



Online participatory research in COVID-19: Youth stories through cellphilms

A CBRCanada Webinar & Live Discussion

On April 21, 2022, CBRCanada members participated in a webinar and follow-up live discussion to learn about the Canadian Youth Talking about Pandemic Experiences (CYTAPE) project. Presenters Claudia Mitchell, Hani Sadati, and Shannon Roy shared findings from their in-progress participatory research, and facilitated a discussion on the opportunities and challenges of conducting participatory visual methods with young people online. This live discussion summary shares participants' reflections during breakout group discussions.

CELLPHILMS a participatory visual research method

Cellphilms (cellphone+film) are short 1-3 minutes videos made using cellphones to share a story and/or address a challenge, concern, or community issue. **Cellphilming follows a series of steps outlined below.**

1



Reflecting on visual ethics

2



Brainstorming

3



Storyboarding

4



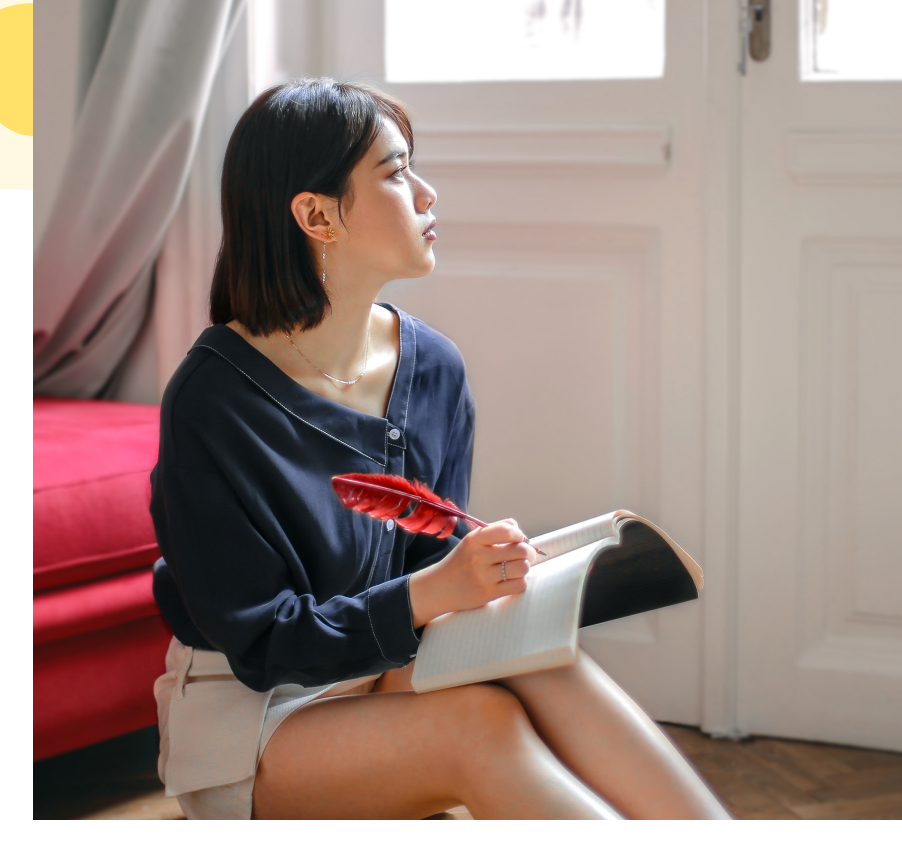
Filming

5



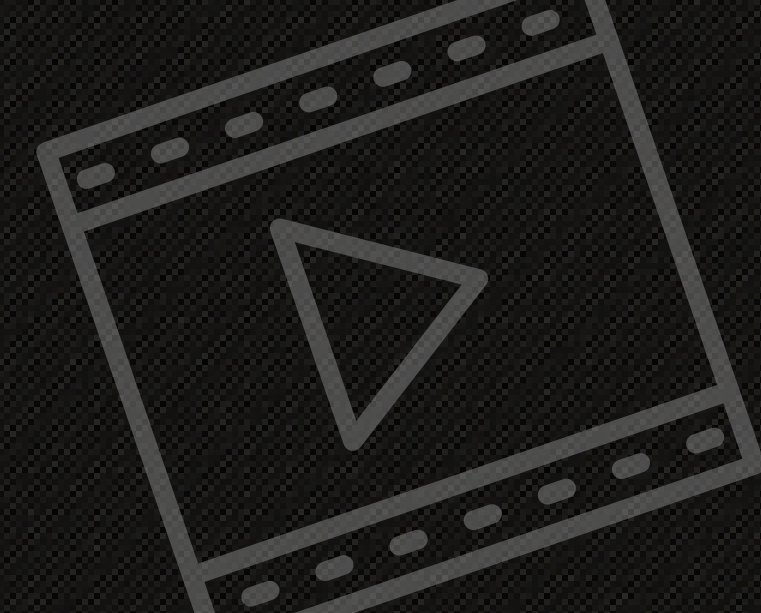
Screening & Discussion

6



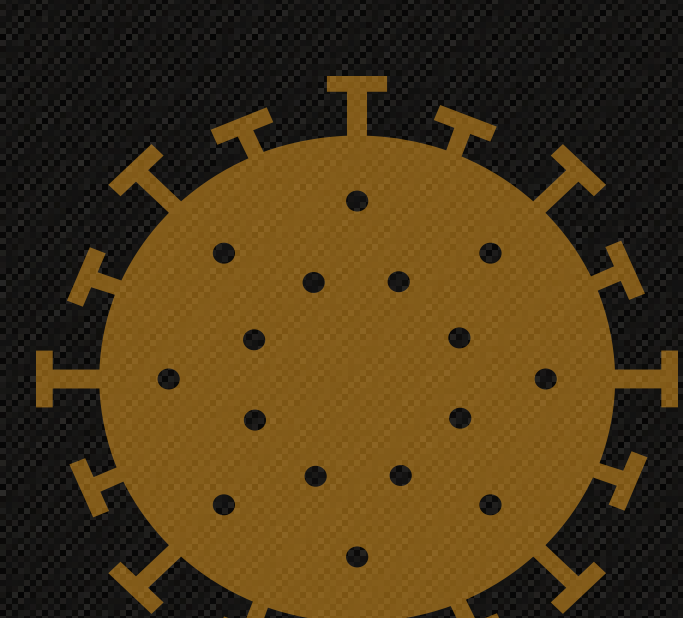
Reflecting

WHY CELLPHILMING DURING COVID-19?



Seeing through the 'eyes of youth'

Cellphilming puts cameras in the hands of young people so they can show first-hand impacts of Covid-19 on mental health, sexual and reproductive health education, social security, and employment.



Creating Connections

Many young people experienced physical and social isolation during the pandemic. Creating cellphilms together online introduced new opportunities for connection and dialogue amongst youth who might not otherwise be able to gather.



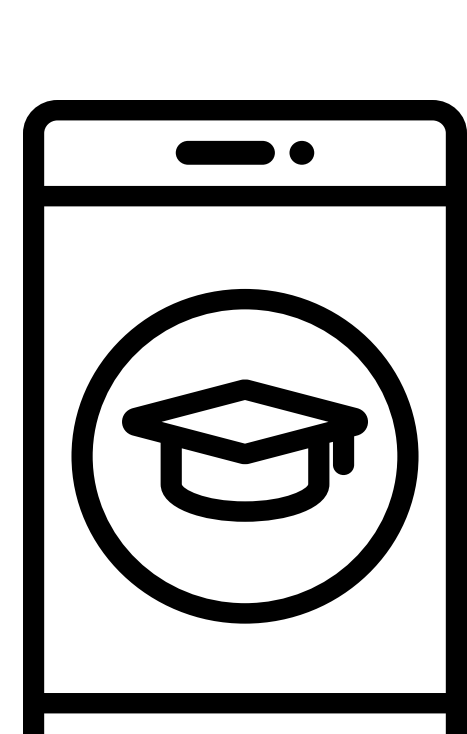
Qualitative Research for Social Change

As a research method, cellphilming can elicit rich stories and spark meaningful conversations between participants. As a collection, cellphilms can be shown as powerful advocacy tools to multi-stakeholder audiences to better understand youths experiences.



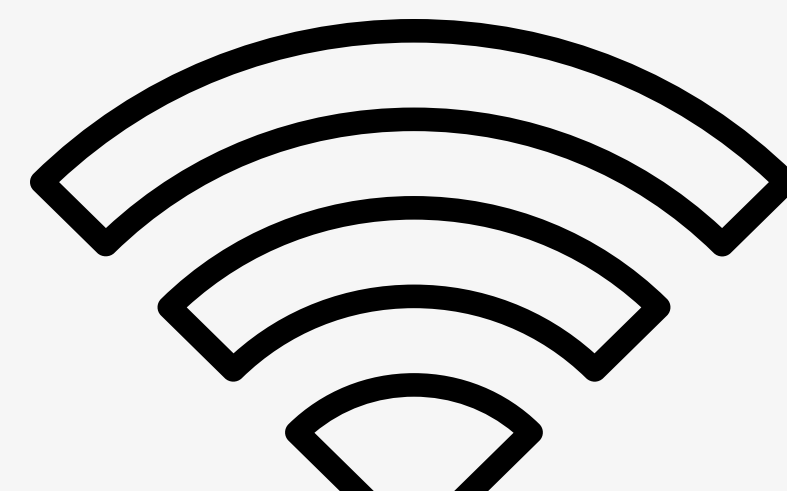
CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH USING CELLPHILMS ONLINE

During the live discussion, participants discussed challenges of doing participatory research online with young people, and identified helpful strategies for engaging youth online using cellphilms or other participatory visual methods.



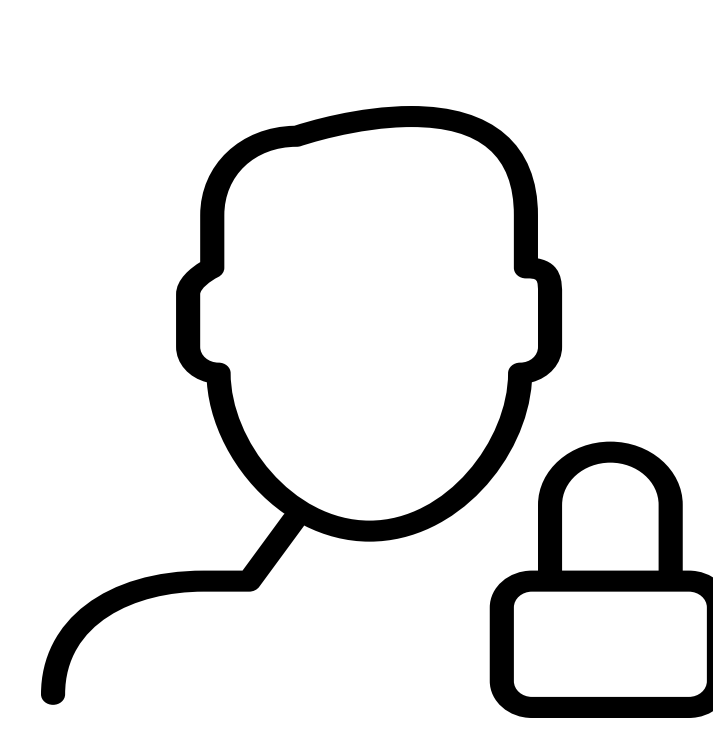
Digital Literacy

Not everyone knows how to create a video on their phone. Consider facilitating workshops for those who are not tech-savvy, including filming basics or how to access online storage systems.



Equitable access

Technology, internet access and low-bandwidth may be a barrier to participation. Consider creative means of redistributing resources, and/or sharing devices or workstations at local agencies.



Privacy and Ethical Considerations

Cellphilming introduces unique ethical issues. Brainstorm creative "no face" options with participants, and discuss unique anonymity and privacy concerns throughout.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- ⇒ MacEntee, K., Burkholder, C., & Schwab-Cartas, J. (Eds.). (2016). *What's a cellphilms?: Integrating mobile phone technology into participatory visual research and activism*. Sense Publishers. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-6300-573-9>
- ⇒ Handbook of Participatory Video by E.J. Milne ; Claudia Mitchell ; Naydene De Lange
- ⇒ [Re-visioning Cellphilms symposium](#)
- ⇒ [McGill International Cellphilms Festival \(June 15th, 2022\). Participate by submitting your cellphilms by June 3rd, 2022.](#)
- ⇒ [Re-Vision Online Story-Making for Research and Teaching](#)



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