



Greetings,

We are writing to announce the launch of the website for 5th Annual Conference of the Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA) in June 2017. The conference and the accompanying 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, and are being co-organized by ARNA and Universidad Nacional De Colombia (UNAL).

The dates of this global gathering are June 12 – June 16, with featured speakers including: Alfredo Molano (COL); Boaventura de Sousa Santos (POR); Carlos Rodrigues Brandao (BRA); Joanne Rappaport (USA); John Elliott (UK); Lola Cendales (COL); Michelle Fine (USA); Michel Thiollent (FRA-BRA); Maria Teresa Castillo (MEX); Ortrun Zuber-Skerrit (AUS); Victor Negrete (COL).

The theme of the conference is *Participation and Democratization of Knowledge: New Convergences for Reconciliation*. The event also celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the first World Symposium of Action Research, organized by renowned Colombia sociologist and participatory action research pioneer Orlando Fals Borda. In these troubling times of political discord, a global gathering addressing the potential of action research and all forms of participatory research to contribute to convergences between academic and popular knowledge is a step in the right direction. We also gather in the spirit of determination. Action research has known many ups and downs over the past six decades. In the spirit of Gabriel García Márquez, we answer the call “do not allow me to forget you” with the pledge that we will not allow the value of popular knowledge to be forgotten.

Proposals to present at ARNA 2017 are due February 13, 2017. More information can be found at the conference website: <http://www.arna2017.unal.edu.co/>. Additional information about the 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy can be found at: <https://knowledgedemocracy.org/>.

Early Bird registration is now available, with reduced fees in effect through February 13. Conference housing information will come soon.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!

Lonnie Rowell, USA

Doris Santos, Colombia

Co-Chairs, 5th Annual ARNA Conference

Christine Edwards-Groves, Australia

Co-Chair, 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy



JOIN US AT THE 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN
CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA
JUNE 12 - JUNE 16 | 2017

The background of this section is a nighttime photograph of the city of Cartagena, Colombia, showing illuminated buildings and a harbor with boats under a dark sky.

arnawebsite.org