



ICPR 2008 The First International Conference (Forum) on Practice Research

BACKGROUND

Professionals in the early 21st century are required to practise more effectively amid the increasing challenge of uncertainty and complexity. The widespread call for evidence-based practice is a major response to this. Yet contemporary approaches to research often fail to produce adequate evidence or knowledge about practice for use in variable situations. How is professional practice to be researched better, to provide a basis for improved practice? This question affects us all, and is answered in both similar and different ways across a range of countries and professions.

Mapping the range of answers to this question is an important step in developing research for better practice. In June 2008, a group of interested professionals came together (organised by SPRING – the Southampton Practice Research Initiative Network Group) in Salisbury, UK, to begin this mapping by formulating an international statement on practice research. The group comprised academics and practitioners from a range of countries (the Nordic countries, Italy, Canada, the USA, Israel, Singapore and the UK). This group formed the backbone of the group known as the “Salisbury Forum”. The group was comprised primarily of social workers, but tried to formulate a statement which might be applied more broadly in all professions where the research of practice is important.

The statement is not intended to be definitive or conclusive, but simply aims to begin tracing the contours of practice research at this point in time as it continues to evolve. We have tried to word it in an inclusive manner, so that various perspectives and differences are recognised.

We hope that the statement will provide a basis for continued discussion. We have written it so that various professionals, from different countries and contexts, will be able to use this statement to continue to craft their own thinking and positions on practice research; to increase the profile of practice research; and above all to undertake more and better practice research.

More on the Evolution of ICPR

[Sim, T. \(2016\). International Practice Research Conference \(ICPR\) Moving East Research on Social Work Practice](#)
1049731516650523, first published on May 23, 2016 as doi:10.1177/1049731516650523
<http://rsw.sagepub.com/content/early/recent>

Salisbury Practice Research Statement

See the [Salisbury Practice Research Statement on the ICPR2017 website](#)
<http://icpr2017.miceapps.com/client/sites/page/293/204>

PEOPLE

The following were part of the Salisbury Forum Group that provided the foundation of this Statement:

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