

Participatory media based communication and public mental health approaches for peace and reconciliation for specific Colombian territory populations

Aim: gaining insight and practical skills for the development of a participatory media and community strategy that aims to facilitate the transformation from the idiom of violence to new social relational repertoires, through the reworking of traumatic experience and rebuilding social relations and trust in inclusive communities.

Two week training

Week 1:
July 2017, Bogota
Week 2:
September 2017,
Valledupar

Participants

20 with heterogeneous backgrounds: academics, policy staff, indigenous leaders, representatives of victim organizations, social workers, media professionals

Training methods

Active, problem- based learning
Interactive lectures
Media examples
Group work/home work
Real life assignments

Main ingredients

Ethnography: anchoring interventions in real-life stories and experiences; finding and working up relevant stories
Multiple voices: including voices of 'others', victims and perpetrators, training in voicing and listening
Developing scripts: how to transform real life stories into a quality script (main character/antagonists, development of characters, desires/needs). Testing the script
Media strategy: comics, radio, tv, internet, theater. Understanding the reach, quality and costs of each medium
Embedding: exploring the media landscape, social and professional stakeholders: co-production and active community participation
Funding: how to convince others of urgency of this strategy and the diverse media products: insights in to production and costs
Participatory: collaboration with relevant partners in the "making of" in all phases from the start, embedding in community networks

Evaluation

Scale: 1-5 Week 1: 4,8, Week 2: 4,8

Participants' comments:

'Particularly what I like the most is that after the theory we live the practice and it is the important thing because that is how we can understand and live with or in the reality of the subject we are dealing with.'

'The part that marked the most in this second week is the contact with the community, listening to these real and hard stories out loud in some cases and knowing that they have that gift of people to continue, to forgive. The use of soft tools for complex issues.'

'It seeks to make known in a didactic way, how to see the processes of reconciliation. It helps people to know the real context in which they find themselves. Because it is a different way of looking at the problems of our community, it is a powerful tool that can contribute to the reconstruction of social fabric in our country.'

Contact

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Results

Development of 4 potential media products that articulate and overcome diverse kinds of violence and suffering and promote healing, as well as a film report

The Chameleon of 1000 colors

Theme: Losing and rebuilding identity and hope after a 30 year period of fear and, adaptation to diverse violent threats wherein the community lost its voice and self

Media: print: children's book, also for parents
Inspiration: Experience of the people of Media Luna

Stories of Guatapuri River

Theme: Disruption of the life along the river as a metaphor for different faces of violence and suffering as well as the transformation of the river of blood to a natural source for healing and reconciliation.

Media: Documentary
Inspiration: Experience of the indigenous people and their neighbors along the river.

Constanza. How vulnerability can become strength

Theme: Vulnerability as strength, gender violence, and the search for identity, revenge and forgiveness

Media: Theater
Inspiration: Complex experiences of the afflicted with a focus on the experiences of women in a context of violence and class conflicts

The Song of Love

Theme: Recovering through reinstating traditional rituals and the possibility of love after years of occupation and gender violence

Media: Radio, social media and theater
Inspiration: "Right for a Happy ending", forgetting and renewal in an Afro-Colombian group

Film report. The making of the training (youtube, MVI link,)

Visual impressions of training-in-practice
Film maker: Mark Timmer

Organisation & Funding

Funding: Nuffic Capacity Development 2017 (70.000Euro)
Realisation: Maastricht University & Mind Ventures International, The Netherlands, Javeriana University, Colombia