

"Designing the plane while flying it": concept co-construction in a CAR project

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In the field of collaborative action research (CAR) attention is drawn to the quality of the collaborative partnership of university researchers and practitioners. Most accounts focus on the question how to organise and optimise the encounter of these 'worlds' of scientific and practical reasoning, the professional development and emancipation of practitioners; and on how to enhance the practical utility of a CAR-project.

In this article we look at CAR projects from a different angle and explore the question how theoretical concepts are co-constructed. We have focused on the process of conceptualization during a CAR project in primary education in order to find out how a key concept in the project is co-constructed and operationalized in multidisciplinary communities of practices. Both the theoretical validity of the concept is evaluated as well as the validity of collaboration.

Keywords: collaborative action research; concept co-creation; concept validity; participation validity