

Open Science in the Public Interest: Talk Handout

Sucheta Ghoshal

April 13, 2017

This handout contains an overview of my research. Feel free to reach out to me with questions, comments, and feedback at sucheta@gatech.edu.

My work

I do emancipatory action research ¹ with the social movement organization Science for the People, Atlanta (SftP-Atlanta). As an action researcher I simultaneously help the organization and study them, working from a position of closeness. *So, what does SftP-Atlanta do?*

- collaborates with local grassroots organizations on issues of social justice
- determine their needs, collaborate with them on ideas, and engage with them in participatory production of scientific knowledge that enhances communities
- committed to building a movement around a practice of science that is *inclusive, participatory, and accessible*
- each collaboration includes at least five phases of intervention that are heavily informed by emancipatory methodologies of HCI ²
- methods, results, and analyses for each step are made openly accessible with *Open Science Framework* ³

Action Research with SftP-Atlanta: Step 1

Building their web presence. ⁴

- helped them determine design requirements for their online presence
- partnered with them to create a working site
- currently iterating on the design

Research Questions: Step 2

These are some of the research questions that will be guiding me as I continue my action research with SftP-Atlanta.

- can scientists and engineers volunteer their time to help nonprofit organizations working for public good?
- how can we help such partnerships to form, and what makes them successful and sustainable?

¹ Masters, J. (1995) 'The History of Action Research' in I. Hughes (ed) Action Research Electronic Reader, The University of Sydney, on-line <http://www.behs.cchs.usyd.edu.au/arow/Reader/rmasters.htm>

² <https://osf.io/hfvq9/>

³ <https://osf.io/dmfpq/>

⁴ <http://atlanta.scienceforthepeople.org>

- how can decentralized volunteer groups co-create artifacts with the help of open-source research management tools?
- can we build on lessons from the open science movement and citizen science to develop open science in the public interest?

Get involved

SftP-Atlanta is always looking for open science enthusiasts to collaborate with. Find us on:

- [Web](#)
- [GitHub](#)
- [Open Science Framework](#)