

"THERE'S SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT IT":

EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF PARTICIPATING IN A CO-PRODUCED PHOTOVOICE STUDY

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Describe the value of photovoice in CME/CPD research and scholarship.

Identify participant impacts of photovoice.

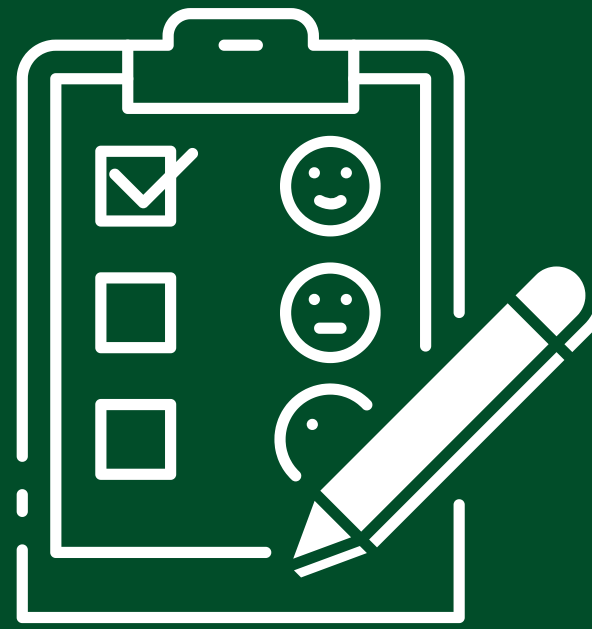
Apply a photovoice model to enhance engagement in CME/CPD.



TRADITIONAL METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION



Focus groups



Surveys



Interviews



ARTS-BASED METHODS

A different approach to data collection and
knowledge generation

Participants as partners
and co-constructors of
knowledge

Flexible
and
adaptable

Caters to diverse forms
of learning and
expression



WHAT IS PHOTOVOICE?

Photovoice is a research method in which participants use photography to identify, represent, and enhance their community.



OUR PROJECT

Explores the impacts of...



Co-production on
people with lived
experience.



Participating in a co-
produced photovoice
study.



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THE SETTING: **RECOVERY COLLEGES**



- Co-produced
- Educational programs
- Support people with lived experience in working toward their wellness goals

METHODS



Co-created
research
agenda



Co-created
project



Recruitment



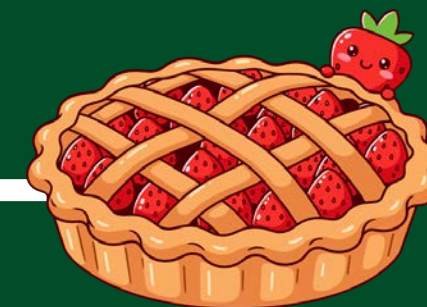
Photovoice
workshops



Focus
group

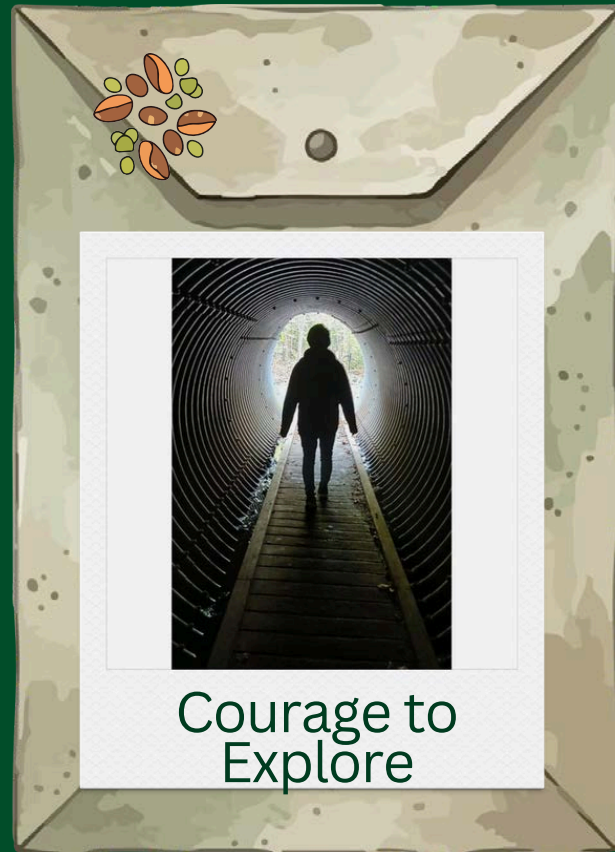


Collaborative
analysis

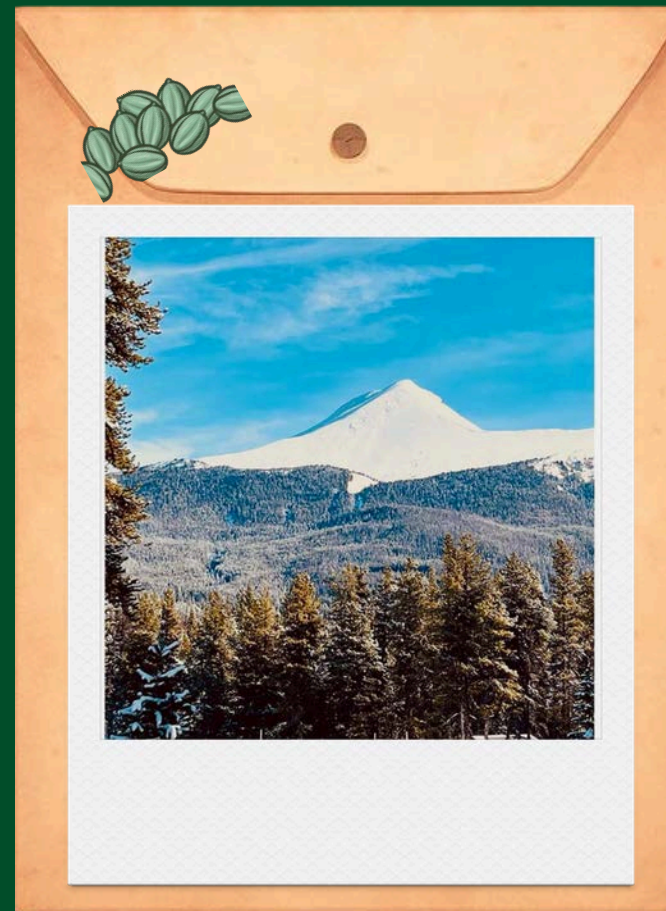


Co-created
outputs





Courage to Explore



Overshadowing Agendas



Infinite Possibilities



Winter to Spring





RESULTS



**BENEFITED FROM SOCIALIZATION
WITH PEERS**

**ACQUIRED
PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS**

**THOUGHT ABOUT THEIR
EXPERIENCE OF
CO-PRODUCTION IN A DIFFERENT
WAY**

**APPRECIATED THE DESIGN OF
THE PROJECT**



OUTPUTS

Website

Lights, camera, action! A photovoice study of co-production

This is a space where recovery programming and lived experience come to life through the lens of Recovery College community members.

Home / Research / Participate in Research / Lights, camera, action! A photovoice study of co-production

camh

Lights, camera, action! A photovoice study of co-production

Photovoice

Lights, camera, action! A photovoice study of co-production

Photovoice is a participatory research method that uses photography and storytelling to elevate the voices of those with lived and living experience. In this project, participants used their cameras to reflect on their personal journeys, explore their perspectives, and share insights about co-production in mental health and substance use programming.

Each photograph in this collection was taken by a participant in our Photovoice project, which brought together individuals with lived and living experience of mental health and substance use health challenges to explore co-production and recovery programming—through both words and images. Here, we celebrate and share their photography to initiate dialogue. We thank all of our participants for sharing a part of themselves through their photos.



Youtube Video

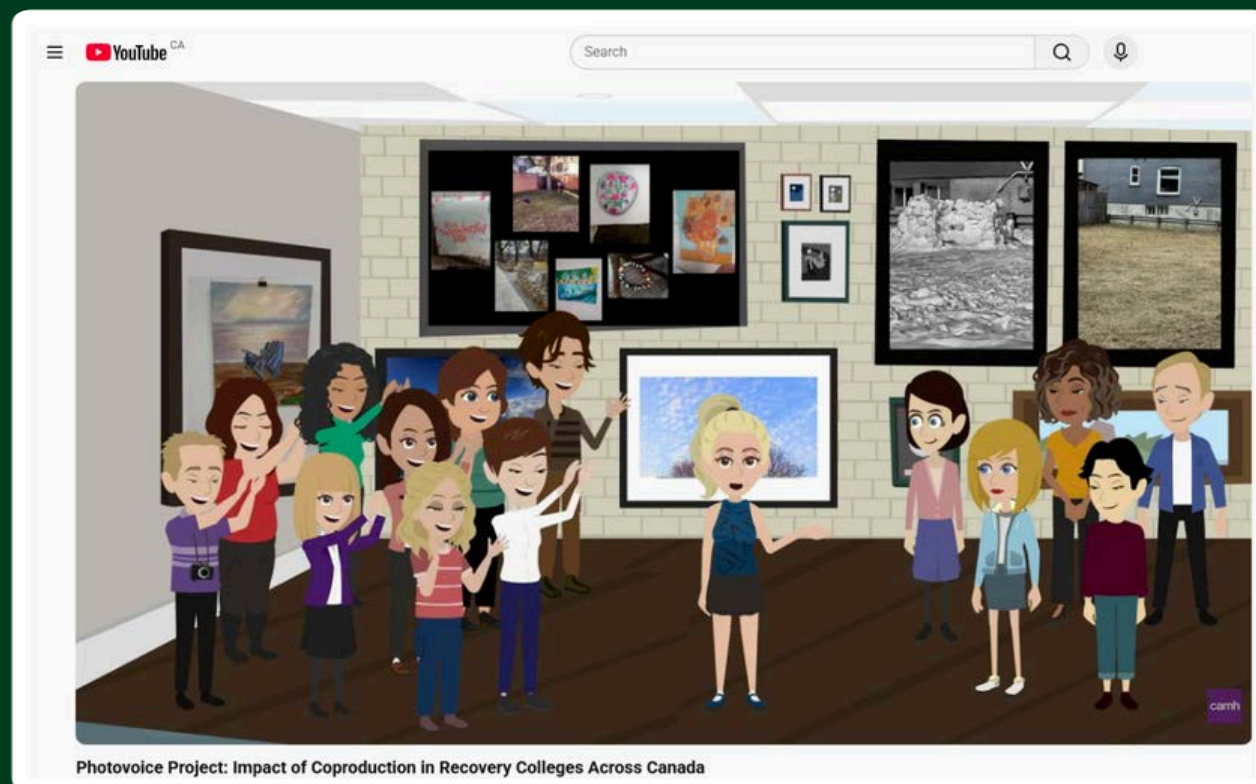


Photo Book

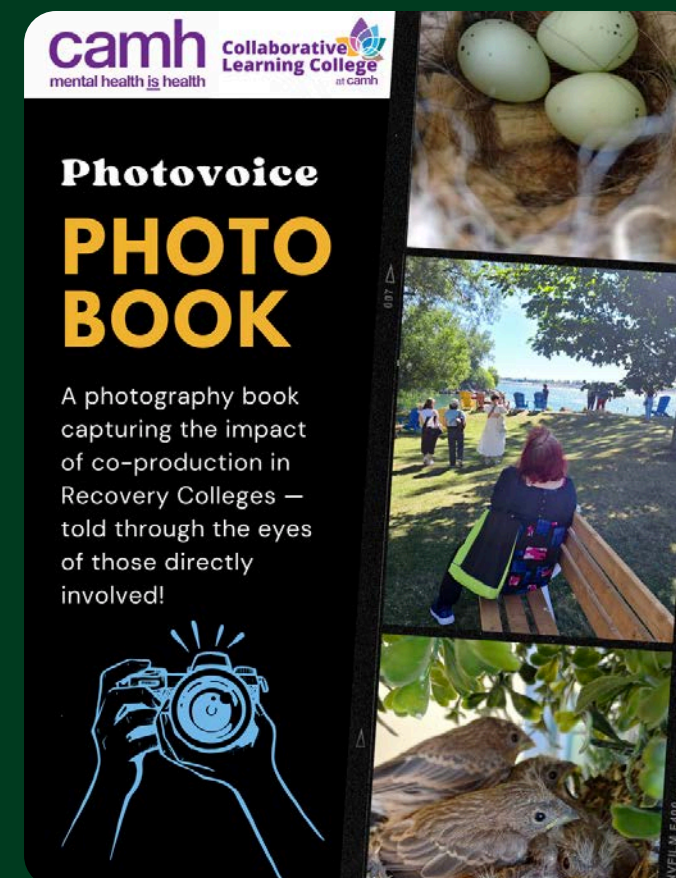


Photo Gala



OUTPUTS



Conference Presentations



Lights, camera, action! A photovoice study of the impact of co-production in Recovery College settings

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01. Background

Recovery Colleges are co-produced education-based programs that support people with lived experience of mental health and/or substance use challenges (PWLE). Co-production involves PWLE, those with professional expertise, and those bridging multiple perspectives collaborating as equal partners through the design and delivery of an initiative. While the literature alludes to the positive effects of co-production in Recovery Colleges, there is a lack of research demonstrating what the impacts are.

02. Purpose

This photovoice project explored the impacts of co-production on individuals involved in the process or who access co-produced programming in the Recovery College context.

04. Results

Five themes were extracted from the data. Participants found that co-production impacted them by:



The study concluded with a printed photo book, a web page, and a virtual gala open to researchers, members of the Canadian Recovery College community, and the general public.



Participants received a photo book.



Check out our photography website!

03. Methodology

Photovoice offers a meaningful tool for self-expression where all skill levels are welcome. The process involved seven photography workshops, weekly photo submissions, ongoing discussions, and final photo submissions exploring the impact of co-production.



The study concluded with focus groups where participants reflected on how co-production influenced their daily lives through photographic self-expression. All aspects of the study were co-produced.

05. Conclusion

This study demonstrates the value of co-production by illustrating its impact on the people involved through a creative community-based research methodology. Co-production with PWLE is a transformative means of developing health services programming with a range of positive impacts on those involved.

06. Next steps

The results of this project will be used to inform the creation of a psychometric tool to assess and evaluate the impacts of co-production in broader health contexts.



Research Papers



Health Expectations

An International Journal of Public Participation in Health Care and Health Policy

Health Expect. 2025 Oct 7;28(5):e70441. doi: [10.1111/hex.70441](https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.70441)

'Every Voice Matters': A Photovoice Study on the Personal Impacts of Co-Production in Recovery Colleges

[Lisa D Hawke](#)^{1,2}, [Shelby McKee](#)¹, [Holly Harris](#)¹, [Amy Hsieh](#)¹, [James Svoboda](#)¹, [Maral Sahaguan](#)¹, [Gail Bellissimo](#)¹, [Melissa Hiebert](#)¹, [Kelly Lawless](#)¹, [George James](#)¹, [Sean Patenaude](#)¹, [Jordana Rovet](#)¹, [Sophie Soklaridis](#)^{1,2}

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"It's Something That Will Stay With Me.": A Qualitative Descriptive Study of the Experience of Participating in a Co-Produced Photovoice Study

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<https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069261426084>



CPD/CME IMPACT



PROMOTE PERSON-CENTERED PRACTICES ROOTED IN INCLUSION, EQUITY, AND EMPOWERMENT.

BENEFIT BOTH PARTICIPANTS AND RESEARCHERS.

EXPLORE ARTS-BASED APPROACHES LIKE PHOTOVOICE TO ENGAGE PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES IN RESEARCH.

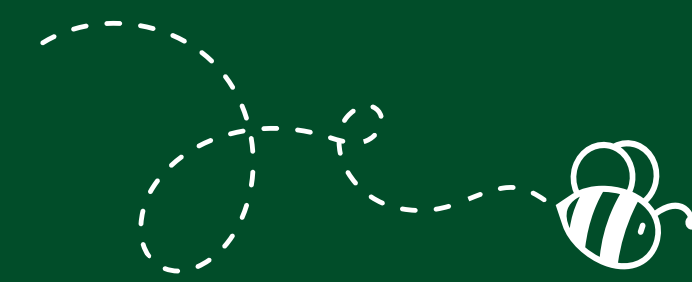


WHERE MIGHT PHOTOVOICE FIT IN YOUR WORK?





THANK YOU



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