


# TAMARA PLUSH, PhD

COMMUNITY DEV / ADVOCACY / COMS 4 SOCIAL CHANGE

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## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

PhD, Univ. of Queensland, 2016  
*Communication for Social  
Change and Development*  
Brisbane, Australia

Masters, Univ. of Sussex, 2009  
Institute of Development Studies  
*Participation, Power, Social Change*  
Brighton, United Kingdom

Bachelors, Univ. of Kansas, 1992  
*Journalism & Corporate Television*  
Lawrence, United States

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## KEY SKILLS

Capacity building  
Teaching and facilitation  
Creative action research  
People-centered advocacy  
Participatory media  
Strategic communication  
Youth engagement  
Community development  
Program design/management

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dr. Tamara Plush has centered her career on enhancing citizen rights through a range of communication for development initiatives, with a focus on youth. As examples, she is managing a multi-year, creative action research project aimed at strengthening youth resilience post-disaster in Canada; developed a multi-stakeholder visual storytelling initiative with UNICEF in Indonesia; and created a conceptual framework for raising citizen voice using participatory video in her PhD. She is seeking a position where she can apply key skills in capacity and relationship building, community development, participatory media and people-centred advocacy towards positive social change.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

### ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY // 2017 - PRESENT // CANADA

ResiliencebyDesign Research Lab – MITACS Postdoc Fellow/RRU Assoc. Faculty

Applying participatory media and creative action research skills to the area of disaster risk reduction and resilience-building with fire-affected youth in the Fort McMurray region, Alberta, with a focus on responsive listening ([www.resiliencebydesign.com/yvr](http://www.resiliencebydesign.com/yvr)).

- Developed partnerships with local social profits and the municipal government to design a youth-centric action research project responsive to local needs.
- Coordinated #YouthVoicesWB social media campaign to explore youth visions for a better community. Connecting youth ideas to decisions-makers.
- Working with Indigenous partner communities in connecting youth strengths to programs and social policies (through youth-driven, participatory activities).
- Writing, developing, designing reports and academic journal articles.
- Taught RRU BBA students in *Culture, Ethnicity & Identity*; with a focus on Canada's immigration policies and Indigenous self-governance models.

### PARTICIPATORY MEDIA for UN/INGOs // 2008 - 2016 // GLOBAL

Consultant – UNICEF, CARE, ActionAid, Plan, Save the Children, Sonke Gender Justice (Nepal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, S. Africa, more)

Implemented visual storytelling projects aimed at social change—in the areas of climate change, disasters and gender violence: Developed trainings, wrote handbooks, facilitated workshops, trained development workers, and advised on sustainability.

### CARE INTERNATIONAL // 2009 - 2012 // GLOBAL

Coms Coordinator for Poverty, Environment & Climate Change Network

Developed PECCN's global communication strategy and produced materials including videos, toolkits, campaign materials, reports, and website content; participated in and managed communications and advocacy efforts at global climate conventions (COP 15, 16, 17); and developed and facilitated Communication for Development initiatives.

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## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Campaign implementation  
Academic and grant writing  
Relationship building  
Indigenous relations  
International development  
Team leadership  
Team management  
Climate and disaster knowledge  
Qualitative research

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Digital storytelling  
Filmmaking  
Photography  
Website development  
Presentation design  
Video editing  
Social media  
Publication editing  
Basic graphic design

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## AWARDS

2016 Dean's Award for  
Outstanding Higher Degree by  
PhD Research Theses;  
University of Queensland

Masters Degree awarded  
2009 with distinction  
University of Sussex

## WORK EXPERIENCE *cont...*

### RIGHT TO PLAY CANADA // 2006 - 2007

SportHealth Communication Officer – Posted in Tanzania

Developed and managed national communication strategy; wrote, designed and produced communication materials; oversaw media relations; and advocated for the health benefits of sport for youth development at United Nations and Ministry events.

### SMUDGE PRODUCTIONS // ON SCREEN PRODUCTIONS // QPQ // 1993 - 2006

Video & Multimedia Producer; Public Relations Specialist – USA

Worked as video and multimedia producer, writer, director, project coordinator, and public relations expert. Clients included Microsoft (150+ projects), World Vision, the Nike Foundation, the Grameen Foundation, the Home Builders Association, and others. Tamara owned and ran Smudge Productions, LLC, from 1998-2006.

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## PUBLICATIONS & CREATIVE WORKS

- Researched, developed and wrote multiple journal articles for peer-reviewed publication: <https://tamaraplush.wikispaces.com/PUBLICATIONS>.
  - Developed content, produced and designed participatory media handbooks, manuals and case studies for UNICEF, CARE, Sonke Gender Justice and Plan International in Vietnam (see <https://tamaraplush.wikispaces.com/> / projects)
  - Produced, wrote and filmed *In the Shadow of the Himalayas* edu-documentary.
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## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Invited to multiple conferences & speaking events by the International Association of Media and Communication Researchers, Narrative Matters, the International Visual Methods Association, the Australia Council for International Development, the Australasia Action Learning/Action Research Association, Ørecomm, the Centre for Communication and Social Change, the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties 14, the Community-based Adaptation Conference, Royal Roads University, the University of Victoria, the Institute of Development Studies, the Explorers Club, and others.

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## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Transformative Story: Creative partner, 2015.
- Queensland Communication for Development Network: Founder, 2014
- Room to Read: Seattle fundraising chair; Group raised \$40,000 to build schools