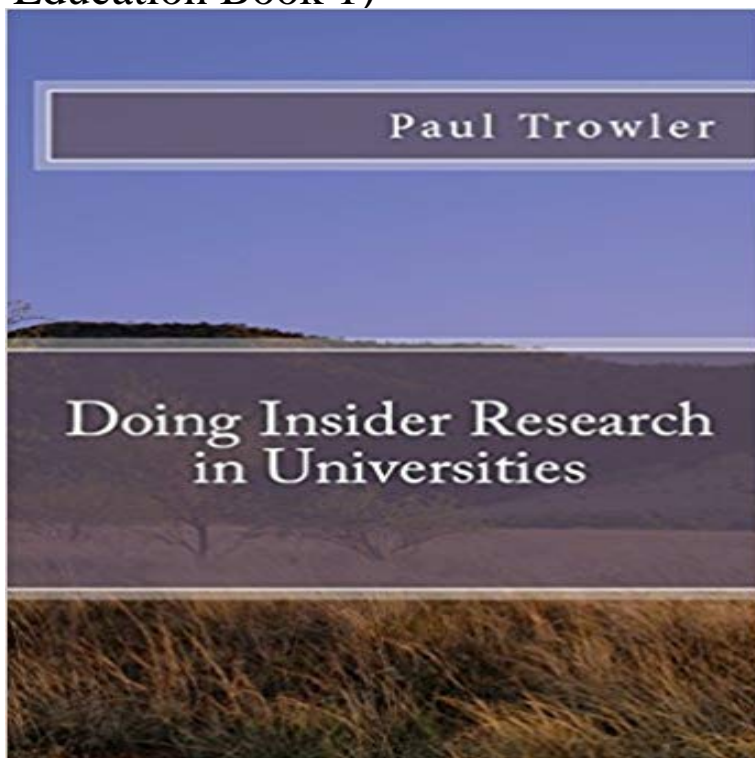


Doing Insider Research in Universities (Doctoral Research into Higher Education Book 1)



This book is designed to be as helpful as possible for anyone who wants to research the higher education institution (HEI) or university in which they are employed or enrolled. It is concise, while still being comprehensive and useful, at 16,800 words (about 50 pages in Word format), recognising that people appreciate concision. The book offers guidance on the issues which are specific to insider research in universities as particular types of organizations. Its audience is newcomers to insider research within universities considering doing such a project for professional reasons, for a PhD, or as part of a funded research project. The book points the reader to key issues they need to consider and to the best literature resources to explore these further, where they need to. It covers areas such as: good research design; avoiding potential problems; taking best advantage of insider research designs; guaranteeing robustness and value; and dealing with especially problematic issues in insider research, such as ethical and political ones. There is a chapter based on the authors own research work which suggests fruitful theoretical approaches and related insider research agendas. The final chapter suggests further resources for insider research. Paul Trowler is uniquely qualified to write on this topic. He is Professor of Higher Education at Lancaster University, UK. His PhD thesis was an insider study of a university. He has supervised many insider PhD theses to successful completion. Paul has previously written 19 books, 21 articles, 20 chapters (all in conventional, physical, format). He has BA, MA, Cert. Ed. and PhD degrees and is an elected Fellow of the Society for Research into Higher Education. Table of Contents: Chapter 1: Overview What is insider research? Challenges & opportunities Chapter 2: Researching universities Universities as organizations Researching professional knowledge

Chapter 3: Research design Questions and answers Single & multi-site studies Action research Evaluative research Institutional ethnography Hypothesis testing Theory & insider research An example of research design Chapter 4: Value & robustness Beyond the particular Questions for the insider researcher Chapter 5: Ethical & political issues Ethics Politics Chapter 6: Social practice theory applied Researching social practices Ontological & epistemological implications Research design & topics Chapter 7: Resources for insider research Literature Online resources About the author References Glossary

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