



## Poster 16 – 2018 Nordic Implementation Conference

### Short digital stories as research communication?

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#### *Background*

In accordance with a general focus on digitalized media and a renewed interest in a narrative approach to knowledge, there is an increasing interest in storytelling as a way to communicate research questions, outcomes and new knowledge. Oslo and Akershus University College (HiOA) has developed a workshop model where researchers, in a collaborative creative process, produce their own stories.

#### *Project aim*

Researchers involved in previous workshops built on the “Digital storytelling” tradition report that the use of stories contribute to making research findings and issues more communicable. However, challenges include the condensation of the message, the use of the personal voice and lack of skills in visual communication and video editing. The aim of this project is i) to produce a number of research stories and ii) to develop a sustainable workshop model, including professional support, that may be implemented as an institutional model for researchers to communicate their academic work.

#### *Project methods*

Inspired by participatory action research, researchers and communication professionals develop workshops and communicate results while also researching the process and impact of the stories. A small group of researchers participates in a distributed workshop conducted by the communication department. Following the production and sharing of the finished stories, participants are involved in multi-professional focus groups with researchers, communication professionals and external partners discussing the results, the experiences of the process and the potential areas of use of research stories.

#### *Project results*

Planned results from this project are threefold. (1) A sustainable workshop model developed, including suggestions on how to deal with support needs, to enable researchers to produce their own research stories. (2) A number of finished research stories ready to be published through communication channels and in social media. (3) To have identified barriers and opportunities in the dissemination of research issues as stories.

#### *Preliminary or final conclusions/discussion*

Preliminary we conclude that it is possible to create communicable research stories through the workshop model. There is still, even though the use of equipment and software are kept low threshold, a need for professional support through the process of production (and communication) of research stories. Possibilities for implementation of the workshop as an institutional model and potential areas of use for the finished stories will be discussed.