

‘Inclusive Involvement in Qualitative Research Methods: Opportunities and Challenges’

Thursday 3 September 2020
from 1pm

“Is inclusion a delusion, illusion or achievable? Participative Action Research (PAR) in higher education organisations, can we make it happen?”

Abstract:

Participation, engagement and inclusion in research and knowledge exchange (KE) are often presented as key for civic engagement in universities. However, we may question whether this is a delusion (a fixed belief not located in reality, created within our own minds), an illusion (a distortion of the senses and reality, often shared by a number of people) or if it is achievable within contemporary REF, KEF and other metric-focused HEIs. We might want to believe we have radically shifted our position from studying subjects to co-producing knowledge, in recent times. However, this keynote will examine how Participative Action Research can challenge power structures and the push-back that this approach often attracts when implemented. Finally, we will ask whether we can make PAR important and central to good research practice, at a time of rising anti-inclusion in UK society and many other societies globally.

Bio:

Geraldine is a sociologist and transdisciplinary scholar with a keen interest in vulnerable groups and people who are defined as ‘out of place’ or who are excluded. She heads the School of Sociology and Criminology at Birmingham City University. She is founder of the interdisciplinary field of Abuse Studies and is designer of the first generic degrees globally, in this area. Geraldine is passionate about applied and community-engaged teaching of social science, bolstering employability and centrally attending to ways of co-producing learning between students, tutors and communities. As a scholar-activist with Romani heritage, Geraldine believes in the role of education to change lives, society and the world, through activities such as: civic engagement, participatory research, knowledge exchange, enterprise and widening participation to challenge power relationships.

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