


**Focusing on photovoice partnerships in Sweden and Japan:
Trying something different in later life**

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**Creating inclusive communities:
Challenging the status quo through a multi-national innovative integration of ethnography and photovoice among elder migrants**

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Aim: to explore experiences of growing older among persons 60+ who have had a history of international migration

Phase O	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical Rev Dnr 2010/1761-31/5 Planning Training Wksp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnography (n=11) Jan-Aug 2011 Jpn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnography (n=6) Feb-Aug 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photovoice (n=6) Oct '11-Feb '12 Jpn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photovoice (n=5) May-Jun 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team meet Exhibit (Mångkulturellt Centrum & Karolinska Institutet) Digital production (www.photovoice-research.com)

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Conceptual background

- Number of people on the move? 1 bill on the move and 200 mill international migrants
- Aging-in-Place → Aging-between-Places (Cutchin, 2003, and Johansson, Laliberte-Rudman, Mondaca, Park, Luborsky, Josephsson, & Asaba, 2012).
- Importance of the everyday - Everyday life occupies essentially all our time, yet it is conceptually often equated with the mundane, unimportant, or impotent (Binnie, Holloway, Millington, and Young, 2007)

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Method

- Ethnographic approach to interviewing and participant observation over time with a small group of informants (Mattingly, 2003), followed by a participatory approach referred to as photovoice (Wang & Burris, 1994).

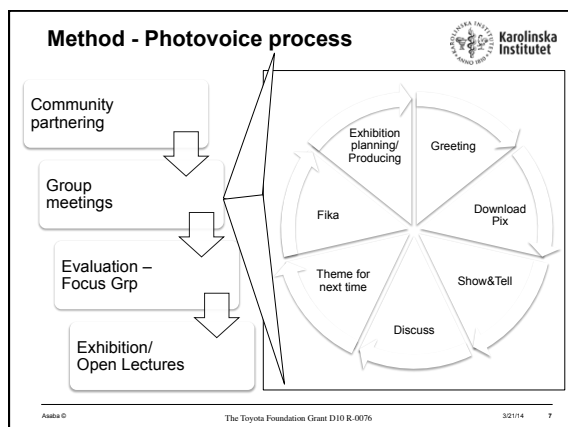
Project Country	Individual Interviews	Group Interviews	Men/Women	Age	Countries of Origin
Japan N = 11	2-5 times / person	One group of 5 participants met 5 times	6 men / 5 women	60-78	Canada, Netherlands, Sweden, Taiwan, United States
Sweden N = 17	2-6 times / person	One group of 6 participants met 8 times	5 men / 12 women	60-78	Chile, Cuba, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Japan, & Turkey

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Method - What is Photovoice

- Photovoice is grounded in issues or relevance identified by participants, aiming to achieve practical action-oriented outcomes (Wang & Burris, 1994).
- "a process by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community through specific photographic technique" (Wang, Cash, & Powers, 2000, p. 82).
- Enables participants:
 - a) to record and reflect strengths and hinders in their communities,
 - b) engage in critical dialogue about important topics through group discussions of photographs, and
 - c) to play an active role in reaching the public and policymakers. All phases of participatory research are carried out in collaboration with researchers, community partners, and participant stakeholders

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Findings from project

- Negotiation of places
→ Participants described feelings of ambiguity around having two homes in the world – being between countries and yet being of both
- Making connections
→ Although the shared experience of migration was often brought up as important in forging relations and connections with others, language and particular symbols were often at the heart of stories
- Family
→ Participants in this study described the relevance of family in facilitating or hindering a sense of being able to participate fully in ones community
- Navigating through social structures
→ Participants in this study described in different ways the importance of getting in contact and understand the rules, institutions and practices of the host country

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To commute between

Migration is not about arriving at a place, it is about the journey.

Migration is about being between places,

experiences,

to be part of,

to give and take,

and gratitude.

Migration is about commuting between.

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Negotiating the cultural in everyday life

Grilled fish or yogurt for breakfast?


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Growing Older


To reflect about ones experiences later in life has been a personally meaningful activity. Simply to think about questions such as, "what has it been like," "what is meaningful in my life," and "what does it mean to be older?" There is a place in Sweden for all nationalities. However, to move to a new country requires strength and especially when ones identity or sense of self is questioned. To look out across the ocean awakens within me a longing for my home country, but at the same time my home country is here now. Where does this sense of nostalgia come from? Sundown or ripe apples against a clear blue sky, something amazing that reminds us of the day that has been and the night that is awaiting.

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Concluding Reflections

- Communication, ie intergenerational
- either/or -> both/and
- Aging in Place -> Aging out of Place -> Placemaking
- Experience of migration as resource rather than burden
- Migration as "not different"
- *Finally...in this context...creativity and well-being*

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Thank you

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