



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Making a Case and Space for Action Research: Reflections on the Journey to Create Tolerance, Acceptance, and Appreciation for Action Research in Health and Social Care for Research Ethics Committees at the School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin

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Context-Setting...

A little about me...

- Assistant Professor and Course Coordinator since 2004.
- Research Methods lecturer on M.Sc. Health Services Management
- Dept Representative on FEC; Founding member of CHPM-CGH REC
 - Dr Declan Devane a key mentor in my ethics education

A little about our Centre and our Course

- Started off as an “inter-faculty unit”
- 2004 saw the introduction of compulsory ethics approval for all MSc students

Purpose of the paper...

“Making a Case and Space for Action Research in RECs”

Making a Case

Arguments put forward for AR

Who champions?

Making Space

Tolerance

Acceptance

Appreciation

Making a **Case** for AR... bread-and-butter of academic life

Arguments

Rational – Addresses the How question from stakeholder perspectives

Philosophical – Ethics of care

Appeals to Authority; Bolstering Credibility

Actors and Champions

Nursing Researchers

Qualitative Researchers (HSCP Disciplines)

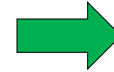
Business School Researchers

Health Economists

Making **Space** for AR... much, much, much more difficult

Level 1 Difficulty

Lack of Awareness



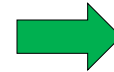
Education

...Wilful Ignorance

Lack of Interest

Level 2 Difficulty

Lack of Acceptance



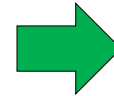
Champions

...Arguing at Cross Purposes

Lack of Familiarity *and* Credibility

Level 3 Difficulty

Lack of Appreciation



Demonstrated Benefits

...Non-Committance

Lack of Mutuality / Establishment-ization

...And on another level...

... About making a space for myself and my own mixed disciplinary backgrounds



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Making **Space** for AR... Problems, Strategies, Outcomes...

Difficulties ...	What's missing	The usual solution...	The actual issue...	The learned adaptive responses...	Hoped-for / Actual Outcomes...
Level 1 Difficulty	Lack of Awareness	Education	Lack of Interest	Education	Recognition
			Wilful Ignorance...	Promotion	"Climate of Recognisability"
Level 2 Difficulty	Lack of Acceptance	Champions	Lack of Familiarity ("In"-Group Frames of Reference)	Boundary-Crossing Champions	Credibility
			Arguing at Cross Purposes...	Isolation; Assimilation; or Integration?	"Climate of Acceptability"
Level 3 Difficulty	Lack of Appreciation	???	Ideological Resistance	Demonstrated Benefits on Their Terms	Mutuality and/or "Establishment"-ization (Legitimation)
			Non-Committance...	Typology vs. Hierarchy	"Climate of Respectability"

Action Research and Ethics Committees: From Tolerance to Acceptance and Appreciation?

AR studies being rejected by REC

Iterative/cyclical nature of inquiry counter to precise pre-specification of all design phases in standard research

Participants as “Co-researchers” antithetical to paternalistic models of research and research ethics

AR studies being exempted for review by REC

AR seen as “audit” and thus fall outside of remit of REC

AR seen as “low risk” if only staff members involved

Action Research and Ethics Committees: From Tolerance to Acceptance and Appreciation?

AR studies being approved through rigorous review by REC

Risks and benefits of research partnership between principal investigator and co-researchers being considered in light of their organisational relationships

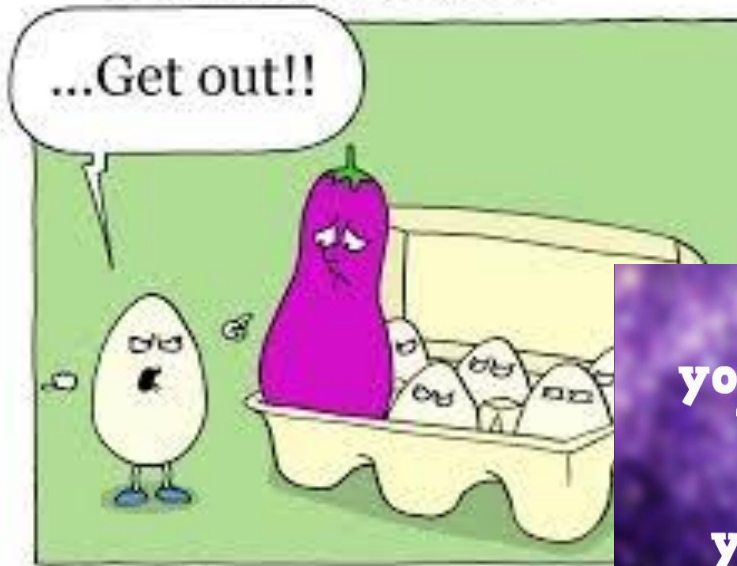
“Quality of relationship” being a key parameter of judging quality of AR

Iterative nature of AR inquiry being assessed via standard progress reports

“Quality of process” being another key parameter of judging quality of AR

Chimes in with increasingly streamlined research governance models

The eggplant continues to struggle for mainstream acceptance.

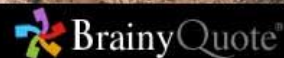


"If you find yourself constantly trying to prove your worth to someone, you have already forgotten your value."

Unknown

By appreciation, we make excellence in others our own property.

VOLTAIRE



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Thank You

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