

Guidelines for Submitting Articles to Journal of Transformative Action Research

“Transformative Action-Research” is different from much of mainstream research in the social sciences in a number of ways. Especially obviously, it is research that is designed to contribute to and/or result from or during action. Less obviously, it differs from most formal conventions of social research, which tend to be based on a highly structured research design that aim to ensure that the research is impervious to improvements in the design during the course of that research. For this reason, it is generally qualitative in nature, or combines qualitative research with quantitative methods, in some cases. It also “tends” to be “messy” –not careless or haphazard, but it is generally an evolving project, involving layers of iterations and insights which fine-tune and further guide the research as it evolves and matures over time. Consequently, we are primarily interested in articles that provide interesting and evocative illustrations of such somewhat unorthodox approaches to social research (although ironically, and not so well publicized, these qualities are somewhat commonplace in sophisticated and ground-breaking research in the “hard sciences”). [To learn more, you may consider consulting two books by WISR faculty member, John Bilorusky, and WISR colleagues: Volume 1-- Principles and Methods of Transformative Action Research: A Half Century of Living and Doing Action-Research --and--Volume 2--Cases and Stories of Transformative Action Research: Five Decades of Collaborative Action and Learning. Routledge Press (London, New York), 2021].

Articles which *explicitly* discuss several, or more, of the following matters are more likely to be accepted for publication:

1. Discuss how your research can impact your community or the larger society, and/or how it can contribute to a valuable new practice in an educational institution of community organization.
2. Discuss how your research can contribute to social justice or to multicultural/diversity/inclusiveness.
3. Discuss how your research demonstrates an innovative approach to qualitative data gathering and/or a combination of qualitative and quantitative data gathering.
4. Discuss how your research demonstrates a valuable approach to sampling for diversity, and/or intentionally seeking for data that are “exceptions to the rule.”

5. Discuss how your research demonstrates a use of inquiry in “everyday life.”
6. Discuss how your research demonstrates and makes use of an interplay between inquiry and action.
7. Discuss how your research provides valuable insights about “bias”, “objectivity,” and “validity.”
8. Discuss how your research illuminates how to address conflicting information.
9. Discuss how your research makes valuable use of collaboration to strengthen inquiry and/or action.
10. As part of your article, consider “telling the story of your inquiry and action” as at least part of your written submission.
11. Discuss the main strengths and limitations/weaknesses of your research.
12. Discuss how your research can contribute to either “immediate tasks” that a group of people face and/or some directions for creating change that is mindful of the “bigger picture.”
13. Discuss any ethical considerations that came up in the course of your research, and how you tried to address them.
14. Discuss any ways in which your research contributes to, or demonstrates the importance of, “community knowledge-building.”
15. In what way(s), does your research demonstrate valuable way(s) of combining action and research.
16. Discuss how your research might provide a contribution to the diversity of ways in action-research can be done.
17. Discuss any ways in which you improvised from, or modified, your initial research design because of information and insights that came to light during your research.
18. Discuss how your research might contribute toward a new “paradigm” in your field of action or study.