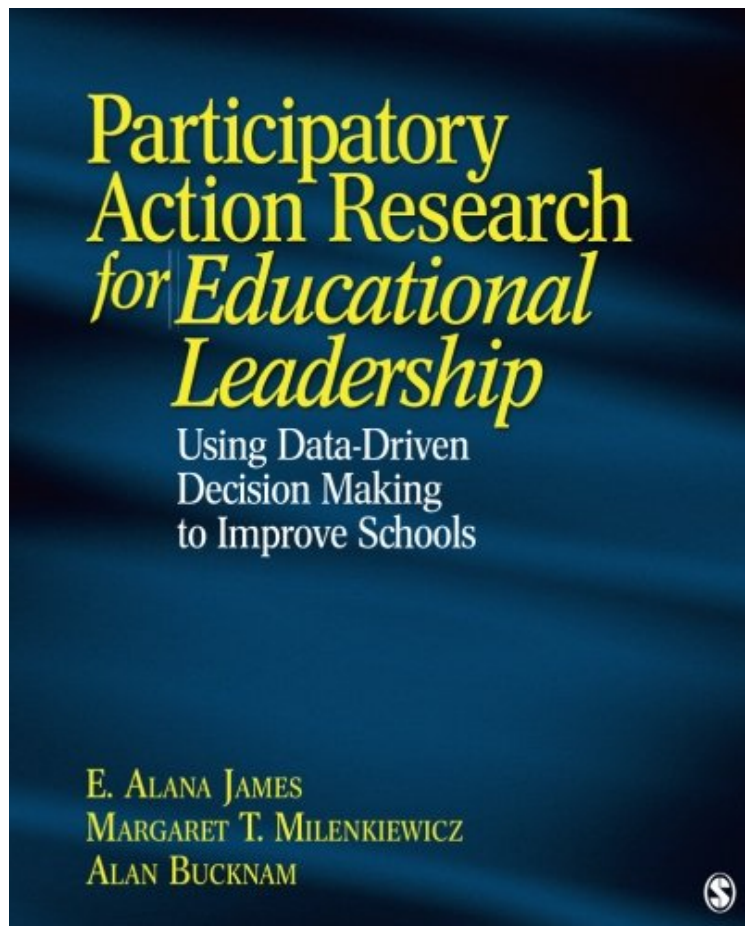


# Participatory Action Research for Educational Leadership: Using Data-Driven Decision Making to Improve Schools

*E. Alana James, Margaret T. Milenkiewicz, Alan J. Bucknam*  
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**E. Alana James, Margaret T. Milenkiewicz, Alan J. Bucknam : Participatory Action Research for Educational Leadership: Using Data-Driven Decision Making to Improve Schools** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Participatory Action Research for Educational Leadership: Using Data-Driven Decision Making to Improve Schools:

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Follow the author on Twitter! Alana James has a new twitter feed titled AR4Everything, which covers action research and reports on interesting facts."Finally we have a data-driven text on participatory action research for educational leaders. Through thoughtful examples and guided instruction, this text makes the case that the complex issues of today and tomorrow require multifaceted, rigorous, and results-oriented processes best undertaken through partnerships between educators and the communities they serve." Darlyne Bailey, Dean and Assistant to the President, University of Minnesota" This book includes a very useful hands-on approach to developing a PAR project. It is written in a manner that is accessible to teachers, it is detailed enough to provide clear descriptions, and the exercises at the end of each chapter help readers to implement the new material." Elizabeth Grassi, Regis University" In a clear manner, this text provides the tools necessary to conduct collaborative action research in order to create needed change in our classrooms and schools. Using this book, teachers, administrators, parents, and students can become active participants in the movement toward educational change." Emma Fuentes, University of San Francisco

The participatory action research (PAR) process discussed in the text represents the next evolutionary stage for action research and practitioner research in education. Authors E. Alana James, Margaret T. Milenkiewicz, and Alan Bucknam provide a readable overview of the PAR process similar to professional learning communities in schools. This fresh approach to participatory action research fully integrates process with research methodology. The results of the original PAR study and continued work with educational leaders propose that this "And/Both" approach ultimately produces the effect that school leaders seek and appreciate.

**Key Features** Guides the reader through the PAR steps with a graphically illustrated process: The book's design reaches out to visual learners with graphic elements while employing a research logic model that helps ensure rigorous research methodology. Provides reflective questions preceding each section: The questions increase the reflective practices and routines of the reader as appropriate to the PAR process. Presents real-world examples: Practitioner stories make the lessons real and alleviate the emotional unease that comes from tackling research practices for the first time. Offers tasks for working both in teams and as individuals: These tools aid participatory teams in working toward consensus and strong research designs.

**Intended Audience** This is an ideal core text for graduate courses such as Action Research for School Improvement, Research for Educational Practitioners, Practitioner Research, and Teacher as Researcher in departments of education. It can also be used as a supplemental text in other research methods courses and in data-driven decision-making courses.

Meet author Alan Bucknam!  
<http://www.notchcode.com/>

**About the Author** Dr. E. Alana James, received her Ed.D. in educational leadership from Teachers College in 2005. Since then she has helped over 30 doctoral candidates in either educational leadership or business move through the process on to graduation. Working primarily as supervisor for a number of online for profit universities, but also sometimes in the role of committee member, she identified the key places and challenges that created extra stress and, unfortunately, sometimes breakdown. This book and her work developing DoctoralNet.com is in reaction to those difficulties and will, with adoption, increase graduation rates for those working towards a PhD or other type of doctoral degree. You can follow DoctoralNet on twitter, facebook or Google +. Dr James also specializes in action research and has used that transformative process throughout the development of the techniques and strategies outlined herein. Information about her other books can be found on the website for Sage Publishing.

A believer in the doctoral process as a rite of passage that releases the greatest potential in life, she reinvented her own life to move half way around the world from where she began. Living in Ireland with her partner, their two dogs and a cat she authors nonfiction work on health and wellness on her personal website at [ealanajames.com](http://ealanajames.com) where you can connect with her as a writer, a consultant or speaker.