

CREATING A NEW PUBLIC UNIVERSITY AND REVIVING DEMOCRACY

Action Research in Higher Education

Volume 2, *Higher Education in Critical Perspective: Practices and Policies*

Morten Levin and Davydd J. Greenwood

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Summary:

Public universities are in crisis, waning in their role as central institutions within democratic societies. Denunciations are abundant, but analyses of the causes and proposals to re-create public universities are not. Based on extensive experience with Action Research-based organizational change in universities and private sector organizations, Levin and Greenwood analyze the wreckage created by neoliberal academic administrators and policymakers. The authors argue that public universities must be democratically organized to perform their educational and societal functions. The book closes by laying out Action Research processes that can transform public universities back into institutions that promote academic freedom, integrity, and democracy.

About the Authors:

Morten Levin is Professor of Industrial Economics and Technology Management at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway. With degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Operations Research, Sociology, he has worked as an action researcher on processes and structures of social change.

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HIGHER EDUCATION IN CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE Practices and Policies 2

Creating a New Public University and Reviving Democracy

ACTION RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION



MORTEN LEVIN and DAVYDD J. GREENWOOD

"This is an important book with value for policy and practice in public higher education and, more generally, for rethinking the relation between democracy, participation and education in contemporary societies... The book is not just a space for criticism of the current system, but it seeks to provide a path forward, making change happen by using action research."

· **Michela Franceschelli**,
University College London

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