

Collaborative Filmmaking: A Participatory, Visual Research Method

[Sara E Baumann](#)¹, [Pema Lhaki](#)², [Jessica G Burke](#)¹

PMID: 32734829

DOI: [10.1177/1049732320941826](https://doi.org/10.1177/1049732320941826)

Abstract

Filmmaking is a visual method that provides a unique opportunity for generating knowledge, but few studies have applied filmmaking in public health research. In this article, we introduce Collaborative Filmmaking as a public health research method, including a description of the six steps for implementation and an illustrative example from Nepal. Collaborative Filmmaking is an embodied, participatory, and visual research method in which participants are trained to create, analyze, and screen films to answer a research question. The method is useful for exploring sensitive health topics and providing nuanced insight into practices, relationships, and spaces that are difficult to capture using existing methods; however, its use requires close attention to ethical considerations. Building upon the trajectory of other visual and community-based research methods, Collaborative Filmmaking is valuable for gathering granular details and sensory data, co-analyzing data in partnership with participants, and producing participant-generated films that serve as powerful and authentic advocacy tools.

Keywords: Nepal; arts-based research methods; community-based participatory research; film; media advocacy; menstrual health; menstruation; multisensory; qualitative research; video; visual methods.

***Readers can contact Sara Baumann (sab269@pitt.edu) to request the full article, as it is published in a peer-reviewed journal.**