

MAPPING PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH LIGHTNING TALK SESSIONS AT THE SCOTTISH THIRD SECTOR RESEARCH FORUM 9th of October, 2019



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INTRODUCTION

At the Third Sector Research Forum conference in October this year Allison Mathews and Amy Calder from the TSRF Participatory Research Subgroup held a series of 15 minute 'lightning talk' sessions to gain a sense of understanding of the various stages we need to go through to ensure research is fully participatory. The purpose was to better understand and define participatory research which we can then share with a wider audience.

We appreciate there are grey areas, particularly in the context of Arnstein's ladder of participation which ranges from manipulation to citizen control, but what we want to focus on is a quick-fire session on the stages of participation. There are no wrong answers!

RESOURCES

3 different coloured sets of post-it notes and pens

METHOD

Amy and Allison stood at front of the room with wall space. We asked the first question - **If you are going to do participatory research, what do you need to do first?** As ideas are suggested Allison wrote suggestions on post-its and map from left to right. Amy facilitated discussion. A different coloured post it will be used for each group. The post will stay on the wall after each session, so we are adding to the wall, with similar ideas can be added vertically.

SUMMARY

There was a good level of discussion at each of sessions, and delegates had a strong understanding (and views!) on the methods, and challenges, of ensuring that research is fully participative. Discussion focused around power dynamics, spending time to clarifying purpose and expectations, listening to feedback, and the importance of co-designing the research questions from as early a stage as possible. There was a lot of discussion about ensuring that there was adequate training in place to build the skills of researchers, and that this is well resourced. People also discussed the importance of the research being iterative, and to build in methods to change in response to feedback. It was also important to ensure participation in the analysis, and to check understanding, and to share findings with all participants. Overall, it was a good, interactive session. We even got a wee applause!

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