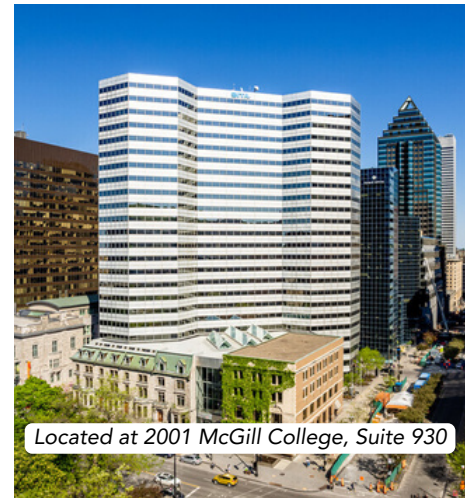




The Participatory Cultures Lab (PCL) is a research, training, studio, and exhibition space, supporting and advancing participatory visual methodologies for social change. The PCL leads and supports local and international initiatives incorporating participatory visual methodologies, art and media-making as critical forms of research and intervention. These methodologies include drawing, collage, photovoice, cellphilm, participatory video, object elicitation, digital storytelling, participatory archiving, and zine-making.



Under the direction of Claudia Mitchell, Distinguished James McGill Professor, Department of Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University, the lab was established in 2010. The PCL supports the research programs of graduate students (masters and PhD), post-doctoral fellows, and undergraduate student interns.

The PCL conducts research focusing on how participatory visual methodologies can deepen an understanding of social issues such as Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS, food security, disability, and climate change. This work engages a variety of groups including teachers, health care workers, and youth, with a particular focus on the voices and perspectives of young people as agents of change. Research questions highlight "girl-led" and "youth-led" activism, and foregrounds tools to support young people to speak about their own health and well-being and to propose ideas for change. At the same time, research in the PCL addresses critical issues about the visual itself, ranging from visual ethics and knowledge mobilization strategies to pioneering technologies for change.



One of the PCL's current projects *TRANSFORM: Engaging with Young People for Social Change*, a SSHRC Partnership project, focuses on gender transformation and how young people are disrupting gender norms in six countries (Argentina, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and South Africa).



Since its inception, the PCL has been the site of many events and exhibitions. It is home to the annual McGill International Cellphilm Festival dating back to 2011, an event that draws submissions from countries all over the world. It is also home to Gallery TRANSFORMING, which embraces the idea of the pop-up and the ephemeral in support of local exhibitions and screenings. The PCL recently hosted several Dialogues 4 Change events, bringing together Indigenous Youth from across Canada to explore arts-based methodologies in addressing colonial violence.

More information can be found at participatorycultureslab.com or by emailing claudia.mitchell@mcgill.ca.