Workshop: Creative participatory methods  
Convened by Talia Meer and Alex Müller

4 June 2019  
13h00 – 17h00

Participatory methodologies offer a more democratic means of collecting and analysing data, but also offer a means for challenging ethnocentric, top-down, and alienated knowledge production (Samudzi 2016). In addition, creative participatory methods such as body-mapping, personal timelines and mental maps, are particularly suited for research with stigmatised and marginalised groups, allowing for the expression of difficult or uncomfortable experiences through art and creativity. They also allow for the generation of more accessible and appealing research outputs, beyond traditional academic writing. For this reason, the use of creative participatory methods dovetails well with current conversations about decolonising research and academia.

Participants: 20 postgraduate students, postdocs and academics. Ideally, participants will have used creative participatory methods (either for their graduate research or other research projects), but this is not a requirement for participation. Please indicate in your application if you already have experience using creative methods. We invite both Masters and PhD students.

Aim: With this interactive workshop, we want to achieve the following:

• Discuss and exchange experiences about working with creative participatory methods: what works and what doesn’t? What are examples for creative participatory data collection and analysis?
• Build capacity among postgraduate students for using/ working with creative participatory methods.
• Build a network of researchers who use creative participatory methods.

Format: Interactive participatory workshop, pre-reading required (to be circulated in the weeks prior to the workshop). Please be prepared to talk about how you use/ plan to use creative methods in your current research project or a project you are planning.

Language: The workshop will be held in English. Graduate student presentations can be in German.

About the conveners:

Talia Meer is a researcher at the Gender Health and Justice Research Unit and a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Cape Town. She is interested in the intersection of everyday life, identity and violence.

Alex Müller is an Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town, where she works on community-led research projects that support queer advocacy and activism on the continent. She is interested in the relationships between gender, sexuality, health and the law, and how these are shaped by each other.

Talia and Alex currently use creative participatory methods in a project with queer youth in three African countries to create accessible and context-relevant media that represent the pleasure, possibilities and ambiguities of queer African life.