



The Department of Psychology  
Covenant University  
Canaanland, Ogun State, Nigeria  
presents

# WARP 2011

Workshop on Alternative Research Paradigms and Indigenous Knowledge Promotion

## About WARP

The need to really engage African communities has never been more urgent. Facing chronic crises of troubling proportions, African economies and communities are crippled by alarmingly poor quality of life standards and other socio-political problems. The Nigerian academic context must intervene by helping to fashion new alternatives to present challenges and creative solutions to everyday problems. To do this, the Nigerian/African academic must embrace new research tools – however unorthodox or removed from mainstream praxis – that do not encourage complacency (the 'publish or perish' culture), and that help relocate him/her in the very centre of the vortex of public concerns, needs and hopes. WARP is designed to help expose the researcher to new ways of conducting research, new ways of constructing his/her identity in relation to the researched, and new ways of promoting social change. Hence, WARP exposes participants to alternative ways of perceiving the researchable world, and equips all with tools that have great transformative potential. The workshop, built on the postmodern sensitivity to the idea of plurality, is a quest to decolonize the African research situation by introducing more contextually significant approaches to knowledge production and application, and promoting indigenous knowledge systems that aid mental health, education and meaningful living.

This year's workshop is designed to facilitate the training of participants (academics and students) in the Action Research paradigm (an approach to research that challenges traditional social science, emphasizes action, and supports social change as a legitimate research outcome), Living Educational theory (which introduces the idea that people live in pluralistic worlds of meaning that shapes their educational influences) and the need to promote the exploration of indigenous knowledge systems in psychology and psychology-related fields.

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2011

**Venue:** Africa Development Centre, Covenant University

**Theme:** Action Research, Living Educational Theory and the Quest for Social Change

**Subthemes:** *Module A:* LIVING EDUCATIONAL THEORY FOR AFRICA

**(PROF. JACK WHITEHEAD) [Keynote Address and 1 Lecture]**

- Suggested Focus for Keynote Address: How do I improve what I'm doing? Living Educational Theory for the African Context
- Suggested Focus Area: Changing our Stories, Transforming our Worlds: Practicing Living Educational Theory

*Module B:* THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ACTION RESEARCH FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CHANGE

**(PROF. JEAN MCNIFF) [2 Lectures and 'OpenSpace' Discourse Facilitation]**

- Suggested Focus Area: The transformative power of Action Research – and why it's needed in African contexts today
- Suggested Focus Area: The Relevance/Application of Action Research to Multiple Disciplines
- OpenSpace: Could our mainstream research pathways be irrelevant to the needs of the moment in Africa?

Module C: INTRODUCING THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH PARADIGM

**(PROF. AUGUSTINE NWOYE) [2 Lectures and 'OpenSpace' Discourse Facilitation]**

- Suggested Focus Area: The Need for Qualitative Methodologies – Challenging Research Orthodoxies
- Suggested Focus Area: Doing a PhD using a Qualitative Research Methodology
- OpenSpace: What are the benefits of the qualitative paradigms to development discourse and academic praxis?

Module D: THERE ARE MANY WORLDS: EXPLORING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

**(PROF. AKIN ODEBUNMI) [2 Lectures and 'OpenSpace' Discourse Facilitation]**

- Suggested Focus Area: Decolonizing Knowledge and Promoting Indigenous Systems in Psychology: Pathways to National Development
- Suggested Focus Area: Exploring the Need to Generate Indigenous Research Modalities
- OpenSpace: What if there are other 'knowledges'? Are indigenous worldviews legitimate?

**Special Paper Presentation from Host Department:**

'Participate to Prosper', not 'Publish or Perish': Reimagining Academic Praxis in the Nigerian Research Context

*Akomolafe, Adebayo Clement*

**OpenSpace:**

The Workshop of Alternative Research Paradigms (and Indigenous Knowledge Promotion) is unique in its articulation. Conceived as much-more-than-a-workshop, WARP 2011 integrates a unique discussion forum – organized around the Socratic group format – in which participants will discuss issues relevant to the general discourse of the Workshop. Participants will be facilitated by the Speakers, who will mentor the groups, and guide the dialogic encounter. OpenSpace will feature, most importantly, the creation of small groups of researchers who will be mentored by the Speakers even after the Workshop is over.

**Resource Persons:**

1. **Professor Jack Whitehead**, (Education)

Liverpool Hope University, UK

2. **Professor Jean McNiff**, (Educational Research)

York St. John University, UK



3. **Professor Augustine Nwoye**, (Psychology)

Visiting Professor from University of Dodoma, Tanzania

4. **Professor Akin Odebunmi**, (Psychology)

University of Ibadan

**Targeted Participants:** Participants include persons within the fields of Psychology and any other social science areas, as well as professionals and students in Science and Technology and Educational Research. Most importantly, WARP is for postgraduate and doctorate students who might be considering different alternative research paradigms.

**External participants:**

Invitations will be sent to Nigerian Universities and Research Institutes for interested Academics and Researchers in and around Covenant University.

**Internal Participants:**

**University Faculty**

**Third Year Students of Psychology, Sociology and Mass Communication:** The committee suggests that this workshop be made mandatory for individuals in this category, as it will help them shape their project and also provide them a newer perspective of research.

## Programme WARP 2010

DAY ONE (Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2011)

Registration: 8:00am – 2:00pm (Africa Development Centre, Covenant University)

Opening Ceremony and Welcome: 2:00pm – 2:30pm (Vice Chancellor)

Keynote Lecture: 2:30pm – 4:00pm (Professor Jack Whitehead)



TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	PRESENTER / ANCHOR	Remarks
17:00 – 17:45	Guided Tour of Covenant University Campus	Covenant University	Corporate Affairs and Publicity	
18:00 – 19:30	Cultural Night	Africa Development Centre	Student and Staff Presentations	
19:30 – 20:00	Adjournment and Announcements			

DAY TWO (Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2011)

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	PRESENTER / ANCHOR	Remarks
08:00 – 09:30	Chapel Service	Covenant University Chapel		
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Lecture One</b> (Introducing the Qualitative Research Paradigm I)	Africa Development Centre	Professor Augustine Nwoye	
13:00 – 13:30	Tea Break	Africa Development Centre		
13:30 – 15:00	<b>Lecture Two</b> (Living Educational Theory I)	Africa Development Centre	Professor Jack Whitehead	
15:30 – 16:30	Roundtable Discussions and Interactions	Africa Development Centre	MC	Facilitated by Cluster Leaders
16:30 – 17:00	Adjournments and Announcements		MC	

DAY THREE (Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2011)

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	PRESENTER / ANCHOR	Remarks
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Lecture Three</b> (The Transformative Power of Action Research I)	Africa Development Centre	Professor Jean McNiff	
11:00 – 12:00	Tea Break	Africa Development Centre		
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lecture Four</b> (There are many worlds: Exploring indigenous knowledge systems I)	Africa Development Centre	Professor Akin Odebunmi	
14:30 – 14:45	Lunch			
15:00 – 16:00	<b>Lecture Five</b> (Introducing the Qualitative Research Paradigm II)	Africa Development Centre	Professor Nwoye	
16:15 – 16:45	<b>Lecture Six</b> ('Participate to Prosper', not 'Publish or Perish')	Africa Development Centre	Akomolafe, Adebayo Clement	
17:00	Adjournment and Announcements		MC	

DAY FOUR (Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2011) & OpenSpace Forum

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	PRESENTER / ANCHOR	Remarks
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Lecture Seven</b> (The Transformative Power of Action Research II)	Africa Development Centre	Professor Jean McNiff	
13:00 – 13:30	Tea Break	Africa Development Centre		
15:30 – 17:00	<b>Wrap Up Lecture</b> (There are many worlds: Exploring Indigenous Knowledge Systems II)	Africa Development Centre	Professor Akin Odebunmi	
14:30 – 16:00	OpenSpace	Africa Development Centre	HOD, Psychology	
17:00	Closing Ceremony	Africa Development Centre	Vice Chancellor	

Please peruse the OpenSpace document for details about the forum.

Thank you.

*Chair, WARP Committee*

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Covenant University has won numerous awards in ICT applications and other generic categories. As the best University in Nigeria (AU) with the most beautiful campus, CU boasts unique educational programs



Canaanland accommodates Faith Tabernacle, adjudged by Guinness to be the largest

