals and collectives. Our call highlights that our times call for non-linear approaches. Moreover, our global difficulties are intertwined and developing more capacity for making a positive difference may lie in *integrating* personal, relational and systems awareness. In action research this combination of subjectivity and objectivity is known as first, second and third person research/practice.

The entanglement of challenges is sometimes called our meta-crisis. To meet this we are called to act and we ask authors to consider if there are ways to join up promising efforts to deliver a future worth living (for all sentient species). We invite papers that integrate inner change with impact in the world to learn of truly new formats and overarching approaches. What are transformative approaches to meaning-making and action-taking that allow more of us to hold and nurture what is emerging from the inherent complexity of it all?

We invite papers on whether transformative inner shift is critical, for needed, desirable and positive structural shifts and how such human inner development happens and enables creative response to rising complexity. This includes papers addressing:

- Values, beliefs and mindsets of growth as catalysts for transformation;
- Constructivist adult development frameworks;
- Explorations of multiples ways of knowing that invite a greater intelligence and reflexivity, e.g. embodiment;
- Theories and systems that connect richer understanding of human psychology with external consequences and visible outcomes.

Critically, these models (and we invite creative additions) demonstrate non-linear shifts. They can explore how we develop and nurture capabilities addressing our meta-crisis in distinct steps

(developmental frequencies). Some argue that later frequencies or stages are essential for collective leadership and collective intelligence meeting the needs of our times.

We see harbingers of shifts in multiple initiatives: from academic and trans-national such as IPBES Transformative Change Assessment and Inner Development Goals; global community building such as Emergent Commons; consciousness collectives such as Wilde Wahrheit; and, economic/political re-conceptualising forums such as FEST, Financial Ecosystems for Systemic Transformation, and The Alternative. Action Research Plus coLABs mirror this work.

These strategies point to a ubiquitous issue: we have a collective problem. This suggests we require new approaches that may mirror, socially and inwardly, the types of emergent outcomes we've previously seen in evolution when a diversity of unique pieces create a greater whole.

For those who practice Action Research for Transformations (ART) and engage in transformations work there is no such thing as a one hundred percent observer: someone capable of measuring a system without affecting it and themselves. ARTists may recognise this as a paradigm shift from conventional Cartesian style, research methods. What is changing includes the researcher and the research participants. Consequently, we additionally invite papers that address:

- Knowing ourselves as researchers who are subject to transformation. How does the subjectivity of embodiment link to objectivity? What interconnections and interdependencies do we notice and how are they most usefully enhanced? What are the pitfalls and where does grace, clarity or wisdom become prominent.
- The creation of new ways of knowing, new ways of understanding ourselves and the ways in which we are creating (and co-creating) knowledge. For some this may be seen as ourselves as an instrument of knowledge creation. For others as sourcing expertise from outside ourselves and that we are far more than analytical observers. What are the 'new ways of knowing' that may add to and enhance existing action research practices? How are we deriving understanding from our felt and subtle senses, from collective intelligence, cultivating emergence or more.
- The importance of our own creatureliness, with its embodied intelligence.
- Feminist engagement with gendered/embodied knowledge.
- Eastern takes on mind (all intelligence known to the nervous system) versus western cerebral focus; de-centering of Western human's emphasis on rational thinking (and endless rumination).
- The "learning as practice" paradigm deeply influenced by contemporary mindfulness and Buddhist thinking.

- Consideration of bigger pictures such as through ontological indeterminacy, integral pluralism and/or multidimensional experiences including the role of plant medicines and psychedelics.

As action researchers we can-and-must get practical! All papers are invited to *show* inner work in action with stakeholders in their projects. We want to know what did you notice (experience!) changing in yourself through your action and/or research journey? And, what inspires you, what do you see working, what have you showed working, what's underwhelmed and what's exceeded your expectations?

Special Issue Editorial team

We welcome creativity and encourage a diversity of voices and perspectives. The editorial team is drawn from a range of experiences, ethnicities and skills in research, business and life. We see our work as supporting and developing papers.

The team includes Simon Divecha (co-founder Benevolution, Pacific Integral & transformational program facilitator), Haley Roth (Creator + Founder, FLY Learning Arts, Ed.M, Human Development & Psychology, Harvard University), Denny Kwok Leung Ho (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, APSS, Faculty Member) and Hilary Bradbury, (Editor in Chief, ARJ., AR+ Foundation).

Offer your paper to the ARJ special issue by July 1 2024

Contributors should be aware of the journal's focused energy to refresh action research around issues of eco-social transformation and the seven choice points used in assessing the quality of paper submissions. See: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1476750319835607>

Papers are to be received – along with a cover letter to the Editor in Chief – by July 1 2024. Include words in your title and abstract to make clear you are responding to this call for papers.

Papers are no longer than 7000 words inclusive.

In case you have questions about the special issue, please do not hesitate to contact Simon Divecha the corresponding Associate Editor for this special issue at simon@unfoldingrealities.com

All accepted papers will be published “online first” and highlighted through the AR+ Foundation community social media.

The following Sage Publications link offers more background on the journal in general and includes the submission portal: <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/arj>

We look forward to receiving your papers!