

Research-practice partnerships

Research-practice partnerships (RPP) are long-term mutually beneficial formalized collaborations between education researchers and practitioners. RPP is a strategy for producing relevant research, improving the use of research evidence in decision making, and engaging both researchers and practitioners to tackle problems of practice. The Madison Education Partnership (MEP) brings together the expertise of the University of Wisconsin Madison's education researchers with the insights of local pre-K-12 educators to address current challenges facing local schools, and to produce relevant and cutting-edge education policy research.

Participatory Plant Breeding

Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) is an on-farm breeding method that involves a close collaboration between farmers and researchers. PPB takes place in plant breeding and horticulture program. The approach provides farmers an opportunity to adapt crop varieties to their specific regions and organic farming practices. Professors in the Horticulture department at UW-Madison, including Julie Dawson, William Tracy, and Irwin Goldman, practice Consumer-Engaged Participatory Plant Breeding by integrating farmer, chef and consumer feedback into the plant breeding process.

Citizen Science

Citizen Science is an endeavor in which scientific knowledge is advanced through the collaboration of researchers with engaged members of the public. Citizen scientists lend their passion, knowledge, and skill to observe phenomena, record data, and assist, actively, with researchers in the field. Citizen science opportunities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison stems from many departments and includes wildlife and insect monitoring, invasive species detection, and water and weather monitoring.

Photovoice

Photovoice is a qualitative method used for community-based participatory research to document and reflect reality. It is a dynamic process that combines photography with grassroots social action and is commonly used in the fields of community development, international development, public health, and education. Eva Vivian, a professor at the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy works with students in Madison's north side to make space to youth to discuss health issues in their communities through photography.



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Participatory Evaluation

Participatory evaluation provides for the active involvement of those with a stake in the program: participants, program staff, board members, community members, partners, sponsors, etc. The Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies (CommNS) in the School of Human Ecology works with community partners to build evaluation tools that reflect the community partner's context-specific goals and needs.

Critical ethnography

Critical ethnography is a qualitative approach to research that explicitly sets out to critique hegemony, oppression, and asymmetrical power relations in order to foster social change. Some critical ethnographers work directly with community members, engaging in participatory research and ongoing dialogue with those being researched. Professor Katrina Daly Thompson of the African Studies department uses critical ethnography and critical discourse analysis to examine African and Muslim discourse, with specific projects in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, North America, and online.

Participatory photo-mapping mapping

Participatory Photo Mapping (PPM) was developed to support community-based environmental assessment, action planning and policy development in the realm of health and place. PPM emerged from earlier work in community-based qualitative GIS and incorporates participatory practices from community mapping, photo elicitation and action research. Dr. Dennis, an associate professor and director of the Environmental Design Laboratory at UW–Madison, current research engages communities in assessing and improving their neighborhoods through participatory research, planning and design, including PPM.

Participatory Design

As the name implies, the participatory design approach is just as much about design— producing artifacts, systems, work organizations, and practical or tacit knowledge—as it is about research. Participatory design draws on various research methods (such as ethnographic observations, interviews, analysis of artifacts, and sometimes protocol analysis) across many departments across UW–Madison campus (Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, School of Education, School of Human Ecology, and School of Pharmacy).

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Community Placemaking

Placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which community members can shape the public realm in order to maximize shared value. More than just promoting better urban design, placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution. The University of Wisconsin-Extension provides host the Design Wisconsin program as an opportunity to bring a team of planning and design professionals to co-discover the short-, medium-, and long-range visions of community futures.

Participatory theatre

Participatory theater is a term given to theatre practice that generally plays an educational or interventionist role, that involves its audience in discussion and dialogue about the performed piece and in which the audience and the performers or presenters interact during and/or after the performance. Participatory theater is elastic, responding to and evolving from the voices in the room and can produce robust data.

Practitioner Action Research

Practitioner action research is research carried out by those involved in the situation to improve their practice and depth of understanding. It is often undertaken for the goal of professional or organizational improvement and learning. Research done by these professionals is often utilized directly in their practice, with a reciprocal understanding of the relationship between inquiry and action.



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