

UWC FACULTY: Prof Brian van Wyk
MU FACULTY: Prof Michelle Teti
DATE OF REPORT: 3 November 2023

Prof Teti and I met in 2017 when she visited UWC School of Public Health (SOPH) and presented her photovoice research with people living with HIV in the USA. At that stage I was conceptualizing a research study to “develop interventions to improve adherence amongst adolescents living with HIV and on treatment in public primary health care facilities in the Cape Town Metropole in the Western Cape province”. I considered photovoice methods as well suited as a participatory approach to research with adolescents, and we agreed that a research collaboration would be fruitful to advance our research agenda.

The project was planned for 2018-2020, but were extended to 2022, due to the interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape Metropole.

Prof Teti visited to UWC in July –August 2018 on a UMSAEP grant. During this visit she trained the UWC-SOPH project team in Photovoice methods and ethics. We also conducted site visits and meetings with relevant stakeholders. Based on this information, we revised the Photovoice protocol, to using camera phones for the project rather than normal cameras. We published a paper on the adaption of the photovoice methods used in US to research with adolescents living with HIV in South Africa (1). With the assistance of MU School of Health

Professions Catalyst grant, we were able to procure 18 camera phones, and piloted the photovoice

I undertook a short visit to UM-Columbia between September 29 - October 8, 2022. The purpose of this visit was to re-ignite the collaboration between Prof Teti and myself. One of the aims of the visit was to consider the possibility of a comparative analysis between the COVID-19 projects that were conducted with students at MU and adolescents living with HIV in the Cape Town Metropole, South Africa. However, the divergence between the projects in terms of aims and target population means that this was not feasible.

The second aim of the visit was to plan for a photovoice training workshop with UWC staff in
C

1. Teti M & Van Wyk B (2020). Qualitative methods without borders: Adapting Photovoice from a U.S. to South African setting. **International Journal of Qualitative Methods**. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1609406920927253>
2. Van Wyk B & Teti M. (2020). Portraits of HIV: A pilot photovoice study of adolescent experiences of HIV treatment in South Africa. **Journal of Global Health Reports**,4:e2020025. <https://doi.org/10.29392/001c.12588>
3. Orth Z & van Wyk B (2021). A facility-based family support intervention to improve adherence to HIV treatment in South Africa. **Journal of Global Health Reports**,5:e2021001. <https://doi.org/10.29392/001c.12588>