COLLABORATING WITH RESEARCHERS TO DEVELOP VIDEO-BASED LEARNING RESOURCES
Two Case Studies

Video is emotionally engaging and appeals to a wide range of audiences. The power of video in learning and teaching is well established and is further enhanced when informed by research and authentic narratives, offering new opportunities to engage learners and to stimulate discussion and reflection. More affordable hardware and software - combined with widely available online portals - makes the process of video capturing, editing and publishing an increasingly accessible option for designing, developing and distributing learning and teaching resources.

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BEd (Science) USyd, 1989; MA (Media Arts and Production) UTS, 2009

Research

Abstract
Supervisors and postgraduate research candidates from different cultural backgrounds face many challenges. Candidates studying outside their home country must adapt to a new culture, and for many there is also the need to learn and communicate in a language that is not their first. Additional challenges occur where there are mismatches in expectations about aspects of candidature and supervisory practice. This project aimed to fill the gap in both research into the needs of this group of students, and the provision of resources to assist candidates and supervisors. Resources were developed from interviews and focus groups with higher degree research candidates and supervisors about their experiences. The project was short-listed in the Macquarie University Research Awards 2010 (Excellence in Research – Social Sciences, Business & Humanities).

Research Team
The initial chief investigator was Professor Sue Spence (now at Griffith University). The majority of the project was completed by the project team:
• at Macquarie University: Associate Professor Judi Homewood, Professor Anna Reid (now at Sydney Conservatorium of Music), Dr Theresa Winchester-Seeto and Christa Jacenyik-Trawoger.
• at The University of Queensland: Dr Catherine Manathunga.
• at The University of Newcastle: Professor Sid Bourke and Professor Allyson Holbrook.

CROSS-CULTURAL SUPERVISION

Video Production

Rationale
It was intended that resources would be used by tertiary institutions as an adjunct to their existing HDR supervisor training and by candidates and supervisors to allow them to engage in active reflection about culturally related views and practices in research and research supervision. Therefore it was important to present materials that were informed by research, used authentic narratives and that would stimulate discussion and reflection. Video was chosen for its engaging and immediate appeal to the target audience, and for its ability to elicit emotional response.

Production Team
Director and Editor: Mark Parry
Project Manager: Christa Jacenyik-Trawoger
Script Development: Claire Wakefield
Advisory Committee: Associate Professor Judi Homewood, Professor Anna Reid, Dr Theresa Winchester-Seeto, Ms Christa Jacenyik-Trawoger, Dr Catherine Manathunga
Website Designer: Selim Soytemiz

Production Process
• Initial consultation with research team to analyse project requirements and determine creative approach.
• A series of auditions resulted in over twenty actors cast into various roles as either candidate or supervisor.
• Non-stereotypical casting for the various subjects (ie age, gender, role).
• Script development based closely on authentic interview transcripts.
• Simple shoot, mimicking a research interview (ie "confession-cam" style).
• Each interview subject/character presents his or her unique perspective on the situation, with selected scripts featuring consolidated characters, events and issues.
• Focus on engaging the audience with the emotions, issues and themes with no absolute outcome or solution provided.
• Sample video developed and critically assessed by research team.
• User-testing of draft resource, with feedback incorporated.

Candidate

Community Stories from the NSW Central Coast

GOATS FESTIVAL
WOWGIRLS
BRACKETS & JAM
PLENTY OF PARKS FOR KIDS
AD HOC MENTAL HEALTH THEATRE
PLACEMATS FOR KOORI KIDS
FILM GLOBAL
BUILDING COMMUNITIES IN MANNERING PARK
KINCUMBER MEN'S SHED
BETTER PLAYGROUND ACTION GROUP

Research

Abstract
This thesis explores the emergence of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) on the Central Coast of NSW, Australia. Drawing on key theoretical concepts of language, practice and power, the thesis examines notions of "community" and community development practice. The thesis seeks to uncover the narratives of community development practitioners on the Central Coast via an action research project which uses the formation of a co-operative inquiry group as a means for exploring these narratives. The thesis also develops a critical history of community development practice on the Central Coast in the last years of the twentieth century as a method for locating and understanding the particularity of that practice. The thesis argues, from the research undertaken, that an emergent ABCD practice frame can be identified amongst practitioners who participated in the research. The critical role played by language in developing and enacting this frame is also examined in light of the research findings. Finally the thesis offers a number of insights with regard to the use of action research and particularly co-operative inquiry in building research and practice capacities in the field of community development.

Researcher
The research was completed by Amanda Howard as part of her PhD thesis.
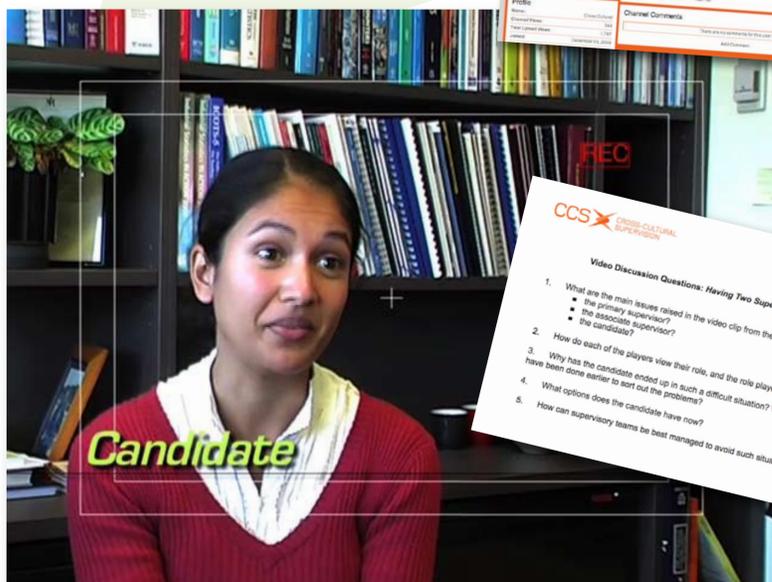
Video Production

Rationale
With her PhD research complete and final thesis written, Amanda Howard explored a range of community projects and initiatives which showcased Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). Video was chosen as a way of illustrating and communicating ideas to community members and community workers to encourage further development of local projects using an ABCD perspective. Video was ideal because of its simple, engaging and immediate appeal to the target audience. Community members would share their triumphs and challenges in a very personal voice, offering lessons and advice to their community. By documenting these stories, the DVD would provide an ongoing learning tool for community. The project was funded by Central Coast Community Congress and Gosford City Council.

Production Team
Director and Editor: Mark Parry
Camera, Sound and Music: Amanda Howard
Music: Peter Howard
Camera and Sound: Kylie Frazer
Advisory committee: Central Coast Community Congress members

Production Process
• Initial consultation with researcher to discuss creative options, scope of project, availability of interview subjects etc.
• Identified community projects in Gosford and Wyong areas that would be able to be viewed from an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) perspective.
• Set of standard interview questions developed.
• Each interview subject presents their story from their personal perspective, summarizing the aspects of the project or initiative.
• Focus on the assets within the community and how these contributed to the success of the project or initiative (eg ideas, tools, skills, resources, support, funding).
• Sample videos developed and critically assessed by researcher and Central Coast Community Congress.
• Diverse stories and a range of interview subjects and perspectives (ie purpose of project, age, gender, roles).
• Selected music supplied free via www.mobygratis.com (due to the project's non-profit, community education focus).
• Interviews captured with researcher's own camera, later edited with existing photographs and other assets (eg video, music), most of which were supplied by the community groups involved.
• Final DVD features ten community stories (each 5-10 mins) showcasing projects and initiatives including a music festival, women's support network, mental health drama group, building new parks and playgrounds, school and community garden, men's support initiative, international film night and music, dance and social group.

DVD LAUNCH
Be inspired by stories of community building on the Central Coast
CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY STORIES
WEDNESDAY 14 JULY, 9AM

Publishing and References

• Project website was launched at Macquarie University, July 2010 **www.altcexchange.edu.au/group/cross-cultural-supervision-project** (featuring scenarios, strategies, bibliography and additional resources)
• Associated YouTube page **www.youtube.com/user/ccsprojectvideos** (featuring ten video scenarios, each 5-10 mins)

• Howard, A. (2010) Language, "*Practice and Power: The Emergence of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) on the Central Coast of NSW*" University of Sydney
• DVDs were distributed at *Central Coast Community Congress* conference, July 2010 **www.communitycongress.org**
• Selected clips at **www.youtube.com/parryvillemedia**

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