Action Research journal (ARJ) continues to embrace many paradigms of inquiry. Given the call of our time, we are committed to emphasizing Action Research for Transformations (ART) and, in the process of doing our work, to develop and convene a global community of practice under the larger umbrella of AR+ which provides resources for all on the ART path.

**ARJ for ART’s sake**

Civilizational, structural transformation is urgent at this time of transition from Industrial Modernity to a more ecologically and humanely sustainable way of living. The Associate Editors at ARJ, i.e., those charged with developing papers for publication, have issued a call to action researchers to better tie efforts, practice and inquiry, to this transformational challenge. Action Research for Transformations (ART) helps articulate the heart of the ART (Bradbury et al, 2019). In our efforts to be explicit about the criteria we use to assess, develop and publish, we have refreshed the choicepoints. You will find them after a summary of what ART implies for ARJ:

1. The purpose of ARJ’s knowledge creation efforts is to support our collective thriving on this planet.
2. ARJ Knowledge creation includes and transcends individualistic rationalist empiricism because we acknowledge whole selves who are relational beings.
3. ARJ Knowledge creation starts “here,” with stakeholders’ felt experiences and a joint willingness to tackle unilateral power in order to transform toward mutuality.
4. ARJ proceeds by working participatively with stakeholders by including multiple ways of knowing-for-action.
5. ARJ Knowledge creation integrates personal/reflexive, interpersonal/relational and impersonal knowledge, all three needed to empower us to shape the social world of their aspirations.

Because of our decision to emphasize Action Research that is transformative, we have refreshed the 7 Quality Choicepoints accordingly:

Why “choicepoints.” We do not look to an individual paper to be perfect in all choicepoints, we do however ask that authors be choiceful about strengths and weaknesses. Our ultimate aim is to advance work that builds on what has gone before it and that the action research we make available contributes - over time - to a better world.

1. Clarity and significance of Purpose and Objectives

The extent to which the insights are significant in content and process in support of our collective thriving on this planet. By significant content we mean having meaning and relevance beyond their immediate context in support of the flourishing of persons, communities, and the wider ecology by generating both local and public knowledge. By process we mean involvement of stakeholders’ through strategies and methods that connect people and knowledges in ways that help them develop a strong and authentic sense of development and evolution in their practices, their understandings of their practices, and the transformation of the situations in which they practice.

2. Partnership

The extent to and means by which participative values are evident in the relational component of research, on a continuum from consultation with stakeholders to stakeholders as full co-researchers, including multiple ways of knowing-for-action and ensuring room for questions of “whose knowledge counts?”

3. Contribution to action research theory/practice

The extent to which the paper builds on, and or creates explicit links with, previous work; contributes to a wider body of practice knowledge and or theory, that clearly contributes meaningful new action research knowledge and insights in the action research literature. Scholarship linking Action Research to scaling research impacts is a priority in moving forward.

4. Participative methods and process

The extent to which the action research process and related methods are clearly articulated as providing for increasing participative interactivity;Show value in expanding the palette of innovative and creative methods considered legitimate for ART.

5. Actionability   
The extent to which the action research conveyed through the paper provides new ideas for experiments that guide action in response to the urgency of need and nature of transformations needed.

6. Developmental Reflexivity.   
The extent to which authors take a personal, involved and self-critical stance on their role in the action research process, which includes clarity about the context in which their research takes place, clarity about how they show up in all phases of the research, clarity about their identity and how it might be received by participants, and clarity about what led to their involvement in this research and whether it has been transformative for those involved. We invite the authors to ask themselves if their knowledge creation integrates personal/reflexive, interpersonal/relational and impersonal knowledge. Consider how far they were from their developmental edge, that space in which cultivating self and empowering participants in social change contributes to shaping the social world of our shared aspirations.

7. Activation

The extent to which the language used in the article activates the interested practitioner. This may range from illustrations that “show” and not just “tell,” e.g., including voices of participants in the research, to offering more practitioner friendly work.