

Practitioners, users, students and researchers
in collaboration within social work. Practice
Research in Practice.

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What is Practice Research?

- 1) Questions connected to practice
- 2) Immediate interest of results of research
- 3) The researcher as subject and object
- 4) Intermediate production of research and distribution of research
- 5) Multi dimensionality and multi agents



Why Practice Research?

Traditionally academic research (Mode I) is unefficient within the multi-facetted field of social work

There is a need of developing a practice-near knowledge (Mode II) in collaboration between practice, users, education and researchers



Who are the stakeholders of practice research?

Practitioners

Users

Researchers/teachers/students

Politicians

Administrators

The public



Knowledge- production in practice

Quality- assurance

KUBAS (a Swedish project)

Knowledge- based social work

Evidence- based social work

Practice Research- based social work



Lärdomar från Sociorama

Betydelsen av en **tydlig struktur** för kunskapsutveckling mellan utbildning, forskning och socialtjänsten genom en organisationsmodell med ett särskilt kollegium av kombinationstjänster från alla berörda parter.

Betoning på en **bred och pluralistisk kunskapssyn** som inkluderar såväl vetenskapliga som praktiska kunskapsbidrag och på kunskaps-utvecklingens såväl producerande som mottagande aspekter.

Inriktning på ett **långsiktigt** kunskapsutvecklingsarbete.

Ett **tydligt ekonomiskt åtagande** från såväl universitet som medverkande kommuners socialtjänst.



Dimensions of Practice Research I

Research questions are strongly connected to social work practice

Reflecting relations and redefining research questions

Methodological innovation between actors and researchers



Dimensions of Practice Research II

Searching for shared knowledge and common knowledge production

A task for addressing tacit knowledge and weak signals, especially about people in weak positions

(Satka & Karvinen-Niinikoski et al 2005: Sosiaalityön käytäntötutkimus)



Some Preconditions I

It's about both structures and space/opportunity, confident relations and open discussions, and the needs of those who participate in the developing of knowledge.

A forum is needed to handle mutual questions, and to learn from each other – to make individual knowledge a collective knowledge. **And this is a challenge for Practice Research!**



Some Preconditions II

In order to make a learning process possible, we need people with different kinds of knowledge – at the same time as they have a common goal.

Practice Research is communication and collaboration on equal terms!



Immediate Use I

Through the continuous link to practice, the research can support an immediate use. The research becomes more relevant.

The possibility for researchers and practitioners to take part together in a development of knowledge, gives unique possibilities to produce innovative and new research.



Immediate Use II

A broad part-taking of researchers, practitioners, users and expertise makes the research more innovative. The practice research can overcome the borders between different professions, and also between different academic disciplines.

Practice Research gives inspiration and motivation to go on researching in practice.



Salisbury Statement on Practice Research I

In developing the relationship between practice and research the following principles/practices are important:

Collaboration

Participation

Ethical reflexivity and critical reflection

Contextuality and the dynamic, fluid or relational nature of research



Salisbury Statement on Practice Research II

Practice research may also contribute to the development of the profession through generating its distinctive knowledge and expertise.

http://www.socsci.soton.ac.uk/spring/salisbury/The_Salisbury_Statement_on_practice_research_May_2009.pdf



All Research Needs Data I

Practice Research can be used as a base for data-collection.

”Clinical Data-Mining - Integrating Practice and Research”

by Irwin Epstein , is one example of a useful method.



All Research Needs Data II

The practical placement within a social work education programme, is an underused and underestimated possibility for data collection.



PR during practical placement – with a starting point from Salisbury Statement

A situation where *collaboration* between practitioners, students, users and researchers is natural.

A situation where *participation* is a precondition.

A situation where *ethical reflexivity and critical reflection* is required of all that are involved.

A situation that offers an *arena* where social interventions meets the users, and where the consequences can be analyzed within the practice
kontext.



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Eivor Söderström, Ilse Julkunen
och Ann Backman (red.)



Att utveckla praktiken
– i praktiken

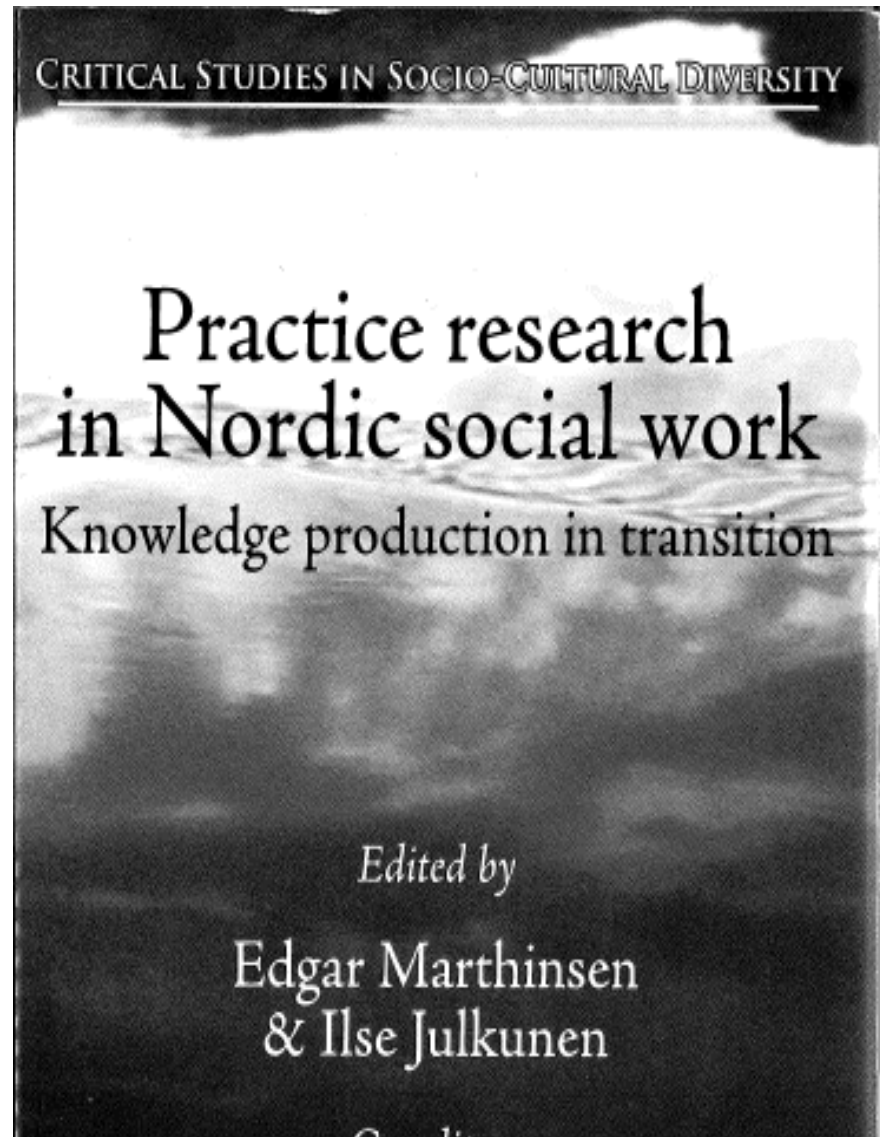
FSKC RAPPORTER 1/2009



Thank You for listening!

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Evidensbaserad praktik inom socialtjänsten - till nytta för brukaren

SOU 2008:18

Is Practice Research- based collaboration between practitioners, users, students and researchers the future possibility to ensure good social work – in the good of the user?

Thank you for listening!

