

Remote participatory research with adolescents

Presented by:

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the Accelerate Hub adolescent engagement & participation team (PI Professor Lucie Cluver)

Background: Teen Advisory Groups (TAGs)

- Three Teen Advisory Groups @ the Accelerate Hub:
 - Western Cape (n=23, ages 15-27) – recruited from Young Carers
 - Eastern Cape (n=18, ages 17-23) – recruited from Mzantsi Wakho and HEY BABY
 - Kisumu, Kenya (n=16, ages 10-15) – rural, in-school young people





Remote AND participatory research?

Engaging 'the researched' in questions & design?

Practical approaches to contacting participants & research

Relevance to other research designs and studies?



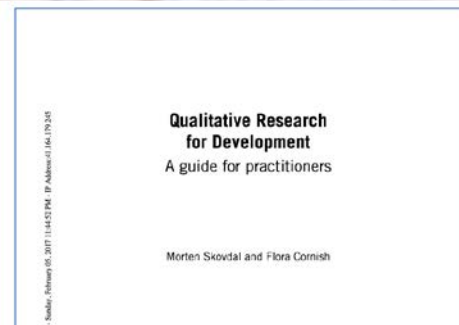
What are young people's experiences, challenges & coping strategies during this time?

How to engage young people meaningfully in participatory & art-based approaches research over distance and during a pandemic?

Background: Why participatory research with adolescents and young people?

- Adolescents have needs not being met – ‘wicked’ intractable sustainable development issues and challenges + additional COVID-19 challenges.
- Research and resulting policy and programming more responsive to their priorities and needs.
- ‘Shifting power’;
- Facilitating and boosting young people’s participation! ‘With’ and ‘by’ vs. ‘about’: Adolescent expert advice throughout the research cycle;
- **Today’s presentation: not the gold standard, but lessons learnt, successes and shortcomings**

(Hodes et al 2018; Skovdal & Cornish 2016; Mitchell & Somer 2016; Guillermin, Archer, Nunn, de Bere, 2014; White, 1996; Bergold & Thomas, 2012; Campbell et al., 2009; Skovdal and Cornish, 2015; Skovdal et al., 2017)



What have we done in COVID-19? Our Approach

- Ask young people!
 - Participants can advise on topics & methods
 - Engage in relationships we've already invested in
 - Research strategy: calls & Facebook group
-



Calls

- Exploratory phone calls (in-depth semi-structured interviews, n=6)
 - Preferred research questions, methods & technology access
 - COVID-19 experiences, challenges, recommendations
- What did participants tell us we should do?



Facebook

"You have a lot of young people on Facebook than other social networks... not everyone has the data to login to Instagram. But Facebook is free..."



Multiple mediums: Pictures, and writing in response to questions or prompts as a first preferred method

"Lets stick to questions and pictures for now and then later we can upgrade."

"Really it's a fun thing to switch things up"



Experiences and challenges of young people during this time



Group engagement

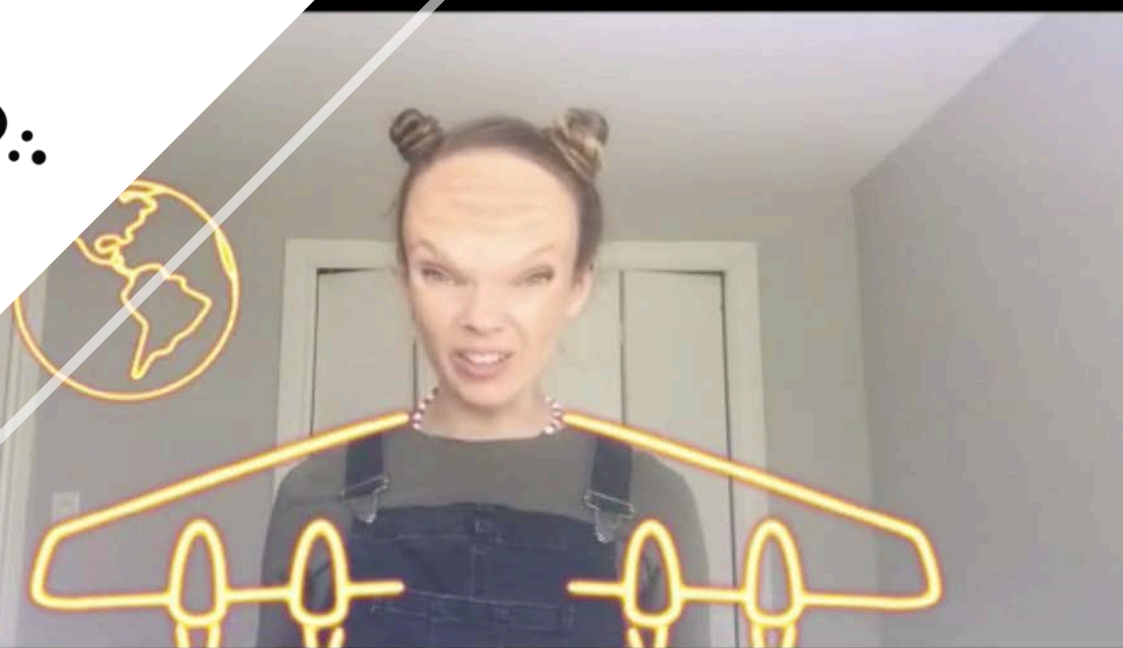
"I would recommend to create a group to invite young people to come to the discussion and they will share..."



They want to participate!



*INTERFER::



Things to think about:

Approach

- *Exploratory + open-ended! Rich emergent data*
- *Informed consent/assent*
- *Technology access & internet*
- *Expect the unexpected! Be responsive & flexible*

Challenges

- ✗ Contacting participants
- ✗ Phone access – finding time & space & negotiating access (responsivity)
- ✗ Requests for support & referrals to social services: Food insecurity, baby clothes, psychosocial support

HOW DOES THE TIMECAPSULE WORK?

We will be posting activity posters and videos each week. It is also a place for you to share and speak with other Taggers. Be creative

08:00 ✓✓

Check in every week for the new activities.

08:02 ✓✓





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THANK YOU!!!



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What do you think?