

# Community Video at the CCS: a tool for research, empowerment, advocacy and communication



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# Outline of presentation

- ▶ Introduction to two CCS community video projects since October 2009
- ▶ Methodology and results (videos)
- ▶ The vision: a CCS Community Video Resource
- ▶ The plan: seeking a collaborative way forward
- ▶ Discussion: Challenges and questions

# Project 1: CCS Wired

**AIM:** “To establish a video resource centre and skill base at the CCS for the purpose of creating powerful social and educational media tools”.

## **ACTIVITIES**

- 1) CCS Wired re-edition (DVD and online version)
- 2) Initiating CCS contribution to online video message platform -(production of 5 short videos).
- 3) CCS video production skills training workshops, 10 days: training 10 CCS people in video production and community video facilitation.

# Project 1: CCS Wired (contd.)

## OUTCOMES:

Was scheduled for completion by end of June 2010, BUT....

➤ Many delays, funding pulled in Jan 2010.

(1) *CCS Wired re-edition*: copyright permissions sought; online version NEARLY there; DVDs (not done- Patrick?)

(2) *Initiating CCS contribution to online video message platform – 5 short videos*: 4 online (<http://www.vimeo.com/user2299194>); 1 in final stages of edit.

(3) *CCS video production skills training workshops*: one week short course held in March, with 8 community members completing course in basic video production.

# Project 1: CCS Wired (contd.)

- Equipment- many funding problems; 2 video camera kits ordered.
- Plan changed: community video resource should be community-led and run; training should focus on community groups rather than CCS staff.
- Community trainings: one week short course in community facilitation (i.e. participatory video training) is outstanding, but cannot run without equipment!

# Project 2: anti-xenophobia research program

- ▶ Originally attached to the 'Citizen X' documentary project, as a complementary community outreach and feedback element.
- ▶ To also feed into the CCS anti-xenophobia research program.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

- ▶ 8 participatory video workshops with 4 different community groups were planned.
- ▶ Xenophobia in the community as key theme to be addressed.

# Project 2: anti-xenophobia research program

## **OUTCOMES:**

- ▶ Citizen X project and its funds were cancelled, but still managed 5 participatory video workshops, with 5 different groups: Chatsworth, Crossmoor, Cato Manor and Inner City (Durban Mission Church refugee group), plus one workshop held at CCS as part of 'Crisis and the Commons' Colloquium.
- ▶ 5 participatory videos produced; about 70 community members participated in 1-2 days of video training; at least 30 persons have shown significant interest in more training.

# Methods of using video (1)

1) Engaging 'experts' in discussion about an issue and making a video to educate/communicate with communities (in broadest sense:

- *Soundbytes on Xenophobia* (<http://www.vimeo.com/10374692>)
- *Durban Reality Tour* (<http://www.vimeo.com/10374472>)
- Hot topic: *Solar Ovens for Africa* (planned)

2) Engaging a 'community' in discussion about their own issues and documenting with video:

- *Fishing for Justice: the struggle of Durban's fisherfolk* (<http://www.vimeo.com/10840958>)
- *Taking a stand: more than a market* (unfinished)
- *Fourteen good reasons to save Vetch's beach* (<http://www.vimeo.com/10862968>).



# Methods of using video (2)

## 3) Training community group members to make their own videos (participatory video):

### A. about their own communities

- *Women Speak Out: crises in Westcliff and Crossmoor* (<http://www.vimeo.com/10373800>)
- *Women of Chatsworth: xenophobia and our community* (<http://www.vimeo.com/10373800>)
- *Contemporary Struggles of Umkhumbane Youth* (<http://www.vimeo.com/8888901>)
- *Sicela umusa: community garden* (<http://www.vimeo.com/7531919>)
- *Refugee Life: conversations in Durban* (<http://www.vimeo.com/10863477>)

### B. documenting other communities

- *UKZN Contract Workers' Struggle* (<http://www.vimeo.com/10373739>)
- *Students Protest at UKZN* (<http://www.vimeo.com/10174839>)

# Methods of using video (3)

- ▶ Differ in depth of community collaboration and participation.
- ▶ Different effects upon communities and audiences.
- ▶ Different styles, structures, perspectives and narratives are presented.
- ▶ Serve different purposes? (e.g. outreach/communication/advocacy/education/skills development).
- ▶ There is not a clear-cut distinction between so-called 'subject generated', 'collaborative', 'participatory' and 'researcher-generated' videos (see Banks 2001).

# Videos

- ▶ Watch some videos



[www.malingaproductions.com/communityvideodurban](http://www.malingaproductions.com/communityvideodurban)

# Current (emerging) project: building a CCS Community Video Resource

- ▶ The Vision: to build upon these activities to create a Community Video Resource at the CCS:
  - Community-based film-makers documenting their own issues and telling their stories.
  - A community-led and community-managed resource.
  - A core team of facilitators to train and mentor their (or other) community groups.
  - Free access to essential equipment and skills training.
  - Community videos uploaded onto CCS webpage and shown at monthly/quarterly community film screenings.

# Why?

- ▶ After several community video workshops, there has been significant interest from participants in gaining more skills and making their own videos.
- ▶ CCS already works with many civil society organisations and community groups- is very well connected.
- ▶ Video is a useful communication and advocacy tool for these groups.
- ▶ Durban Sings project already established participatory skills training with youth groups across Durban.

# The plan...

## ► The Plan

- Get the equipment!
- Run two more short courses in basic video production: total of 30 community group members to complete the 5 day course.
- Select 10 from the original 30 trainees to complete a short course in participatory video and community facilitation.
- Form a management and planning committee, including representatives from each training group, as well as a CCS representative and student volunteers.
- Develop a constitution and ground rules around access to equipment and skills development.
- Facilitators to run video training and outreach with their community groups: make community videos.

# Challenges and issues

- ▶ Is this idea sustainable?
- ▶ Is it useful?
- ▶ What is required?
- ▶ Funding?



# Further discussion ideas

- ▶ Issues of facilitation/influence.
- ▶ Benefits/dangers.
- ▶ Value of different methods.
- ▶ Usefulness of products (videos); for what and to whom?
- ▶ Community video as a tool for 'research'?



# Many thanks

- ▶ Note: Once the *CCS Wired* re-edition (DVD and website) is complete and funds are secured to produce a DVD of the Durban Community Videos, we hope to have a public launch and screening session: watch this space!
- ▶ [www.malingaproductions.com/durbancommunityvideo](http://www.malingaproductions.com/durbancommunityvideo)
- ▶ <http://www.vimeo.com/user2299194>
- ▶ Contact: perichardson@gmail.com



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