



CIVIS BIP - Healthy Urban Systems | 03.07.2024

A few notes on participatory approaches

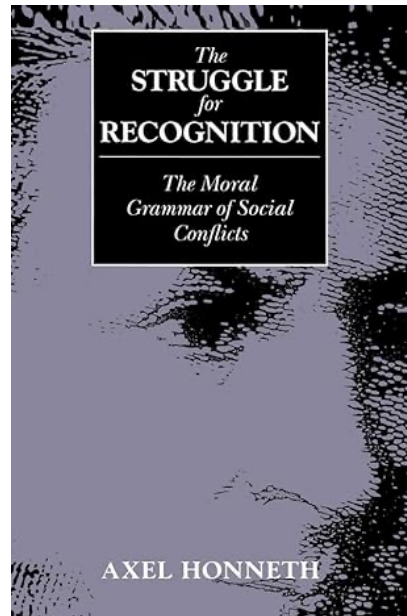
Francesco Panese

WHAT IS A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH ?



- Participatory research generally deals with questions or problems that are important to the people concerned, but which at the same time exceed their capacity to deal with them.
- Individuals and groups can decide to respond to “what is happening” by **taking part in a participative research through the intermediary of the researcher.**
- **People and groups are often transformed by the inquiry**, with regard to their identity, their representations, their practices, their agency, etc.
- Simply put: *doing things with people and for people.*

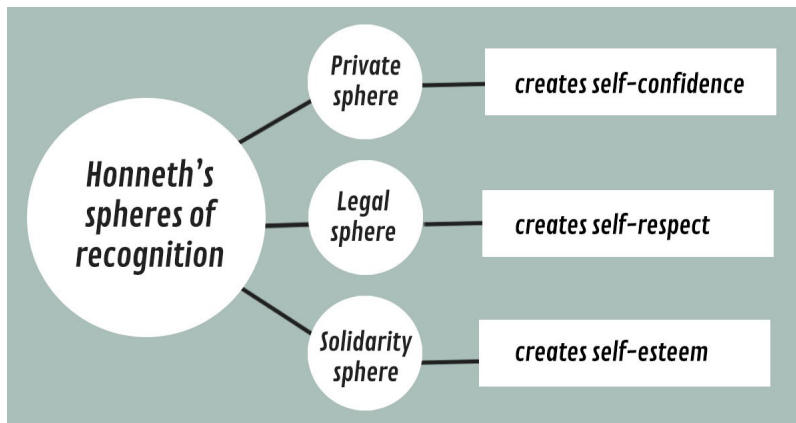
AN APPROACH BASED ON THE RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCE



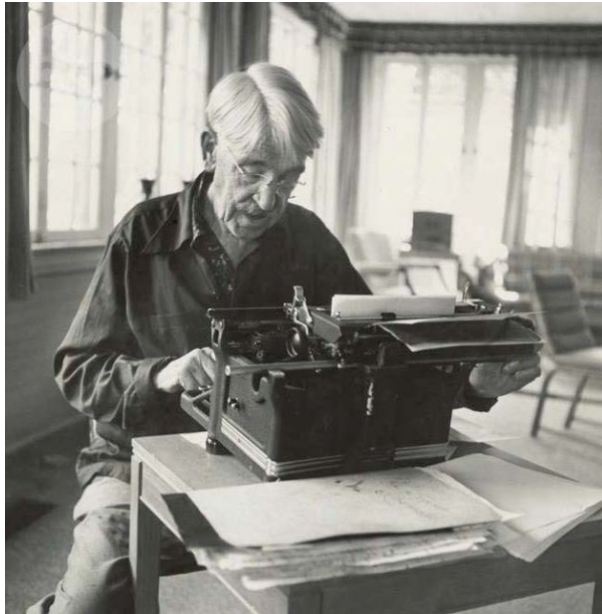
To varying degrees, each person is characterised by:

- **Experiences:**
in the first person.
- **Experiential knowledge:**
based on a mental apprehension of the nature and meaning of experience (process of exchange and confrontation, distancing, analysis, rationalisation).
- **Experiential expertise:**
the ability to mobilise experiential knowledge to provide answers to problems formulated in general or specific terms.

Cf. Akrich, M. and V. Rabeharisoa (2012). L'expertise profane dans les associations de patients, un outil de démocratie sanitaire. *Santé Publique* 24(1): 69-74.



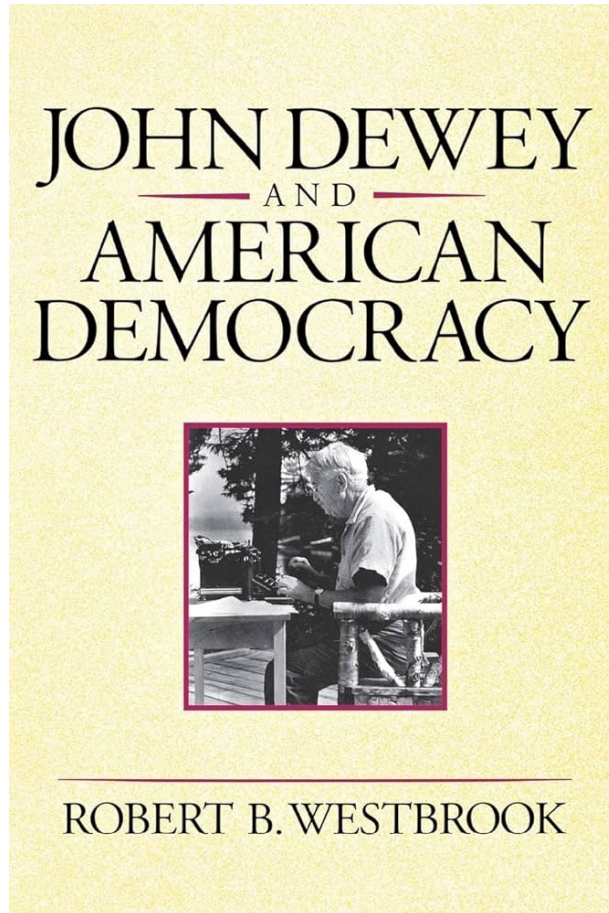
A PARADIGMATIC PARTICIPATORY APPROACH THE INQUIRY ACCORDING TO JOHN DEWEY (1859-1952)



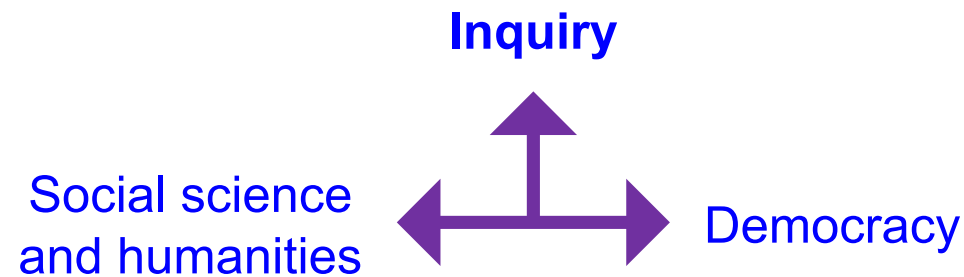
- Dewey's main tool for social change is what he calls the **“theory of inquiry”**, which is based on the idea that a change in the environment leads to **problems of adaptation or dysfunction that need to be resolved through an inquiry in which various hypotheses are tested.**
- The inquiry is then conceived as a **co-elaboration** with the stakeholders involved in the problem to be solved or the situation to be improved.

A PARADIGMATIC PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

THE *INQUIRY* ACCORDING TO JOHN DEWEY (1859-1952)

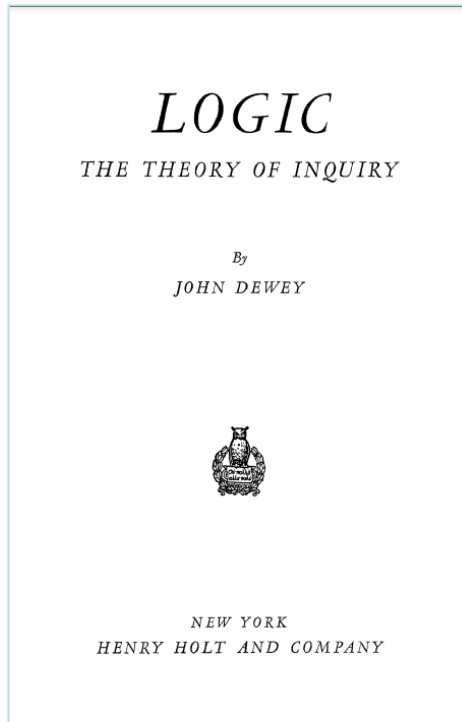


- Inquiry therefore has a **social function**. It is a **social practice** in itself, with a **social meaning**. It is literally **part of the social relations** it seeks to improve.



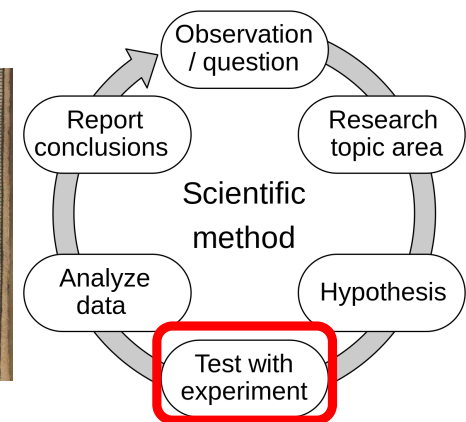
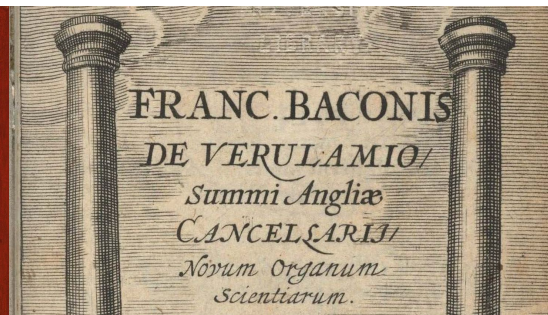
A PARADIGMATIC PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

THE *INQUIRY* ACCORDING TO JOHN DEWEY (1859-1952)



1938

- For Dewey, « the matter of thinking is not thoughts but actions, facts, events, and the relations of things. In other words, to think effectively, we must have had, or be having, **experiences** that provide the means to deal with the present difficulty. » (Joëlle Zask)
- Dewey was an **experimentalist** social philosopher inspired by Francis Bacon, one of the founders of modern experimental science, whom he considered “the greatest of philosophers”.



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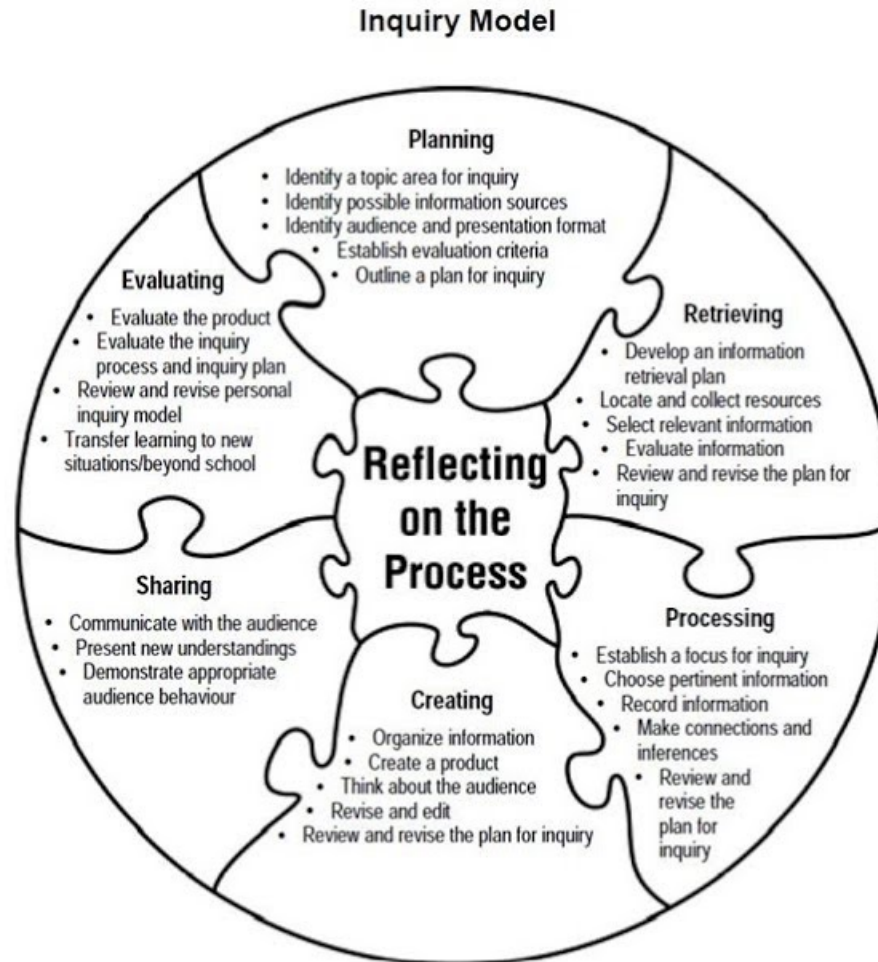
A PARADIGMATIC PARTICIPATORY APPROACH THE *INQUIRY* ACCORDING TO JOHN DEWEY (1859-1952)

- The inquiry then consists of attempting **to transform an initially insoluble or problematic situation** into one in which the elements are related to each other in such a way that it becomes possible to act to produce foreseeable changes.

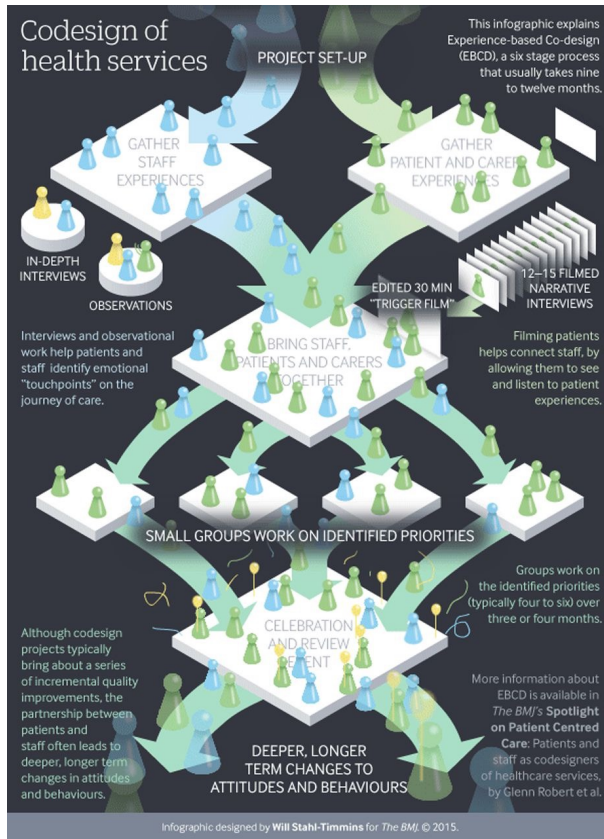


A PARADIGMATIC PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

THE *INQUIRY* ACCORDING TO JOHN DEWEY (1859-1952)



A RECENT AVATAR OF PARTICIPATORY APPROACH EXPERIENCE-BASED CO-DESIGN



- EBCD is an approach that enables lay people and professionals to **work together** in partnership to design improvement initiatives.
- EBCD enables participants to **share their experiences** through in-depth interviews, observation of group discussions, identification of key « touch points » and attribution of positive or negative feelings.
- In most examples of EBCD, stakeholders and professionals work together in small groups to **implement quality improvement initiatives** in the defined improvement area.

Borgstrom E., Barclay S. (2019) Experience-based design, co-design and experience-based co-design in palliative and end-of-life care, *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care* 2019;**9**:60-66.

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Research

Experience-based co-design: A method for patient and family engagement in system-level quality improvement

Bianca Fucile, *Department of Health Sciences, Brock University, Bf11pd@brocku.ca*
Erica Bridge, *Department of Health Sciences, Brock University, Cancer Care Ontario, Erica.bridge@cancercare.on.ca*
Charlene Duliban, *Niagara Health System, Charlene.Duliban@niagarabealth.on.ca*
Madelyn P. Law, *Department of Health Sciences, Brock University, mlaw@brocku.ca*

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INQUIRY AND SOCIAL INNOVATION
AN EXAMPLE

How did citizens maintain the lake quality?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5A5gA3f2B4> 5'59"

INQUIRY AND SOCIAL INNOVATION AN EXAMPLE



ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF AN INTERVENTION WITH SYSTEMIC EFFECTS,
THIS TIME ON THE ENVIRONMENT



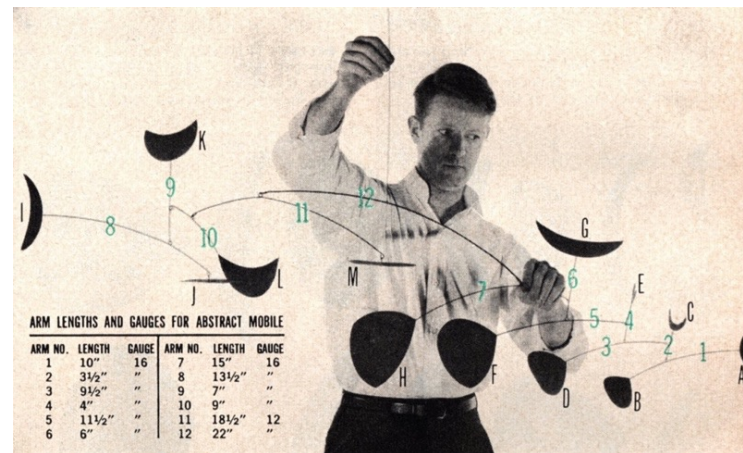
<https://truenaturefoundation.org/research/how-wolves-change-rivers/>

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Thank you for your kind attention

francesco.panese@unil.ch



John Lynch, "How to make an abstract mobile".
In Popular Science. December 1954.