Workshop 2

Visualising health and illness: Applying methodological innovation in the critical examination of health experiences

In an age of ever-changing digital technologies, many avenues have opened up that allow people to explore their experiences of health and illness. This proliferation also presents researchers with new possibilities for applying and adapting established critical analytic methods to examine how these experiences are socially constituted and subjectively interpreted. In this interactive workshop, we will provide practical insights into how researchers can use digital storytelling as one method to visualise and voice participants’ stories of health and illness against, or in relation to, dominant discourses.

Participants will also practice applying multimodal critical discourse analysis to critically examine visual materials through activities designed to encourage thinking beyond the linguistic medium. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and insights, to learn from others, and to consider how they might integrate methodological innovation in their current or future research practice.

Dr Ally Gibson

Ally is a research fellow in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Ally’s primary role is managing the Qualitative Research Network Hub at UNSW, which offers a range of consultation services for researchers conducting qualitative research. Ally enjoys exploring new and creative ways of conducting research. Her work is located in the sociology of health and illness, with a focus on critically analysing understandings and experiences of health, illness and healthcare, in order to tackle global health concerns affecting society today.

Andrea LaMarre, MSc., PhD (candidate)

Andrea is a Vanier Scholar in the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition at the University of Guelph. Her work is focused on exploring the meaning of “recovery” from eating disorders amongst diverse Canadians and the people who support them. As a part of this work, Andrea uses digital storytelling to create short films to be screened with healthcare providers as a way of challenging stereotypes around what it means to have and to recover from an eating disorder in a society that profoundly marginalises certain bodies.