

# Tamara Plush

Visual Storytelling • [t.plush@uq.edu.au](mailto:t.plush@uq.edu.au) • <http://tamaraplush.wikispaces.com> • Seattle, USA

## WORK HISTORY

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- 2009-16 Participatory Media Project Developer & Facilitator (Consultant):** Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Indonesia, Nepal, Mozambique, Philippines, South Africa and Vietnam. Key organizations: CARE, ActionAid, Plan International and Sonke Gender Justice.
- 2013-15 Lecturer:** Communication and Social Change, University of Queensland, Aus.
- 2009-12 Climate Change Communication Coordinator,** CARE International's Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network (PECCN), global position based in Vietnam.
- 2006-07 Communication Officer,** Right to Play, Tanzania.
- 1997-2006 Owner; Video and Multimedia Producer,** Smudge Productions: Key clients: Microsoft (150+ projects, USA); World Vision, USA; Grameen Foundation, Uganda and Rwanda.
- 1993-97 Video Producer and Communication Specialist,** On Screen Productions/Pearlstein Ad Associates, Kansas City, USA.
- 1993-97 Speaker Bureau Coordinator and Newsletter Editor,** United Way, Kansas City, USA.

## EDUCATION

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**PhD candidate: Centre for Communication and Social Change,** University of Queensland (UQ), Brisbane, Australia; Submission March 2016.

- Thesis: *How can participatory video enable citizen voice in international development contexts?*
- Supervisors: Dr. Elske van de Fliert, Associate Professor in School of Communication and Arts, UQ; and Dr Lynda Shevellar, Researcher and Lecturer in School of Social Science, UQ.

**M.A. in Participation, Power and Social Change,** Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom; Degree awarded 2009 with distinction.

- Thesis: *Video and voice: How participatory video can support marginalized groups in their efforts to adapt to a changing climate?*
- Advisor: Dr. John Gaventa, Director of Research, Institute of Development Studies.

**B.S. in Journalism,** University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA; Top 10 percent of class.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**UQ: Participatory Media,** Aug-Nov 2015: Lecturer and co-facilitator of experiential learning course for post-graduate students. The course balances theory with ethical, practical approaches to using participatory media to raise citizen voice in ways that enable social and political transformation.

**UQ: Participatory Development Communication,** May 2013, May 2014: Class Lecturer on participatory media facilitation practice for post-graduate students.

**UQ: Communication for Development,** Oct 2014, Oct 2015: Class Lecturer for undergraduate students on gender and participatory media.

**UQ: Community Media and ICTs in Development and Social Change**, Sept 2013: Lecturer and co-facilitator of four class sessions (12 hours) focusing on post-graduate students learning to use participatory video as a method for research and dialogue.

**Sonke Gender Justice**, South Africa, March 2015: Co-facilitated seven gender violence activists in learning filmmaking and PV facilitation: *Story-driven participatory video with mobile technology*.

**CARE** (*climate change and disaster risk reduction focus*):

- Ethiopia, May 2014: Trained 12 CARE programming officers in Community Digital Storytelling (CDST): *Visual Storytelling for We-Rise Monitoring and Evaluation Facilitation*.
- Vietnam, Nov 2013: Trained seven CARE staff members and government partners in CDST facilitation; mentored CDST project facilitation in Mekong Delta with Cham fisherwomen and men.
- Kenya, June 2010: Developed CDST methodology; Advised on CDST training manual.
- Kenya and Mozambique, June 2010; Dec 2011: Trained 12 journalists/CARE staff members in CDST facilitation; mentored project facilitation in rural communities with pastoralists and farmers.
- Kenya, Mozambique and Vietnam, 2010-11: Trained 70 CARE staff in photo composition and ethics.

**Plan International** (*climate change and disaster risk reduction focus*):

- Vietnam, Sept 2010: Designed and facilitated participatory video project with ethnic minority children on DRR and child rights; trained two local filmmakers in PV facilitation.
- Indonesia and Philippines, Jan 2009: Advised Plan on using PV for DRR and child rights.

**IDS and Plan Cambodia** (*disaster risk reduction focus*), Feb 2010: Designed and facilitated PV project with 20 children; trained six Plan staff members and local filmmakers in PV facilitation.

**ActionAid, IDS and Children in a Changing Climate**, Nepal, Jan-Dec 2008: Designed and facilitated three participatory video workshops. Trained approx. 40 ActionAid Nepal community partners and members as action researchers and participatory video facilitators.

## **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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**Plush, T.** (2015). Participatory video and citizen voice—We've raised their voices: Is anyone listening? *Glocal Times* 22/23.

**Plush, T.** (2015). Interrogating Practitioner Tensions for Raising Citizen Voice with Participatory Video. *International Development in P. N. Thomas (Ed.), Beyond the Impasse: Exploring new thinking in communication for social change*, 36, 57-70: Nordicom Review Special Issue.

**Plush, T.** (2012). Fostering Social Change through Participatory Video: A Conceptual Framework. In E. J. Milne, C. Mitchell & N. De Lange (Eds.), *Handbook of Participatory Video* (67-84). AltaMira Press. 2012.

Khamis, M., **Plush, T.**, & Zelaya, C. S. (2009). Women's rights in climate change: using video as a tool for empowerment in Nepal. *Gender & Development*, 17(1), 125-135.

**Plush, T** (2009). Amplifying Children's Voices on Climate Change: The Role of Participatory Video. *Participatory Learning and Action*, 60, 119-128.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND CREATIVE WORKS**

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**Plush, T.** (2015). Can participatory video bring transformative change? Perhaps. How do you perceive 'raising citizen voice'? TransformativeStory.org blog.

**Plush, T.** (2015). Participatory video for citizen mobilization in South Africa. *Media Development*, 3, 12-16.

**Plush, T.** (2015). Our Valuable Voices: Community Digital Storytelling for Good Programming and Policy Engagement, CARE in Vietnam case study report.

**Plush, T.** (2013). Collaboration and dialog key for using visual storytelling for women's empowerment. *Media Development*, 3, 25-29.

**Plush, T.** and Shahrokh, T. (2015). Story-Driven Participatory Video for Mobile Technologies facilitation guide. Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa.

Nguyen Trong, N. and **Plush, T.** (2011). Voices of Ethnic Minority Children. Participatory Video on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change. Plan in Vietnam training manual.

**Plush, T.** (2009-12). CARE videos: *Where the Rain Falls—Can understanding rainfall enable change?:* Producer; *Powerful Hands:* Producer; *No Time to Recover: Pastoralism in Ethiopia:* Writer, Filmmaker, Editor; *Managing Our Mangroves (Vietnam):* Writer, Filmmaker, Editor.

**Plush, T.** (2009-12). CARE Website and Publications: Developed and executed PECCN communication strategy; produced, wrote, edited and designed print materials; produced and managed content and backend development for website; coordinated communication efforts for UNFCCC COP15, COP 16 and COP 17 conferences (Denmark, Mexico and South Africa).

**Plush, T.** (2005). Photography Exhibit: Highlighted photos from six-week journey through Burma.

**Plush, T.** (2004). *In the Shadow of the Himalayas.* Documentary for Room to Read: Producer, Writer, Filmmaker.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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**Plush, T.** (Sept 2015). **International Visual Methods Association**, Brighton, UK: *Interrogating participatory video practices of 'raising citizen voice' through global practitioner storyboards and Exploring PV Practitioner Identity.*

Coulier, M. and **Plush, T.** (June 2015). **Australian Council for International Development**, Melbourne, Australia: *Addressing Voice Inequity through Visual Storytelling.*

**Plush, T.** (Sept 2014). **Ørecomm**, Malmö, Sweden: *How participatory video practitioners experience their own agency when raising the voice of others.*

**Plush, T.** (Nov 2013). **Development Practice and Theory Inaugural Postgraduate Student Conference**, Brisbane, Aus: *How can participatory video be practiced to enable voice to be valued?*

High, C. and **Plush, T.** (Sept 2013). **International Visual Methods Association**, Wellington, UK: *Turning the Camera on Ourselves: Reflections on the Values and Ethics We Bring to PV.*

**Plush, T.** (Jan 2013). **Centre for Communication and Social Change**, Brisbane, Australia: *Shifting Focus: Why rights-based development projects need a new conceptual model for using PV.*

**Plush, T.** (Dec 2012). **Australian Council for Intl. Development**, Canberra, Aus: *Staying In Focus: How to ensure participatory visual tools are as rigorous as the projects in which they are embedded.*

**Plush, T.** (Nov 2011). **International Community-based Adaptation** conference, Hanoi, Vietnam: *Out of the Box Mini-Workshop: Community Digital Storytelling for Community-based Adaptation.*

**Plush, T.** (Nov 2008). **UNFCCC Conference of the Parties 14**, Proznan, Poland: *Amplifying Children's Voices in a Changing Climate.*

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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**Plush, T.** (Oct 2015). **University of Victoria, Canada:** Workshop facilitator: *Research with Community: Digital Stories as Method and Engagement.*

Lewin, T., **Plush, T.**, Shahrokh, T., and Wheeler, J. (Sept 2015). **Institute of Development Studies**, Brighton, UK: *See, feel, change? Critical perspectives in participatory visual processes.*

**Plush, T.** (June 2015). Webinar Presenter: '**Participatory Video: Better Practice for Social Change.**'

**Plush, T.** (Sept 2014). **Brisbane Development Circle, Aus:** *Communication for Good Development.*

**Plush, T.** (Sept 2014). **University of Queensland, Aus:** *Plan in Vietnam 'Best Practice' Case Study.*

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated (ACSPRI) Courses:

- **Advanced Computer-assisted Qualitative Data Analysis using Nvivo 10**, July 2014
- **Qualitative Research: Design, Analysis and Representation**, Sept 2013

**Activism Reconsidered: Deepening the Pitch of our Response**, Allan Kaplan and Sue Davidoff, Feb 2014, 3-day workshop.

**Action Learning and Research Association**, Australasian conference, Brisbane, Aus, Sept 2013.

**Foundations of Facilitation**, Bob Dick, July 2013, 2-day skills-oriented workshop.

**Introduction to Participatory Video**, Catcher Media and Open University, Oct 2007, 2-day workshop.

**Facilitating Participatory Development**, Robert Chambers, IDS, Sept 2007, 1-day workshop.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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**Queensland Communication for Development Network:** Founder; former Chair; member, 2014-15.

**Transformative Story:** Creative partner, 2015.

**Room to Read:** Seattle fundraising chair; Group raised \$40,000 to build three schools, 2002-04.

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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Participatory and traditional media facilitation and technical skills in filmmaking; digital storytelling; photography; website development; social media; print production and design; writing and editing.

## **REFERENCES**

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*Provided upon request.*