

Spring - Summer
2020

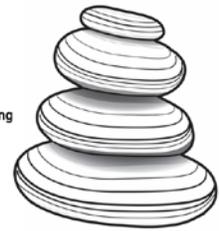
Newsletter

Institute for Human Development and Well-being IHDW



McGill

Institute for
Human Development and Well-Being



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Symposia

In the times of Covid-19

Dr. Claudia Mitchell is a Distinguished James McGill Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE) at McGill University. She is the recipient of the 2019 Leon-Gerin Prix du Quebec, Quebec's highest research honour, for her illustrious career studying gender-based violence prevention, HIV, and AIDS awareness, and working with youth around the world.

A word from the IHDW Director

Dr. Claudia Mitchell



Dear Colleagues and Friends of the IHDW,

To say these have been strange and unsettling times does not do justice to all that has happened these last few months amidst the global pandemic, as we become accustomed to beginning and ending so many zoom and email conversations with “Are you okay?” and “Stay well”. We bring you this ‘in the times of Covid-19’ issue of the IHDW newsletter as people head into summer. We were poised to send out an issue of the IHDW newsletter in mid-March and suddenly it just didn’t seem like the right time to inundate everyone’s email boxes with a newsletter over what had been happening over the last few months of 2019 and early 2020 in the light of what everyone was dealing with in relation to the pandemic. Covid-19 had really taken over our lives and if there could be any idea of well-being, it has to be just some sense of just doing what needed to be done to stay well. Now, months later, there has been something of a settling in to a new normal of figuring out how things can still go on through zoom conferences and virtual webinars, teaching online, re-vamping research agendas to address new pandemic-related issues, and so on.

I guess we could call this the Covid-19 Edition. This newsletter, with every day well-being at the centre of things, gives a glimpse into what various members of the IHDW community have been doing in the last few months. These activities from hosting the Spring International Cellphilm Festival on the theme of ‘well-being in the time of distancing’ to the numerous Covid-19 related publications that are underway. Featuring the superb work of seven undergraduate interns from the Faculty of Arts and Global Health attached to the IHDW over the Spring months, the newsletter reminds us that energy, enthusiasm and commitment are markers and generators of well-being.

I Working Groups

Games & Gamification for Human Development and Well-being Led by Hani Sadati



Games & Gamification
for Human Development and Well-being

What is a Working Group?

At the Institute for Human Development and Well-Being we seek to embed wellness into how we work, collaborate, play and investigate. A working group is not only a convergence of transdisciplinary researchers but also a home for like-minded people from relevant non-research backgrounds. A working group is a place for interested members of our community, stakeholders, activists, artists and researchers from many disciplines to come together and connect. Working groups generate a myriad of community projects, course offerings, research initiatives and new friendships. At the IHDW we currently operate within four working groups: Sexual Violence, Games & Gamification for Human Development and Well-being, Participation Across the Lifespan and Sustainability and Well-being. What follows is a recap of some of the activities, awards and recognitions that have taken place under those groups in the Spring of 2020.

For continuing updates on our Workgroups, visit us at:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/ihdw/>

Event

Gaming to feel better: Digital game interventions to promote mental wellbeing in youth

July 8th 2020 1:00pm to 2:00pm EST

Research in e-mental health is growing rapidly, likely faster than its uptake in clinical settings. In light of this, there is a need for specific knowledge synthesis activities that can provide clear recommendations on how a specific technology can be effectively adopted and integrated into youth's settings (e.g., schools, community services, clinical services). Gaming my way to recovery is a research project that aims to answer this need by exploring how video game technology and interventions can be integrated into settings to promote mental wellbeing in youth. A webinar was held on July 8th in collaboration with the GHDW with the following learning objectives:

1. Discover how playing video games, and having fun, can help young people gain new skills, support their mental wellbeing and overcome the stigma of mental illness.
2. Identify steps and mechanisms to engage youth in knowledge synthesis projects.

Gaming to Feel Better:
Digital game interventions to promote mental wellbeing in youth

Manuela Ferrari
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University
Researcher, Douglas Mental Health University Institute

Michael Serravalle
Youth, Gaming Against Stigma Youth Advisory Group

About This Webinar
Research in e-mental health is growing rapidly, likely faster than its uptake in clinical settings. In light of this, there is a need for specific knowledge synthesis activities that can provide clear recommendations on how a specific technology can be effectively adopted and integrated into youth's settings (e.g., schools, community services, clinical services). Gaming my way to recovery is a research project that aims to answer this need by exploring how video game technology and interventions can be integrated into settings to promote mental wellbeing in youth.

There will be time at the end of the webinar for an interactive Q&A with the presenters.

Learning Objectives
This webinar will allow participants to:
1. Discover how playing video games, and having fun, can help young people gain new skills, support their mental wellbeing and overcome the stigma of mental illness.
2. Identify steps and mechanisms to engage youth in knowledge synthesis projects.

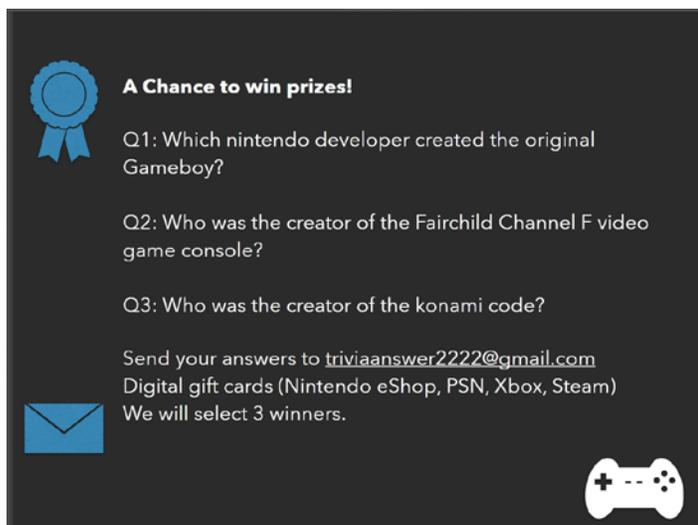
July 8 2020 1-2pm

Games & Gamification for Human Development and Well-being

The full webinar can be seen on the IHDW page here:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/ihdw/ghdw/gaming-feel-better-webinar>

To encourage continued engagement with the webinar and a set of trivia questions have been developed by the organizers. The answers to the trivia can be found by watching the webinar, and participant who may have further questions regarding the trivia are welcome to contact the same email on the attached image.



A Chance to win prizes!

Q1: Which nintendo developer created the original Gameboy?

Q2: Who was the creator of the Fairchild Channel F video game console?

Q3: Who was the creator of the konami code?

Send your answers to triviaanswer2222@gmail.com
Digital gift cards (Nintendo eShop, PSN, Xbox, Steam)
We will select 3 winners.

Sexual Violence Led by Dr. Shaheen Shariff



Research Initiative

Fictional Democracy and Covid 19: Caught Within Omissions in Health and Wellbeing
Shaheen Shariff, PhD. James McGill Professor,
Department of Integrated Studies

In 2020, Hollywood fiction is more believable than the divisive implosion of democracy and blatant injustices we witness globally. While racism has persisted in liberal democracies for many generations, officially sanctioned discrimination escalated in the last decade.

Regrettably, it reared its ugly head at a time that required compassion and caring for the elderly, equity, and justice as thousands succumb to Covid19. Immediately prior to the pandemic, human wellbeing careened out of control as wars displaced millions of refugees; divisive populism was encouraged by far-right wing leaders, and our beautiful natural environment increasingly succumbed to human waste and neglect. Then came Covid19! As the sudden halt to the global economy and social isolation brought economic hardship, isolation, death and social distancing dilemmas, some welcomed the hiatus, noting that the environment and nature needed a break from pollution and traffic, and families had opportunities to bond. Regrettably, this did not prevent police brutality in Minneapolis resulting in the senseless homicide of yet another African American male, George Floyd. Nor did the hiatus prevent an increase in domestic violence and child abuse.

Preliminary research (see www.mcgill.ca/definetheline/iMPACTS) finds that racialized and economically vulnerable and marginalized citizens, immigrant and indigenous communities have succumbed to Covid19 in greater numbers globally. It is members of some of these communities that ironically, the provincial Quebec government implores to continue servicing seniors' homes, to help reduce spread of the virus. In doing so, the government had to reverse its populist immigration policies and contradict its controversial Bill 21. Sadly, many seniors home caregivers and health care workers live in densely populated areas and are most susceptible to the virus. Furthermore, members of these ethnic communities are most likely to be stopped or ticketed by police for failing to engage in social distancing in highly populated areas.

Officially sanctioned racism and failure to protect citizens from Covid19 is a lethal combination. At iMPACTS we are working hard to learn more about emerging issues, drawing on existing scholarship and emerging concerns on human development, health and wellbeing. We are developing a book series entitled: Caught Within Omissions, a title that highlights how easily some members of society fall through the cracks, are silenced and forgotten. We have also invited arts and media theorists; health and policy

experts, who can highlight the injustices and offer creative, practical and evidence-based guidelines and responses towards sustainable educational, policy and practical changes in a post-Covid19 world. One exciting anticipated publication would include artistic reflections (images of Covid19 graffiti; animation; lyrics, poetry, narratives) about the experiences of artists and academics during the Covid19 pandemic. Stay tuned for upcoming calls for chapters. We need your knowledge and expertise to contribute towards a post-pandemic world that is informed, compassionate and inclusive. A world that works towards human development and well-being of all global citizens.

Publication

The Lives of Girls and Young Women in the time of Covid-19: Transnational Perspectives

Edited by Claudia Mitchell, Milka Nyrario, Allie Holloway and Ann Smith
New York: Berghahn Press
Forthcoming

As with Zika, Ebola, and HIV and AIDS and other pandemics in recent history, girls and young women are particularly vulnerable socially if not medically. Some have referred to the current Covid-19 crisis as a “tale of two pandemics” in reference to both to the obvious health issues and also to the pervasive gender inequalities that have become exacerbated. Others have referred to the “shadow pandemic” to describe the increased rates of sexual and gender based violence. For example, we see the negative impact that physical distancing and social isolation is having on already vulnerable girls and women experiencing sex- and gender-based violence (SGBV). Girls and women all over the world are facing increasing levels of precariousness as a direct result of the health measures being taken to curb the global transmission of COVID-19. At the same time we are seeing inequalities across a wide range of issues related to the lives of girls and young women, such as homelessness, child labour, mental health, access to schooling, sexualities, disabilities, and teen pregnancy.

This edited collection brings together submissions from contributors across the Global

North and Global South. The overall aim of this book is to consider what we are learning about the lives of girls and young women as academics, community activists, and those working in local, national and global NGOs, and how these learnings can inform both the present and the future of what we hope will be a post-Covid-19 world. Methodologically the book is diverse in the range of tools and approaches that reflect both the disciplinary areas as well as the special circumstances of Covid-19. These include first person narratives with girls and young women, community ethnographies, participatory action research, textual analysis of hotlines and various online sources of data, document analysis, historical analysis, and researcher reflexivity. The creativity of the approaches responds to the urgency of doing research in a time of distancing.

Sustainability and Well-being Co-Led by Dr. Blane Harvey and Dr. Lisa Starr

Awards and Recognitions



Dr. Blane Harvey has been awarded the 2020 William Dawson Scholar prize which recognizes a scholar developing into an outstanding and original researcher of world-class caliber who is poised to become a leader in his or her field. The award is similar to that of a Canada Research Chair Tier 2.

Dr. Harvey's research studies how climate change knowledge is produced, validated and communicated, and how facilitated learning and knowledge sharing can support action on climate change. He is a Research Associate at the Overseas Development Institute (United Kingdom) and Associate Editor for the journals *Climate and Development* and *Evidence and Policy*.

Congratulations Dr. Harvey on a well deserved honour.

II Spring Internship

What is involved in an IHDW internship?

The IHDW Spring internship is a unique blend of community arts programming and general support for the growth of the Institute for Human Development and Well-being. Faculty of Arts students passionate about human development and well-being join our eight-week internship program to learn the ins and outs of what goes into research development, social media, event planning, and drafting proposals. They also are given the opportunity to participate in arts-based projects through collaborations with our extended family such as the McGill Art Hive Initiative operating through the Wellness Hub, Gender-based violence prevention projects and other relevant Institution initiatives. Interns lead and participate in a range of activities including funding development, leadership programs, social events, mentoring among others. While in a typical year approximately 50 % of the internship is spent in the community working in a child focused initiative, in 2020, adjusting to the Covid-19 pandemic, the focus has shifted whereby interns will collaborate remotely on projects.

The internship is divided into four "streams", under which a variety of projects take place. While each set of interns leads the development of their respective streams, they are encouraged to work collaboratively in a way that fosters open dialogue and information sharing between all the projects under the IHDW umbrella. This method of working has been the practice of all members within the IHDW and it is part of our education initiative to foster the spirit of integrated, participatory and active learning

The students have been working on a variety of projects. Let them tell you in their own words.

Colette Anton



My summer internship has mainly focused on working with the International Cellphilm Festival (ICF) team to develop a communications and social media strategy for the upcoming International Cellphilm Festival. My daily tasks range from conceptualizing and creating video content for the PCL's social media to reaching out to potential collaborators for the PCL's upcoming projects. The biggest challenge and learning experience has been the rapid transformation of the festival to an online experience, particularly in deciding how we are going to judge, vote, and screen the submissions remotely while maintaining the festival's accessibility and inclusivity. I have loved this opportunity to exercise my communications and social media skills in a professional setting, as well as the ability to work with such a talented team invested in advancing the role of participatory research methodology in education and the arts.

Sonia Bucan



Sonia Bucan is interning with the Institute of Human Development and Well-Being this summer. She is specifically working with the More Than Words project, and she is focusing on the indigenous youth mentoring component. Sonia has helped to edit and expand upon literature reviews and has spent time charting various mentorship activities. Sonia is currently helping to organize a webinar which will take place at the end of June, titled “A Conversation on Mentoring with Indigenous Girls and Young Women”. This webinar will include More Than Words site leaders, youth participants, and key members from the project. Sonia has created a document with information and key questions which will help guide the discussion and facilitate conversations on indigenous youth mentoring. Sonia feels grateful to be able to contribute to such a meaningful and important project, and is excited to see how her work helps the More Than Words project move forward.

Darshan Daryanani



Darshan Daryanani, a Global Health Scholar supported by the John Locke Churchill Scholars Award, has been working on two projects: Networks for Change & Well-being: Girl-led ‘from the ground up’ policy making to address sexual

violence in Canada & South Africa and Do No harm: Addressing Gender Based Violence in Indigenous and International Communities in the time of COVID-19. Darshan has been addressing the negative impact that physical distancing and social isolation have on vulnerable girls and women experiencing sexual and gender-based violence, particularly focusing on how they can empower themselves through social media to protect their human rights and prioritize their wellbeing, as well as how the gaps of leadership and policy-making can be filled through efforts by non-governmental organizations. In addition, Darshan is helping the Artful Inquiry Research Group to organize and promote the IMAGINING Virtual Symposium: Imagining the Possibilities and Potentials for Pedagogies of Reconciliation in Canada. Although working remotely can be challenging, he enjoys attending webinars, having Zoom calls and meeting people virtually. Darshan values the opportunity to work with a team of wonderful individuals and partner organizations. This internship has spurred his interests in research, encouraging him to think critically and gain valuable hands-on experience in learning more about this field.

Sabrina Gill

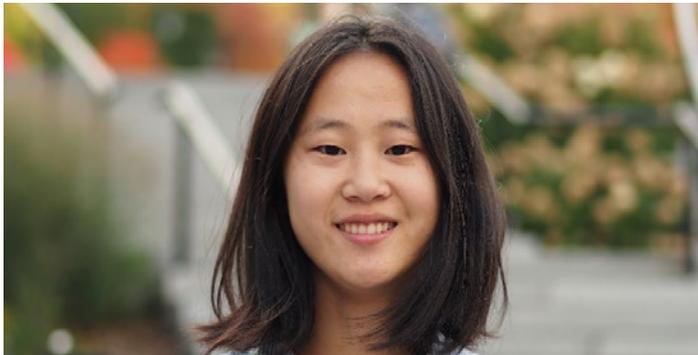


In the midst of an incredibly divisive global atmosphere, and in an age where young people are using social media to speak out against injustice, activists have amplified their voice through the use of digital platforms. As such, Sabrina Gill has performed research on the role of media advocacy in shaping public policy and resolving global health issues. In particular, her research focuses on how effective media advocacy has been as a strategy to alleviate the increased spike in Gender-Based Violence during

COVID-19, i.e. “The Shadow Pandemic”.

Working with a longer timeline, she has been drafting a research report with her findings, to be used in her later work as a McGill Global Health Scholar. To put research into practice, she is also creating informative infographics for public viewing, assisting with the Lab’s social media and content strategy, and will be conducting interviews with notable activists such as Shakira Choonara. As we move into July, Sabrina will also be looking into setting up a virtual exhibition for the PCL’s highly acclaimed Girlfesto, as well as potentially creating a collaborative video with other McGill-based media groups.

Joy Hannam



Joy Hannam is working on the International Cellphilm Festival, and helping in the capacity of creating graphics, and posters for the event. She is happy to be part of this project, as it sparks the conversation about well-being, and virtual expression in the unprecedented times. Joy is also working on the Games and Gamification node, where she is researching different serious games that are out there, conferences, and other resources that will be useful to the Games and Gamification website. Moreover, she is keen as this project it sparks her interest in how different media can be used to encourage social change, and positively impact people’s well-being. As well as increase her scope of what projects and interventions are out there to inspire change. Joy is very pleased with how this internship is going and is excited to continue to support the two projects.

Mary-Lynne Loftus



The main project I’m working on this summer is called Participatory Research on Education and Agency in Mali (PREAM), which is a collaboration between McGill and Plan International. My work involves creating a literature review on the concept of agency as it pertains to youth education and girls’ rights. I’m compiling a list of Malian organizations that do work in the fields of education, gender and female empowerment. I’ve also been assisting to plan the IMAGINING Symposium, which brings together a wide array of speakers on the topic of pedagogies of reconciliation in Canada. I’m really enjoying the internship as the work is interesting and rewarding and the entire team is very supportive. I feel grateful to work for an organization with a mission that I am passionate about: improving the well being of at-risk populations, working for social development in society and serving as a positive platform for change. As a Political Science, Communications and Canadian Ethnic and Racial Studies student, this internship has given me the opportunity to hone my research, writing, social media and collaboration skills.

Allison McCook



Allison McCook is working on the More than Words project, specifically in the area of evaluation. She has been working on researching

tools used for evaluation in order to create a “how-to” for real-world application. Allison has been focusing on defining what each tool is, how it can be used, when it should and shouldn’t be used, its advantages and disadvantages, along with compiling resources for additional reading. She is eager to see her work come to life in a toolkit as well as a section on the More than Words website. What she has learned most thus far has been the vast number of tools available for evaluation, how they are widely adaptable to a range of contexts, and how many are applicable to a project like More than Words. What she enjoys most about this internship is not only the opportunity to contribute to such an important project through a creative and research-based task, but also the ability to work with such kind and supportive people. Allison is excited to see the final products of her work and is eager to see how her work can be used as a resource for the benefit and education of others.

has evolved quite dramatically. The organizers on this special theme within the history of the International Cellphilm Festival (the 8th in our series) invited people to submit short cellphilm on the theme Well-being in the Time of Distancing.

As we proposed in the call for submissions: “Here is a chance to tell a story, give an original twist on distancing and isolation or explore new ideas of connectedness during the pandemic. While a great many of us rely on our cellphones to stay connected – now, more than ever -- this is an opportunity to use your cellphone (or other devices) in a creative way. We are inviting submissions that explore how individuals, groups, families and/or communities have been experiencing distancing. How has this changed your daily life? What coping strategies have been useful? What new things have you learned about yourself? How are you connecting with the world?”

This year’s Cellphilm Festival was the first to be conducted online as an entirely virtual event. This presented novel challenges for the festival organizers, judges, and producers as the festival planning had to be readily adapted to the technology and platforms available while maintaining safe social distancing practices. Because the festival was unable to take place in-person, the virtual livestream of the event, which took place on June 12th, 2020, was recorded for later viewings. The online recording of the festival can be found at this link.

Festival Overview

In total, the 8th International Cellphilm Festival received 42 submissions. Submissions represented widespread international engagement with this year’s theme, with cellphilm coming from all across Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Nunavut, etc.) and around the world (U.S., U.K., South Africa, etc.). The diversity of voices, as well as the depth and clarity of submissions, made selecting finalists a difficult but enriching endeavor. In addition to showcasing the winning cellphilm, this year’s festival also featured presentations from a distinguished panel of judges and contributors. The festival opened with a presentation by Scott

III Symposia

IHDW/PCL

The 2020 McGill Spring International Cellphilm Festival
June 12th, 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about sudden shifts in the lives of individuals as well as rapid and monumental social change globally. With distancing becoming a necessary practice, the manner in which we communicate with one another - as individuals and as communities -

Walter, CEO of CODE, on the organization's mission and the partnership between CODE and the Institute of Human Development and Well-being at McGill University, forged through a shared focus on the empowerment of women through provision of educational opportunities. The judging panel was composed of experts in filmmaking, education, youth and Indigenous activism, and the medium of cellphilm, with six judges in total. The panel of judges included Katie MacEntee (Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto, co-founder of the International Cellphilm Festival, and co-author of the book "What's a Cellphilm?: Integrating Mobile Phone Technology into Participatory Visual Research and Activism", eds. MacEntee, Katie; Burkholder, Casey; Schwab-Cartas, Joshua), Casey Burkholder (Assistant Professor at the University of New Brunswick focusing on participatory visual research), Emily Ridlington Prashad (Communications Manager at CODE), Layla Zia (Content Manager for Storybolt Film Festival), Marjorie Beaucage (Métis activist and filmmaker), and Gabby Daniels (Representative of the Young Indigenous Women's Utopia, focused on "bringing to light systematic racism, sexism, and gender-based violence and the situations that girls from Saskatoon and Saskatchewan experience."). Judges began by individually choosing their finalist selections before convening to collectively decide on the winning cellphilms.

The Prize Winners

The first place cellphilm prize was awarded to Kevin Ah-Sen and Alexa Ahooja for their cellphilm "IMPERI(a)L" which explored the racism inherent to the COVID-19 pandemic – both in the coding of medicine, as well as the justification of the oppression and violence against Asian people due to their association with COVID-19. The cellphilm is a spoken word piece highlighting the perspective of an Asian man in Montreal and the absorption of anti-Asian sentiments. The judges deeply resonated with this powerful commentary, as well as the excellent visual and audial choices made by the producers. Marjorie Beaucage noted how the winning film was a "poetic acknowledgement of difference...and how that critical analysis is so important in this world. We

are not alright all together, because we are not together, those are statements that we are getting in the mainstream media, but the fact is not so... for everyone. I really appreciated the honesty of this work."



The festival also hosted one of "IMPERI(a)L"'s producers, Kevin Ah-Sen, to speak about the thought process behind his film. "The whole opportunity to create something was excellent for us...specifically to express my own worries and fears. Living in a predominantly multicultural city has made me feel quite safe in general... although on a daily basis I experience blatant racism, micro-aggressions – and more so during this time. Upon reflection, in creating this piece, a lot of worries and fears and anxieties have resurged, especially during the time of COVID. [We wanted] to not only bring attention or draw attention to this partiality...but also to just kind of open the floor to more conversations about other types of discrimination, inequalities, and inequities."

The winning second-place cellphilm, "Circa Diem (About a Day)", by Emily and Sunny Liang, presented a unique visual and audial representation of how the enforced quarantine has affected our perception of time. The cellphilm depicted the monotony of one's daily routine during the lockdown, and highlights how previous conceptualizations of time were dependent on the stability of the pre-COVID world, and have now become difficult to mentally visualize. The judging panel thought the cellphilm was very successful in demonstrating the power of the cellphone medium, as well as the emotions conveyed in the post-production of the film. Marjorie Beaucage expressed how "it really captures without words the use of silence, the sounds and the beeping

has a sense of being isolated and alone...it is one of those that stood out rather than explaining anything.” Katie MacEntee identified the film as a “masterful piece of editing” and how “the use of silence alone with the close-ups of sound made it so striking.”

The winning third-place film was “Our Experiences During the Lockdown” produced by Young Girls Leading Change in South Africa. The film touched on the struggles of remote learning and global inequality in access to educational resources, a thematic focus which the judges found to highlight both the universality of the lockdown, as well as the uniqueness of the South African experience. Katie MacEntee noted how “they picked up on themes that resonated across borders, as well as were able to show the sort of experience that may take place in a South African context.” Layla Zia commented on the video’s impressive integration of multiple topics, “the fact that they could put all their struggles, their life, social life, the distance, struggles at home, and the boredom...in the ninety seconds and in that context and geography.”



The ‘14 and Under’ category was won by Kendra Ley for her cellphilm “Changing Perspectives”. Her film focused on the youth perspective of COVID-19 in Canada, and the importance of family in staying connected despite social distancing, as well as to maintain a positive outlook on life post-coronavirus. Kendra shared that “it is hard for a lot of people right now. I wasn’t able to see my dad for nine weeks. I really wanted to focus on the positive things... and keep a positive message out there so that everyone knows it’s not easy for any of us. It’s only a small part of our lives compared to the rest of our lives, and even though it’s hard,

we can all do it together.” The judges felt that Kendra’s video featured a strong youth presence and a personalized representation of a child’s experience of the pandemic.

‘Honorable Mention’ went to Salima Punjani for her cellphilm “Full Spectrum”. Though the video exceeded the ninety second limit for the festival submission, the judges felt there was an honesty in the radical acceptance of a new, socially distant reality in the video that deserved special mention. The video featured an exploration of the rainbows hung in windows around Montreal to inspire connection and resilience among Montrealers during the quarantine, along with a diversity of voices commenting on the realization that things might not be okay. The judges appreciated the honesty of the cellphilm and the necessity of confronting the role the media and capitalism play in shaping our perceptions of the crisis.

The ‘People’s Choice Award’ category was won by Darshan Daryanani for his film “What do I do NOW??”. His cellphilm explored the story of an alcoholic in quarantine under pressure from the economic downsizing associated with COVID-19. The video depicted the protagonist’s decision to choose a healthier pathway for himself and highlighted a way to use quarantine to positively improve one’s lifestyle, both physically and mentally.

Judges’ Reflections





I think we have a lot of inspiration and tools out there, probably sitting within reach of us right now

Katie MacEntee
Cellphilms Specialist



We always make cellphilms to make our message loud and clear

Gabby Daniels, Young
Indigenous Women's
Utopia



I think cellphilms are a great medium to share experiences, and talking about them gets us closer to each other and helps us increase our inclusion and sense of belonging.

Layla Zia
Storybolt

The reflections of the judges on the festival highlighted the value of the cellphone medium as a tool for social activism, connection, and research generation. Gabby Daniels noted how cellphilm has been beneficial in amplifying voices in her organization, the Young Indigenous Women's Utopia. "It is a really great way for us to get the message out and communicate, not a lot of people talk, or like [to] speak in a talking group...so we always make cellphilms to make our message loud and clear." Layla Zia noted the power of storytelling using cellphilms. "Visual storytelling activates a way for us to show all emotion in the brain and enable[s] us to empathize and be curious with what we are watching and hearing. I think cellphilms are a great medium to share this with experiences, and

talking about shared experiences gets us close to each other and helps us increase our inclusion and sense of belonging."

Katie MacEntee also spoke to the usefulness of cellphilms in the context of the Black Lives Matter movement, beginning in 2016 with the publication of her book "What's a Cellphilms?". "I am reflecting back on how in our introductory chapter we wrote about Black Lives Matter and how that movement had started to use cellphones and cellphone videos to document the injustice that black people were experiencing and anti-black racism by police, and how cellphones' method was inspired by the re-conceptualizing of the handheld device. I really want to think about, listen, and learn from young people and leaders like Gabby, as well as other black and Indigenous people of color who are using cellphilms to speak out against injustice. These are huge changes...in the world and I think we have a lot of inspiration and tools out there—probably sitting within reach of us right now—to speak about."

Social Media Campaign

The 8th International Cellphilms Festival was largely advertised via the International Cellphilms Festival's social media pages on Facebook and Twitter. Joy Hannam, in collaboration with Nesa Bandarchian Rashti, provided graphic design and communications support throughout the weeks prior to the festival streaming on June 12th. The communications strategy included dissemination of instructional cellphilms videos made by Colette Anton, as well as informational infographics produced by Joy providing festival details, calls for submissions, and post-festival announcements. Joy and Colette also collaborated on a long-term communications strategy to identify target groups to invite to submit cellphilms, and target groups to include in the organization and execution of future cellphilms festivals.

Follow-Up

We conducted a follow-up interview with Siya, one of the producers of "Our experiences during the lockdown", to hear about their winning cellphilms and YGLC's experience during the pandemic. Siya spoke to the challenges of communication and self-motivation faced with the new dynamic of remote learning shown in the

group's submission. "At school, we always have the teacher available when no one understands to explain, but it is challenging to do over the phone. Most of the time, we didn't have data, or many people are talking at once, so the teacher might not be able to answer everyone's questions. Also, I have more freedom at home... it led me to postponing my studying for days, and days turned into weeks."

Following from the difficulties of learning online, Siya also offered potential solutions to combatting the educational inequalities that COVID-19 has made visible. "There will always be a gap...I was hoping that maybe in the library we could have access to WiFi, and maybe enough computers at school to allow access to everyone. Most people here have phones, but not data because it is expensive. Everything costs money that we don't have – we should give WiFi and data to universities." Siya finally spoke to the group's desire for expansion with the inclusion of more LGBTQ+ community members in their projects and cellphilms in the future to "highlight their struggles in...how the world sees them, and create a safe place for them with us."

The International Cellphilm Festival team also composed a comprehensive thematic analysis on the 42 submissions received for this year's festival. Each cellphilm was analyzed on its relatedness to the festival's theme: Well-being in the Time of Social Distancing. Within this general framework, submissions focused in on more definitive aspects of the experiential reality of COVID-19. Many submissions dealt with the concept of 'separate, but together', examining how people living in forced isolation (due to social distancing restrictions) maintained individual perspectives on the crisis, but also were intrinsically connected through the universality of the global pandemic. Additionally, submissions focused on how the pandemic has led to a re- evaluation of perspectives, with COVID-19 highlighting many of the systemically-derived social inequalities in society, prompting widespread recognition of both privilege and disadvantage. Many cellphilms also discussed the evolution / devolution of society with the increased industrialization, development, and globalization that have led to our current

circumstances, and brought into question what really constitutes human progress– how advanced can we claim to be if we have propagated the very suffering we are now enduring? Other submissions also focused in on the cellphone as a medium, analyzing the ways we are able to stay socially connected through social media platforms in spite of social distancing. Cellphones have been used both as a means to convey stories, as well as an essential tool for information and connection throughout COVID-19. Finally, multiple cellphilms have identified the quarantine as a positive potential opportunity for self-growth and self-empowerment, advertising healthier and more productive ways to live despite the unprecedented situations we all currently find ourselves in.

All submissions can be found on the ICF website: <https://internationalcellphilmfestival.com/>

quote postcards created by Joy Hannam

CREATE

Creativity Research in Education using
Artful inquiry for societal Transformation and
intercultural Exchange
Imagining Symposium
June 22nd & 23rd, 2020



In the spring of 2020 a virtual symposium headed by Dr. Mindy R. Carter, director of the research initiative **Creativity Research in Education using Artful inquiry for societal Transformation and intercultural Exchange (CREATE)**, was held online under the name of IMAGINING: imagining the possibilities and potentials for pedagogies of reconciliation in Canada. IMAGINING sought to document and learn from the innovative and emergent work on pedagogies of reconciliation happening in Canada, and to create new pedagogical spaces that recognize the processes of remembrance, forgiveness, and forgetting needed to take up The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action for education.

IMAGINING brought together a diverse group of scholars who are working in between the

spaces of environmental justice/sustainability, law, education, social work, Indigeneity, art and narrative methods of representation in a two day virtual symposium on June 22 & 23/2020, hosted through McGill University (Montreal, QC) and supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. In addition to the scholars, artists, lawyers, community members, youth, teachers and others engaged in sharing their perspectives on the broad theme outlined above, the public and invited participants were encouraged to consider the following guiding questions as part of our collective IMAGINING.

How have various pedagogies been used with students, teachers and communities to explore and learn about Indigenous perspectives, topics and histories, even without any reference specifically to working towards reconciliation?

What are our visions for interdisciplinary pedagogies of reconciliation that include reconciliation with the land, people and self? What elements or structures are currently missing for us to realize these visions?

With regard to reconciliation in a settler state, what tensions are generative and what tensions are incommensurable? What are our accountabilities to Indigenous sovereignty as central to reconciliation? OR How do we enact our responsibility to Indigenous sovereignty?

CREATE is a continuation Dr. Carter's formidable research history in art pedagogies under the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE), and the symposium highlights CREATE's leadership in gathering a multidisciplinary organizational committee to engage in multifaceted conversations around the pertinent questions highlighted above. The organizational committee included a McGill team consisting of Research Associate Dr.Elaine (Ying) Huang , Dr. Claudia Mitchell, Dr.Teresa Strong-Wilson along with Dr.Sandrina de Finney of the University of Victoria and Dr.Dawn Wiseman of Bishop's University. Plenary Addresses and Group Conversations were facilitated by educators from several universities across Canada; including McGill University, Concordia University,

the University of Victoria, Griffith University, Bishop's University, St. Francis Xavier University, University of Regina, University of Alberta, Vancouver Island University and community educational programs such as LEARN (Leading English Education and Resource Network) the Vanguard School.

IMAGINING Symposium's Organizing Committee



Mindy R. Carter, PhD
Principal Investigator
(CREATE!)



Ying-Syuan (Elaine)
Huang, PhD
Co-Investigator



Claudia Mitchell, PhD
Co-Investigator,
(IHDW)



Sandrina de
Finney, PhD
Co-Investigator



Teresa Strong-
Wilson, PhD
Co-Investigator



Dawn Wiseman, PhD
Co-Investigator

To see view the conversations and presentations that resulted from IMAGINING, we invite you to visit:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/artful-inquiry/imagining-symposium>

More Than Words

A Conversation on Mentoring with Indigenous Girls and Young Women
June 25th, 2020



On Thursday, June 25, 2020, the More Than Words team hosted *A Conversation on Mentoring with Indigenous Girls and Young Women*, bringing together over 40 participants from all over Canada and South Africa using the platform zoom. More Than Words is a study funded by WAGE working with Indigenous youth to support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and their families through participatory arts-based methods and mentoring.

As part of More Than Words and Networks for Change, The Imbizo International event on mentoring was scheduled to be taking place in Durban, South Africa during the last week of June, 2020. The event was planned to be a mentoring retreat, bringing together Indigenous girls from Canada and South Africa to share and learn from one another. Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic of Covid-19 we have had to postpone the event. While we are all sad to have not been in South Africa together, the virtual conversation brought us as close as face to face as possible.

The conversation on mentoring featured a panel, where the More Than Words and Networks for Change sites from Canada (Treaty 6, Eskasoni and Rankin Inlet), and the South African shared on their experiences with mentoring. The panel highlighted the importance of creating culturally relevant mentoring relationships and engaging in different activities specific to the girls' diverse

cultures. A highlight of the panel was hearing from the girls themselves from Treaty 6 and Rankin Inlet. Additionally, having a mother of Young Indigenous Women's Utopia participant and an Auntie to girls in the project, joined the conversation, speaking to the unique Auntie relationships and Auntieship mentoring model from Treaty 6. The break-out group discussions offered thoughtful insight into the importance of framing or reframing the research, so it is most useful to the community; the value of being flexible with expectations; meeting youth where they are, and finally, the importance of building meaningful relationships in mentoring.

To get updates on the More Than Words project visit us at:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/morethanwords/>

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