“Action-Research”: researchers or consultants?

This seminar will discuss some of the key aspects of “action research”, an unconventional methodological approach that is characterized by some significant degree of researchers’ participation to the social process that is the object of research. This approach may be especially fruitful for practice-oriented research activities in business and policy studies. In particular, the seminar will discuss the theoretical and institutional assumptions, the profile and motivation of “action-researchers”, the main characteristics, the possible outcomes (for both practice and science) and some critical issues: trans-contextual generalization of findings, subjectivity, integrity. The discussion will also help in re-defining more accurately the borderline between research and consultancy.