Communities of Inquiry as an Intermediary between Top-Down and Bottom-Up

Experiences from a case study in Germany

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Background

• Case study in Esslingen, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
• Setting: Neighborhood Mettingen-Brühl-Weil
• Participants: professionals from different sectors and stakeholders from the neighborhood, young residents from the neighborhood
• Aim: exchange perspectives and integrate what we jointly found out into municipal health promotion
working hypothesis

- Successful collaboration within municipal health promotion strategies requires a forum for exchange and reflection
- This forum has to bridge top-down and bottom-up perspectives
Action-orientated Aim

- promote the health of youth in their living environment
- create framework conditions for their participation
- empower them to shape their environment
## Co-Researchers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>participant</th>
<th>sex</th>
<th>age</th>
<th>contact from</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>♂️</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>♂️</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Youth centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>♂️</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Youth centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>♂️</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Ministry</td>
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<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Youth centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>♂️</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Youth centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>♂️</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Youth centre</td>
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Research process with the youth

1. Training: health and research
   28.07.16

2. Data collection: summer holidays 16

3. Workshop: group discussion 08.09.16

4. Data preparation (University of applied sciences Esslingen)

5. Workshop: participatory evaluation 03.11.16
1. Training- Impressions
1. Training- Impressions
1. Training - Impressions
1. Training - Impressions

Wie geht es mir? GESUNDHEIT

Was willst du im Stadthalle?

Was gibt’s zu essen?

Freunde
Zusammen
Spass
Party
Was stört
Nachbars
Innen

man kann wo
minoren - Angebot

Grillen -
Abends rauskommen
### Overview of Collected Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Number of taken photographs</th>
<th>Number of discussed photographs</th>
<th>Group discussion</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>GD 2 (4 TN)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 193 photographs discussed, 66 group discussions
Interview Christo

• How did you become a member of our research project?

• Could you please explain your role in our research project?

• What motivated/motivates you to take part in our project?

• Is there something you didn`t expect before taking part in our research project? Were you surprised about something?

• What do you think is important to keep in mind for conducting research together with youth?
Video
Findings

- Maintain our neighborhood
- Eradicate waste
- Shape places appropriate for youth
- Allow us to make use of places
- Create new places just for youth
- Offer activities for youth
Conclusion

• photovoice is an uncomplicated way of becoming a co-researcher

• Photographs and videos are a perfect medium for confronting local stakeholders and decision-makers with the perspective of the young citizens. The method allows bringing together top-down and bottom-up.

• photos provide a perfect base for producing a professional video – a medium that shows the findings in an authentic and catchy way and that empowers the youth.
Conclusion

• It is important to discuss the findings jointly with the appropriate authorities and search for solutions together with them.

• It could be challenging to start a real, solution-focused dialogue between youth and stakeholders. The process should be prepared carefully. Dynamics between top-down and bottom-up could especially arise in this phase.
Thank you for listening!
Potential Questions for Discussion

• How did other projects set up communities of inquiry?

• Do you also have experiences with an intermediary between top-down and bottom-up? How did you manage confrontational processes at this interface?

• How did capacity building and knowledge arise among the research participants?

• Or others...