

# PARTICIPATORY DIGITAL METHODS & METHODOLOGIES FOR TRANSFORMATIVE OCCUPATION-BASED RESEARCH AMONG CHILDREN & YOUTH: UTILITY & CROSS CULTURAL RELEVANCE

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*Tanya Elizabeth Benjamin-Thomas  
Debbie Laliberte Rudman  
Debra Cameron  
Beata Batorowicz*



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## Discuss 3 emerging participatory digital methods & methodologies

- ▶ Digital storytelling
- ▶ Participatory videos
- ▶ Participatory Geographic Information System (PGIS)

## Explore and critically analyze their application

- ▶ Highlight strengths, tensions, and challenges
  - Facilitate participation
  - Enacting transformation
  - Relevance to occupational science
- ▶ Ethical considerations



# BACKGROUND

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## Transformative research agenda

- Challenging dominant ways of knowing
- Embodies methods that demonstrate inclusion, participation, and action, and attend to issues of power, justice and equity

## Transformative potential of occupation-based research

- Reflected in the uptake of critical frameworks/theories and concepts

## A call for methodological expansions

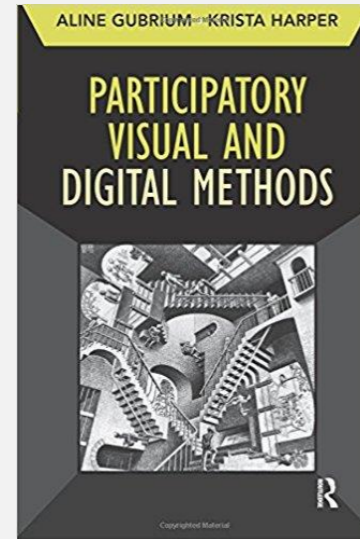
- Participatory methodologies highlighted as particularly relevant

# PARTICIPATORY DIGITAL METHODOLOGIES

- ▶ Position participants as co-researchers
- ▶ Do not solely rely on verbal communication
- ▶ Foster engagement of children and youth
- ▶ Photovoice and photo-elicitation are predominant in occupational science and therapy



# METHODOLOGICAL REVIEW



+ *Systematic Search* (Anthropology Plus, Academic Search Complete, CINAHL, ERIC, JSTOR, Nursing & Allied Health, ProQuest, PsychINFO, PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science)

## Inclusion Criteria

- ▶ A research article embodying a transformative agenda
- ▶ Use of one of the 3 digital methodologies
- ▶ Among children/youth
- ▶ Addressed issue relevant to occupation
- ▶ Published: January 2000-March 2017
- ▶ Written in English

## Critical Analysis

- ▶ If and how participation in the research process was demonstrated
- ▶ If and how personal and/or social transformation was demonstrated
- ▶ Pragmatic and ethical issues
- ▶ How occupation was addressed

**20 identified articles**

(Gubrium & Harper, 2013; Gubrium, Harper & Otañez, 2015a)

## Digital Storytelling

2-3-minute multimedia fragments that combine images, texts, videos, music, and a personally narrated voice, to convey compelling experiential accounts of personal or community experiences (Gubrium, 2009)

## Participatory Videos

Collaborative process of creating videos that incorporate art, storytelling, poetry, music, or drama as a means to document and critically engage with social issues, reveal hidden social relations, communicate knowledge, and stimulate collective action (Lunch & Lunch, 2006; Mitchell, Milne & de Lange, 2012)

## Participatory Geographic Information System

GIS software and hardware tools used to collaboratively produce and reflect on spatial knowledge, engaging community members in creating maps, sharing local knowledge, and contextualizing or 'ground-truthing' spatial information, to affect change (Mukherjee, 2015)

# CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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- *WORKING TOWARDS PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH*
- *ENACTING TRANSFORMATION*
- *INSIGHTS REGARDING OCCUPATION*



# WORKING TOWARDS PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN & YOUTH

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- ▶ Variations in the degree of children and youth participation
- ▶ Challenges and Tensions to Power Sharing
- ▶ All methodologies were adaptable and used to engage children experiencing diverse situations of marginalization from varied geographic contexts (12 countries)
  - Indigenous Youth
  - Refugee Youth
  - Young Latina parents
  - Children considered out of place
  - Children with and without disabilities
  - Children not familiar with English, or with using digital cameras
  - Children from socio-economically disadvantaged communities and from racial minorities
- ▶ Social and pragmatic barriers to participation that created ethical tensions

# ENACTING TRANSFORMATION

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## Personal Transformation

### Most prevalent

- ▶ Claims of increases in knowledge, skills, self-perceptions, social awareness, youth empowerment, sense of belonging, space for their voices, and self-esteem
- ▶ Consciousness raising and fostering a passion for social change, however, not followed through with support for enacting transformative actions

## Social Transformation

### Less prevalent

- ▶ Challenging attitudes and negative stereotypes
- ▶ Select participatory video and PGIS projects attempted to address changes in systems, practices, and institutions

# INSIGHTS REGARDING OCCUPATION

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## Projects addressed diverse occupations

- ▶ Traditional Indigenous occupations, mothering, drug use, dancing, being a student, and play

## Findings generated knowledge relevant to understanding:

- ▶ Occupation as socio-politically situated
- ▶ Occupational experiences situated within specific spaces

## Identified and addressed issues of occupational injustices

- ▶ School abandonment
- ▶ Inadequate occupational spaces
- ▶ Occupational degradation

# ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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## Unachieved participatory goals

- ▶ Social or pragmatic barriers
- ▶ Issues of interpretation and representation

## Balancing anonymity and confidentiality of children and youth participants

- ▶ Ongoing reflexivity with children and youth as well as among researchers

# DISCUSSION

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- ▶ Ways forward in facilitating understandings of occupation beyond a dominant individualistic frame
- ▶ Expand beyond a dominant focus on occupations normative within Western, Anglophonic, and middle-class contexts helping to expand the figured world of occupations
- ▶ Supported involvement of children and youth within situations of marginalization, encompassing diversity in relation to age, social status, languages spoken, and literacy levels

# CONCLUSION

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- ▶ ‘Participatory’ does not automatically lead to the achievement of participation or transformation
- ▶ Participatory digital methodologies provide values, theoretical underpinnings and practices commensurate with facilitating participation and transformation.
- ▶ They must be combined with on-going reflexivity regarding issues of power and ethics



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QUESTIONS



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