

## Call for Abstracts:

# Participatory Research Methods: Transdisciplinary Foundations for Inclusive and Emancipatory Inquiry

Edited by Gertraud Kremsner, Oliver Dimbath, Werner Moskopp & Lea Klöpfer (all University of Koblenz, Germany), published at Routledge

One of the defining features of modern science is continual differentiation, generating ever-increasing complexity. Any development towards more specialized questions is countered by the requirement—not least for ethical reasons—that those for whose benefit the research is carried out should at least participate in its findings. This is particularly essential in the social sciences, where research deals with immediate and politically relevant issues in social relationships and social conditions. Comprehensible communication and feedback of research findings to all stakeholders is one thing, empowering them to have a say; to help shape, and even formulate their own research interests, is another.

In line with this concern for participatory research, this volume brings together contributions that address the challenge of involving (socially disadvantaged) people in research that directly affects their lives. However, the emphasis here is less on the experiences, questions, and challenges of 'research from below' and more on considerations of theoretical, methodological and ethical positioning. The focus is on the search for an (epistemological) theoretical foundation for a mode of research that seeks to conduct science together with people who are not scientifically trained – engaging them in the design, implementation, interpretation, and application of corresponding findings in pursuit of specific goals.

The book builds on a long tradition in the field of empirical social research and science. It draws on reference to ethical reflections via ELSI/ELSA research, technology assessment, and laboratory constructionism on the one hand, and on action research via stakeholder approach, critical theory and postcolonial studies, as well as existing approaches to participatory research on the other. Accordingly, the volume is structured around three sections, each offering a distinct perspective on the subject: a) philosophy and ethics, b) sociology and c) emancipatory approaches.

We are specifically seeking contributions that address the following topics and questions:

- Methods and methodological challenges of participatory research
- Forms and conceptions of participatory research
- Methodological, ethical and/or theoretical reflections on research experiences in collaboration with socially disadvantaged, non-scientifically educated people in the research process
- Methodological, ethical and/or theoretical reflections on the (socio-political) application and implementation of participatory research findings

Outlines of planned contributions with a **maximum of 3,000 characters** are requested by **October 31, 2025** to Gertraud Kremsner ([gkremsner@uni-koblenz.de](mailto:gkremsner@uni-koblenz.de)), Werner Moskopp ([wmoskopp@uni-koblenz.de](mailto:wmoskopp@uni-koblenz.de)), Oliver Dimbath ([dimbath@uni-koblenz.de](mailto:dimbath@uni-koblenz.de)) and Lea Klöpfer ([leakloepfer@uni-koblenz.de](mailto:leakloepfer@uni-koblenz.de)). Full papers will be due by May 2026; reviewed papers until October 2026.