

PARTICIPATORY AND ACTION RESEARCH METHODS

Action Research

2



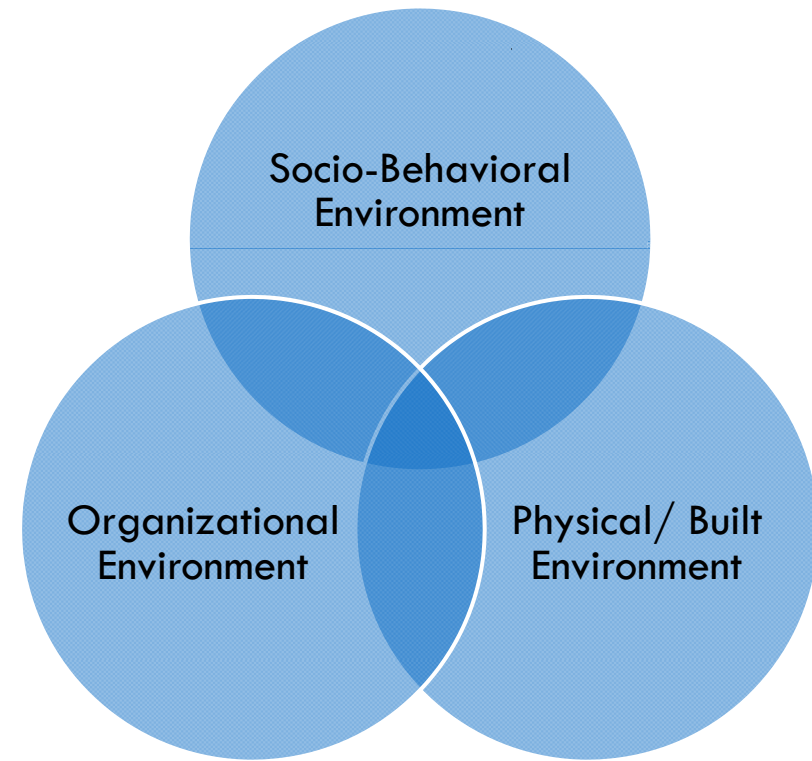
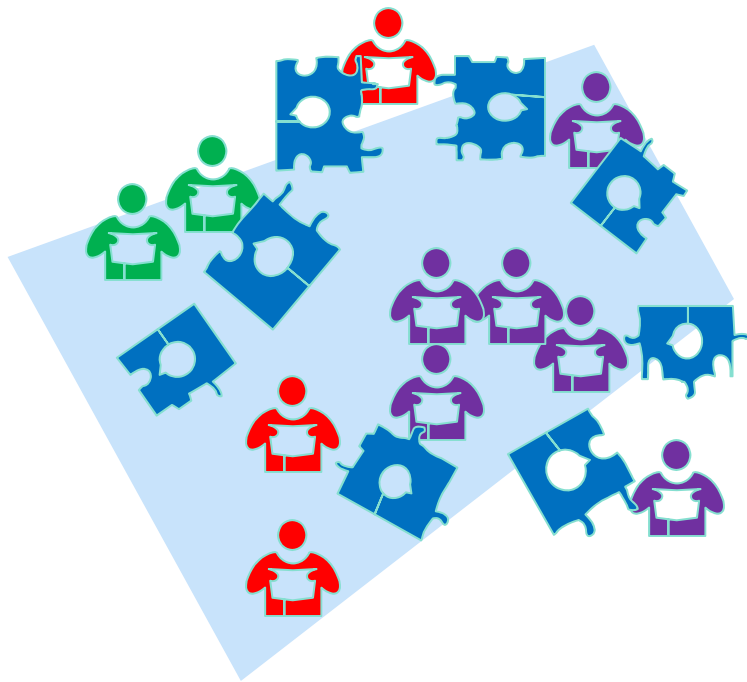
Arguments for Action Research

3

- Context-centered
- Addresses real world problems
- Taps into knowledge and insights of participants
- Leads to action/implementation
- Can generate new knowledge, new meanings
- Questions that need resolution
 - Are all participants equal?
 - Does everyone have the same knowledge?
 - Who learns? Who benefits?

People-Place Relationships

4



Example/Children's Environments

5

Characteristics of young people, including their perceptions, attitudes, competencies

Relationships between young people, youth and adults

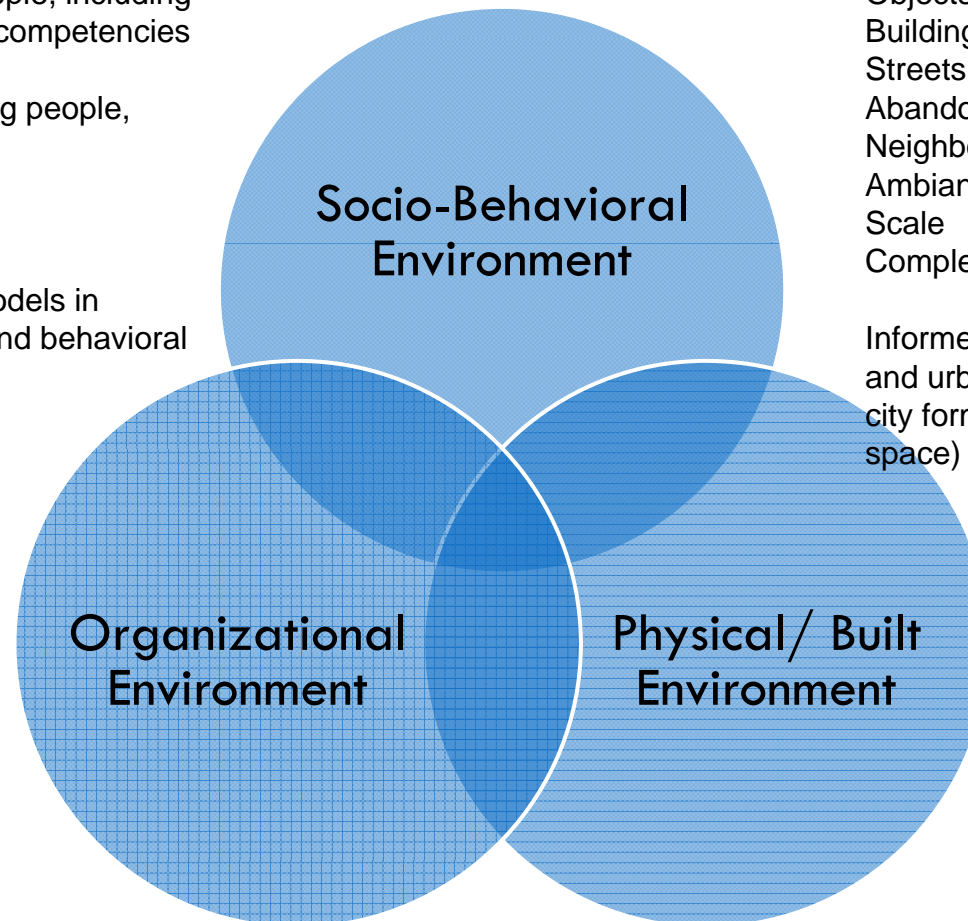
Activities, Activity patterns

Informed by theories and models in environmental psychology and behavioral geography

Formal and informal rules that govern young people's behaviors and actions

Institutional structures governing youth action, youth advocacy, and youth engagement

Informed by theories and models in organizational behavior theory, laws (e.g., zoning) as well as religious and cultural norms



Objects
Buildings
Streets
Abandoned areas
Neighborhoods
Ambiance
Scale
Complexity

Informed by theories of architecture and urban design (e.g., theories of city form, space syntax, defensible space)

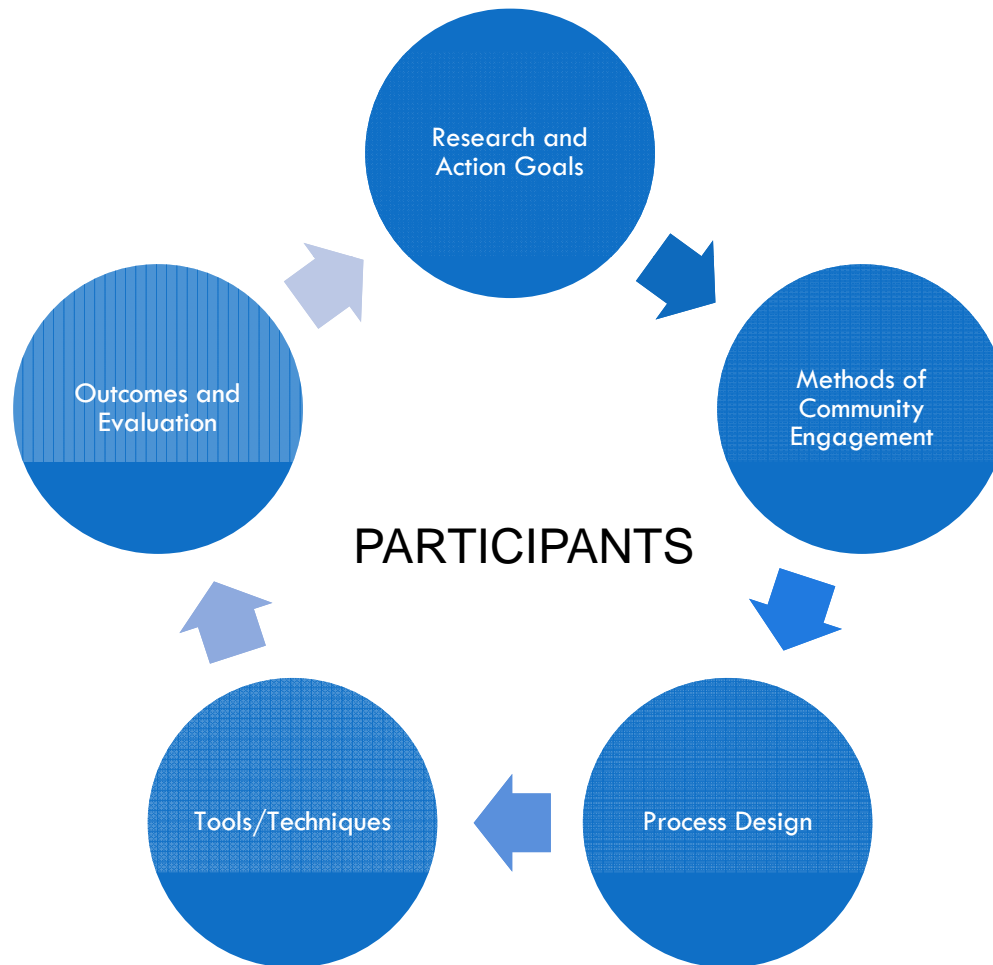
Participatory Action Research (PAR)

6

- ❑ Develops the capacity of participants to organize, analyze and discuss concepts related to the particular endeavor
- ❑ Engages participants in every aspect of the research/investigation, i.e., from goal setting to assessing outcomes
- ❑ Develops techniques to incorporate participants views and participant generated data in explaining findings
- ❑ Returns data to participants
- ❑ In other words, PAR establishes clear linkages between knowledge production and knowledge use

PAR Process

7



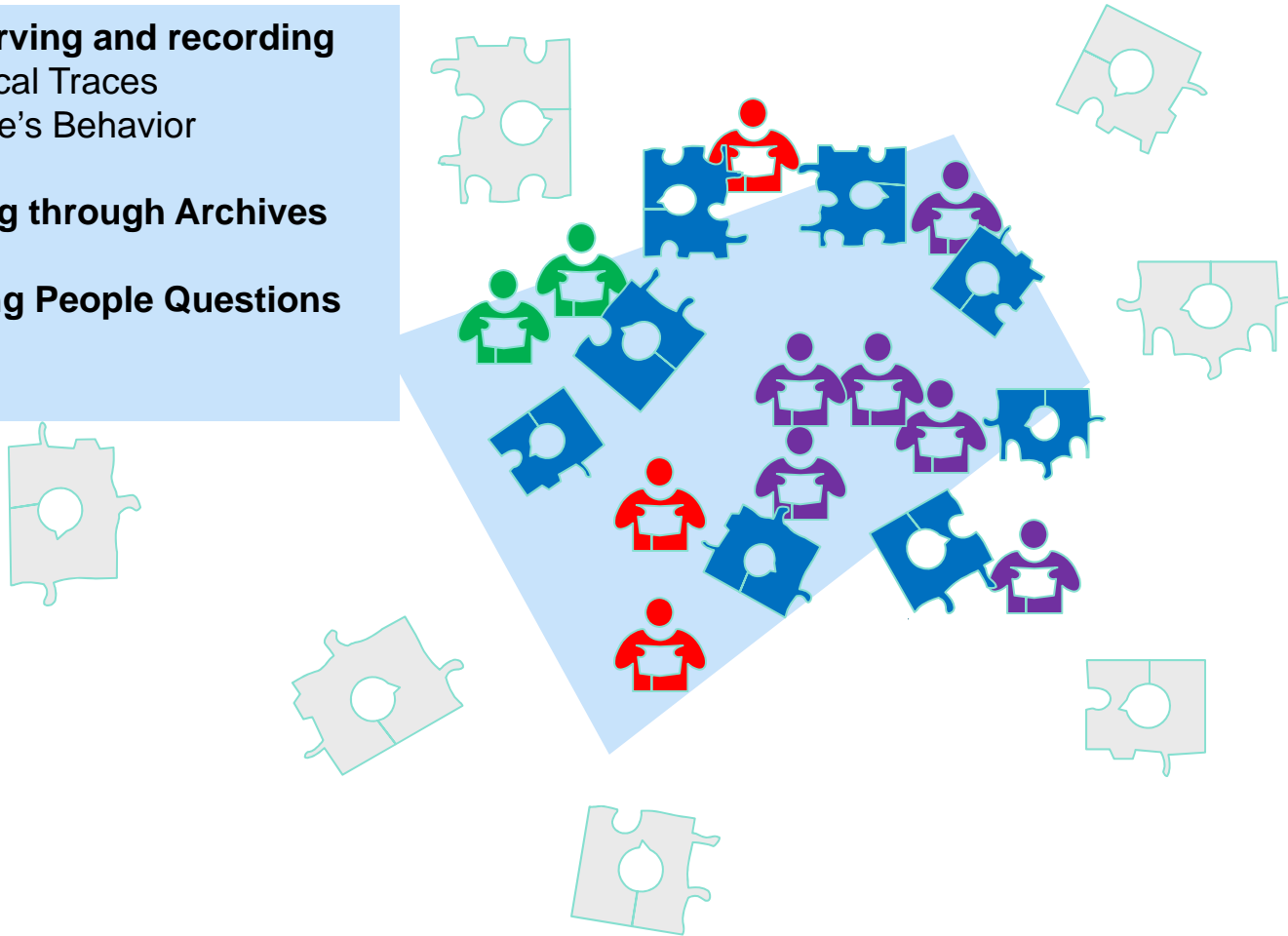
Gathering/Learning from Data

8

Observing and recording
Physical Traces
People's Behavior

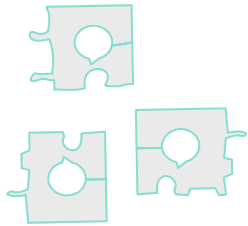
Poring through Archives

Asking People Questions

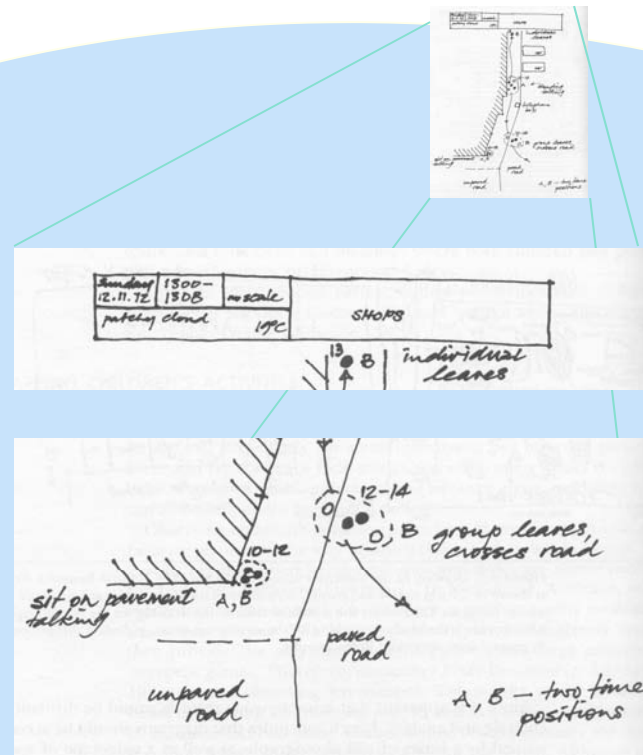


Gathering/Learning from Data

9



Verbal Descriptions and Diagrams
Precoded Checklists
Behavior Maps
Photographs
Videotapes & Movies



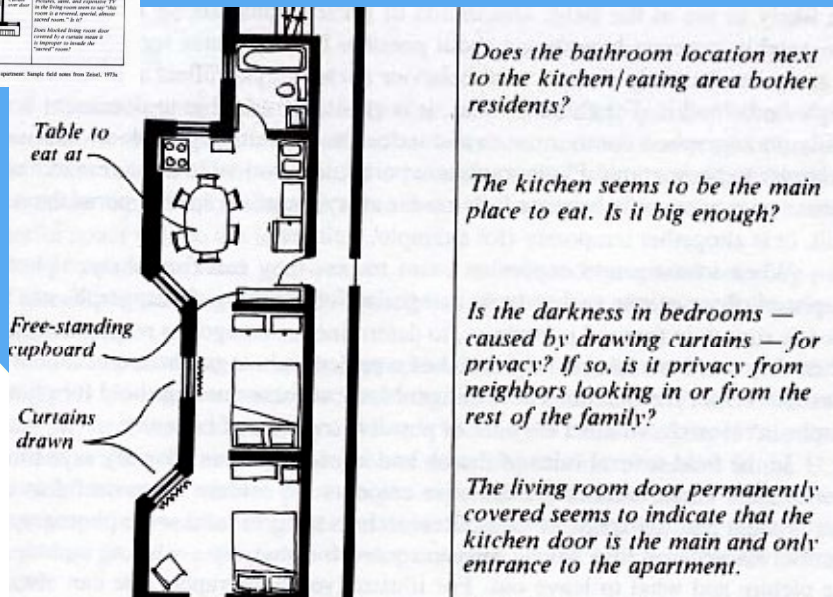
RESIDENT ACTIVITIES	
sleeping	11
sitting, null behavior	12
standing, null behavior	13
sitting, looking around	21
sitting, solo activity	22
standing, looking around	23
standing, solo activity	24
watching T.V.	25
talking to self	31
talking to other/s	32
talking to staff	33
sitting, talking to self	41
sitting, talking to other	42
sitting, talking to staff	43
standing, talking to self	44
standing talking to other	45
standing, talking to staff	46
walking, alone, purpose	51
walking, alone, aimless	52
walking alone, agitated	53
walking, alone, unknown	54
walking with another resident	61
walking, talking with resident	62
walking with staff	63
walking, talking with staff	64
eating/drinking independent	71
eating/drinking with assistance	72
toileting/bathing independent	73
toileting/bathing with assistance	74
physical aggression	81
agitated behavior/verbalization	82
tearfulness	83
laughing	84
passive part, small group activity	91
active part, small group activity	92
passive part, large group activity	93
active part, large group activity	94

Observing/Learning from Physical Traces

10

OBSERVATIONS	COMMENTS
	<p>Does the rear location discourage walking from using the kitchen door, the way into the living room?</p> <p>Does the bathroom location next to the kitchen create any further problems?</p> <p>The kitchen seems to be the main place to eat. Is it big enough?</p> <p>Is the darkness in bedrooms — caused by drawing curtains — for privacy? If so, is privacy more important looking in or from the rest of the family?</p> <p>The living room door permanently covered seems to indicate that the kitchen door is the main and only entrance to the apartment.</p> <p>Does this mean that every person in the kitchen must be the host?</p> <p>Refrigerator, stove, and expensive TV in the living room seem to say this room is a formal space, almost "hotel room" type.</p> <p>Does blocked living room door created by a curtain mean it is important to create the "hotel" space?</p>

Flattened layout of St. Bonito apartment. Sample field notes from Zeisel, 1973a



Recording Observations

Annotated Diagrams
Drawings
Photographs
Checklists

Advantages

- Minimal cost and time
- Do not have to be present
- No particular expertise required

Disadvantages

- Durability
- Activities that do not leave a trace
- Needs to be supplemented with other research techniques

Observing/Learning from Behavior

11



People and Activities

Who?
What?
With whom?



Observations can include:

12



Physical Traces

Leftovers

Erosion

Messages

Adaptations

Presentations of Self

Missing Elements

Acquiring/Disseminating Data

13

- Formal and Informal Interviews
- Advisory Groups
- Polls and Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Visioning
- Charettes
- Participatory Research is always interactive