

# Using Participatory Visual Methodology to Work with Young Women in Rural KwaZulu-Natal

Lisa Wiebesiek, Nkonzo Mkhize & Relebohile Moletsane 24 May 2023



#### **Introducing Our Team**

- Co-Researcher
   Participants (CRPs):
   Young Stars Fighters &
   Snemfundo Nokukhanya
- Youth Researcher:
   Thandeka Mazibuko
- Community Partner: Xoli Msimanga, Thembalethu Care Organisation





#### **Introducing Our Team**

- University-based research team
  - Prof Relebohile Moletsane
  - Mr Nkonzo Mkhize\*
  - Dr Lisa Wiebesiek
  - Ms Samkelisiwe Luthuli, Ms Silindile Myeza & Ms Khunjulwa Mhlungu



### **WE-SAY** in South Africa

- Feminist post-colonial theory
- Post-colonial & post-apartheid context
- Mohanty (1984, p. 346): critique of approaches to research, particularly methodologies, reproduce & reinforce colonising power dynamics
- Neoliberalism & global politics of knowledge
  - ⇒ Speaking from the global South

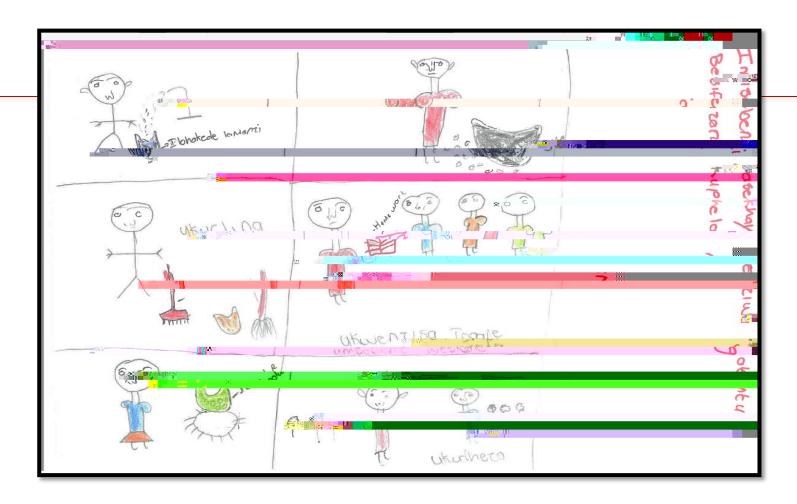
## Methodology, Methods, Activities

- Participatory approach to working with CRPs
  - Collaborative, foregrounding the voices of CRPs, co-producing knowledge, decolonizing
- PVM: Social Change led by young women
- 5 PVM Workshops 5 methods:

## **Drawing Workshop**

**Aim**: to uncover co-researcher participants' current understandings of 'work' & what significance it has within their lives & imagined futures

**Prompt**: Uyini umsebenzi la kulendawo yakini? (What is work in your community?)



Imisebenzi yasemakhaya yenziwa ngabantu besifazane kuphela

[All of the domestic work at home is done only by females]

## Photovoice Workshop

- Aim: explore what work looks like for CRPs; how they experience work
- Prompt: Njengoba sibone imidwebo kanye ne 'exhibition', manje thatha isithombe esikhombisa ukuthi uwuqonda kanjani umsebenzi empilweni yakho

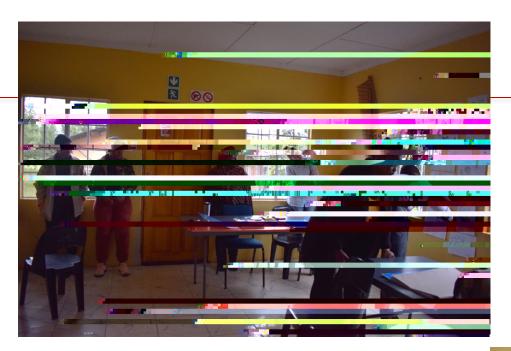
[Having looked at your drawings and the exhibition you curated, take 2 photographs to show how you now understand 'work' in your lives]



This picture shows me teaching children so that they can have a better future, grow up educated and not be like their parents

# Cellphilm Workshop

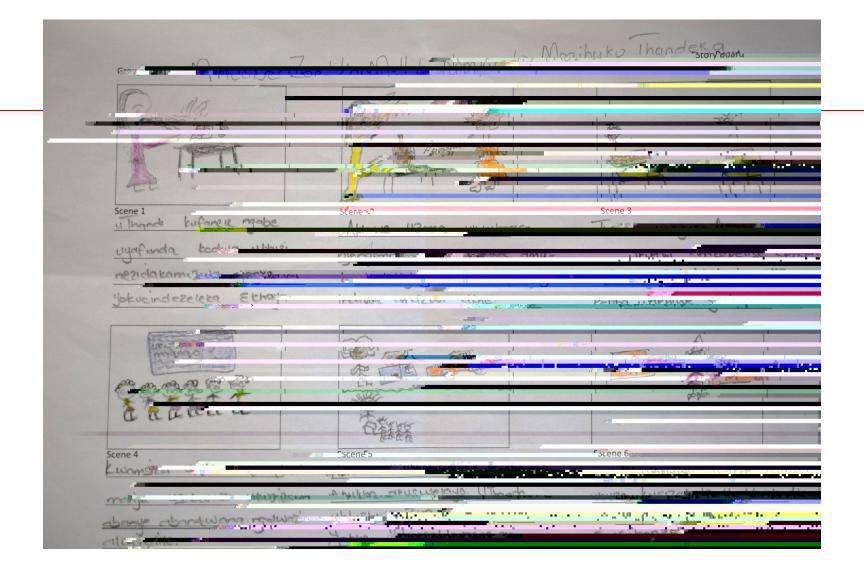
- Aim: have a deeper understanding of how young women in Loskop deal with the demands work and education
- Prompt: How do young women deal with education and work?
- Groups (4-6)
- Storyboarding, filming tutorial



Left: Reviewing Drawings & discussing prompt

Right: Brainstorming their story



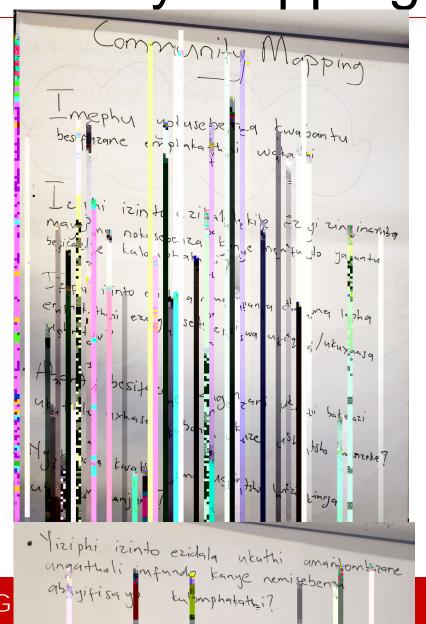


Example of a Cellphilm Storyboard

Participatory Community Mapping

- One-day workshop
- Prompt = 5 questions translated into isiZulu

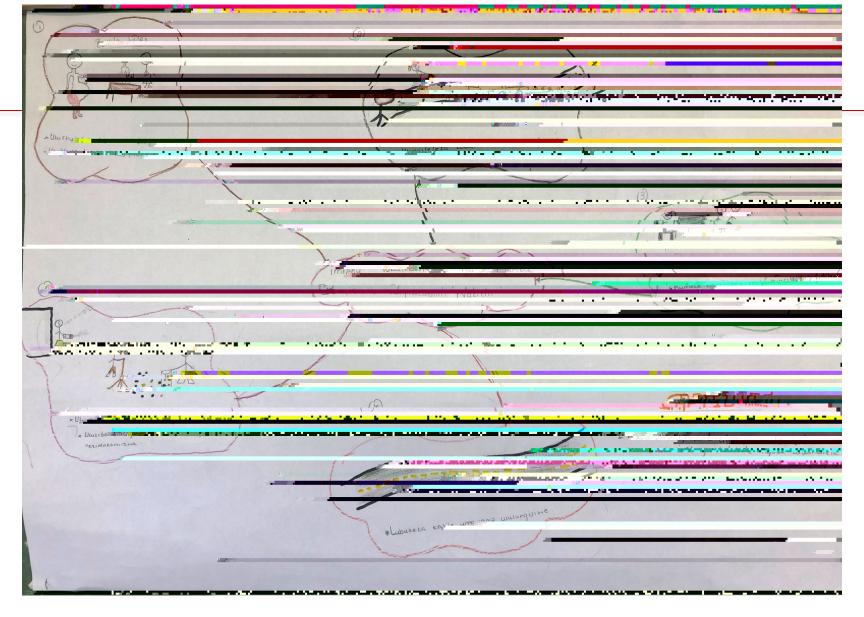
Aim: For CRPs to identify & locate the challenges, & the resources & assets in their community in relation to work



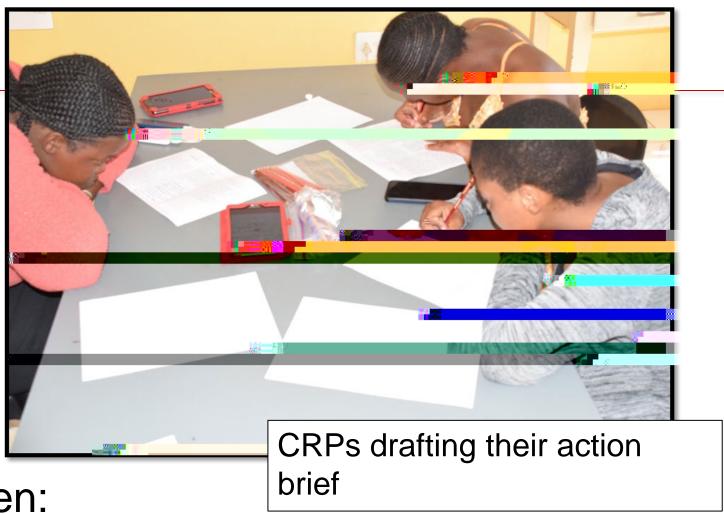
Discussed the prompt questions & process



- CRPs worked in pairs
- Each pair presented their map
- Discussion!

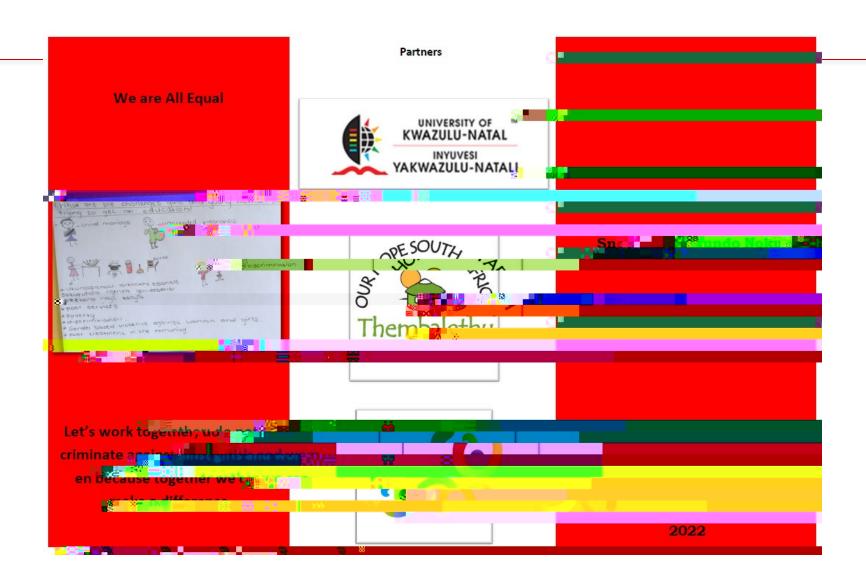


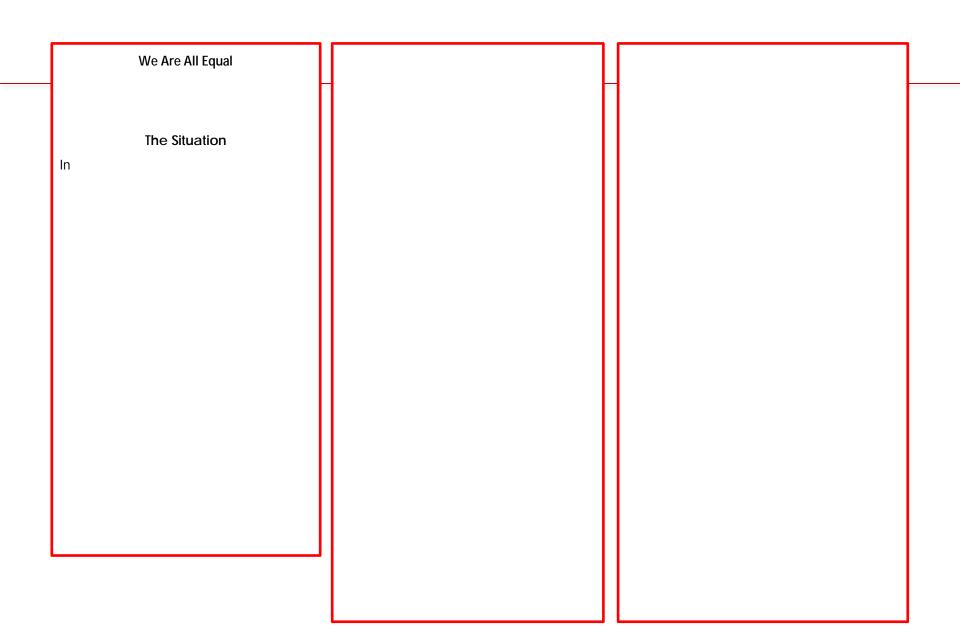
Imephu Yokusebenza kwabantu Besifazane Emphakathini



Then:

- We create digital versions
- review &/or revise; finalise, print, distribute





## Community Dialogues

- CRPs: Programme design, invitations, MCing, presentations
- Exhibition of visual artefacts & presentation of policy posters & action briefs
- The groups attended each others' dialogues to support
- Well-attended including the Ward Councillor
- Positive feedback from community

#### Youth Summit

- Aim:
- Revisit visual artefacts as a complete data set, refine themes
- Create Digital Vision Boards

Create a vision board collage that represents your vision for what life should be like for girls and young women in your community in relation to education, work and gender equality



Left: Reflecting on changes

Right: Developing

