

***Everything you wanted to ask about systems thinking vis a vis action research but
were too afraid to ask'***

Saturday 2pm-5pm

4th September 2010

Augustine Centre

2 Minona Street

Hawthorn VIC 3122

<http://www.augustine.org.au>

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Yoland Wadsworth (messages)

Half day \$200 students \$50

This half day workshop is a conversation about how we use systems thinking or thinking systemically in action research. A panel of three experienced and relatively well-known action research consultants/teachers will provide a sounding board for questions from participants about any aspects of the use of systems/systemic thinking in relation to action research and related methodologies in field-of-practice settings – community, business, government, or large and small organisations.

why

Each panel member will commence with a short reflection on their own uses of systems/systemic thinking in their work. 'Café table' discussions will be able to consider these contributions and then reconvene as a plenary with responses and questions for the panel. While the panel sees this as a question-and-answer format, it also sees it as a dialogue and conversation with and between panel members and all attending.

how

This is a master-class accessible both for those new to the field as well as the more experienced, in which all attending are recognised as researchers, teachers and learners in living feedback systems. Confirmed panellists and some optional pre-reading include:

who

Yoland Wadsworth Adjunct Professor in the Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University, Australia

- 'Is it safe to talk about systems again yet?—Self organ-ising processes for complex living systems and the dynamics of human inquiry' (2008a) *Systemic Practice and Action Research*, Springer, NY, 21(2):153-170; and
- 'Systemic human relations in dynamic equilibrium' (2008b) *Systemic Practice and Action Research*, Springer, NY, 21(1):15-34;
- *Do It Yourself Social Research* and
- *Everyday Evaluation on the Run* (both 2nd Ed. 1997 Allen & Unwin)

John Barton, Melbourne based strategy consultant and Adjunct Reader, School of Integrative Systems, University of Queensland.

- 'Action Research: Its history and relationship to the scientific method', and
- 'Action Research: its foundations in open systems thinking and relationship to the scientific method' (each with John Stephens and Tim Haslett),
- *Systemic Practice and Action Research*, Dec. 2009, and
- 'Analysis, Synthesis, Systems Thinking and the Scientific Method: rediscovering the importance of open systems', *Systems Research and the Behavioural Sciences*, 2007, 14: 143 – 155.

Danny Burns, Professor of Organisational Learning, SOLAR, University of Bristol, UK;

- *Systemic Action Research* (2007) Policy Press, University of Bristol, UK.

Register online www.alara.net.au/worldcongress/2010/precongress

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