



PSYC.7030: Critical Participatory and Action Research

(Selected Topics in Applied Psychology and Prevention Science)

Prof. Urmī Dutta

Thursday 3:30 - 6:20pm | Spring 2024

This course is designed to introduce students to critical participatory and action research (PAR) as a form of transformative social change. Situating PAR's historical roots in the Global South, we will examine PAR assumptions, methods, and praxis from feminist, liberatory, decolonial, scholar activist, and anti-racist theoretical frames. Simultaneously, we will look at social justice struggles, movements, and how those have created new ways of thinking about and democratizing knowledge production. This course will introduce various resources for PAR that include new media, storytelling, and creative arts-based approaches along with ethnographic and narrative approaches. There will be a particular focus on community-engaged PAR, that is developed and carried out alongside/in solidarity with communities at the frontlines of struggles for justice, rights, and dignity.

- Theoretical foundations
- Ethics : issues of issues of power, trust, (in)equity, and social (in)justice
- PAR as a vehicle for social change
- Practical research tools and strategies
- Methodological approaches: traditional research methods; digital storytelling; oral histories; photovoice, etc.

Scope of topics



This class is for you if you are interested in any or all of the following:

- Learning about PAR
- Making your research more participatory
- Designing your research to be geared toward action
- Exploring PAR in relation to a topic of interest
- Applying elements of PAR to an existing research project
- Conceptualizing a PAR project
- Incorporating PAR in a qualifying paper or dissertation proposal
- Exploring PAR with a specific group/population

For any questions, contact:
Prof. Urmī Dutta
urmitapa_dutta@uml.edu