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# Systemic action research

A strategy for whole system  
change

**Danny Burns**

*"Danny Burns does a service to the contemporary action research field with this clear and accessibly argued discussion of sophisticated 'whole systems' facilitation. In explicating the kinds of complexity we are now experiencing, the book takes the discussion to a next level."* **Professor Yoland Wadsworth**, University of Melbourne and President of the International Association for Action Learning, Action Research & Process Management (2001-2004)

*"This is an excellent and long overdue contribution to the action research literature which emphasises a holistic approach to intervention. Written in a compelling style, this book bridges the gap between small-scale, local research and the bigger collective potential that action research has as a movement for change ... an important contribution for all those working towards social transformation."* **Professor Margaret Ledwith**, University of Cumbria and Co-ordinator of the International Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN)

*"Two decades on from Robert Chamber's epic Rural Development, Putting the Last First, this book is a milestone in development thinking."* **Stuart Worsley**, Director of SNV Kenya and Southern Sudan – The Netherlands Development Organisation

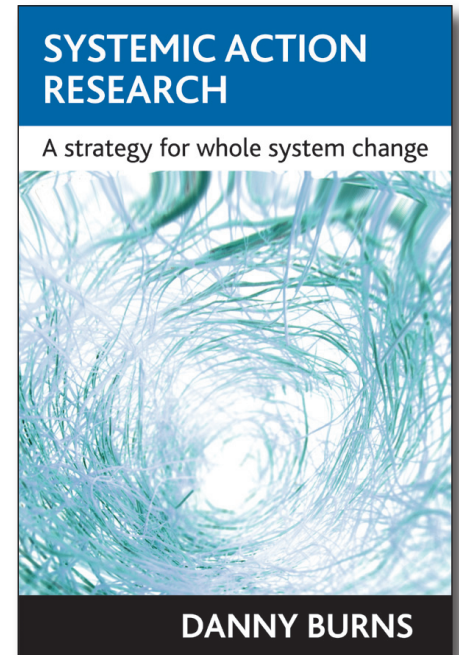
Systemic Action Research works with live social and organisational issues to uncover their complex dynamics, reveal opportunities for effective interventions, and generate action to support whole system change.

Filled with illustrative stories and pictures which bring the concepts to life, this book shows how to design and facilitate systemic action research programmes, extending the possibilities of action research beyond the 'individual' and the 'group' to whole organisations, multi agency governance arenas, and networks.

It will be of interest to experienced action researchers, social researchers, international development organisations, community development practitioners, change management facilitators and policy makers.

**Contents:** Introduction; Action research; A systemic perspective; Working across systems; Some systemic action research projects explored; Some design principles for systemic action research; Practices of systemic action inquiry; Issues for action research facilitators; Quality and ethics in systemic action research; Systemic action research in policy and politics; A final reflection.

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