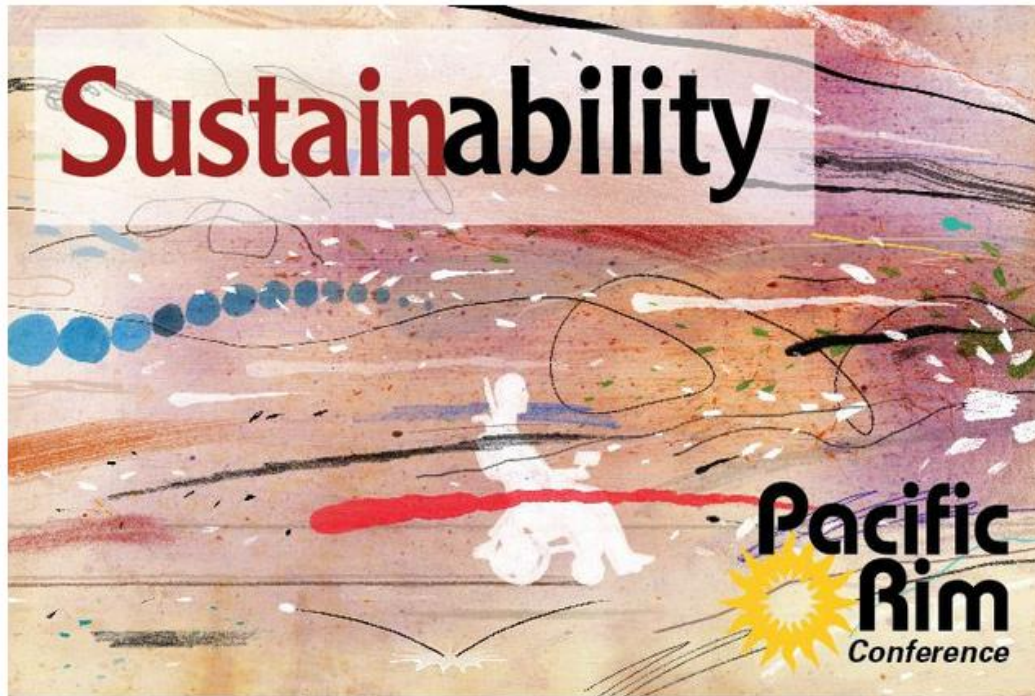


Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity

2017 Conference Theme



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Breakout Session, 33rd Pacific Rim Disabilities Conference, October 2017
KECC - Hilton Hawaiian Village, Kalia Executive Conference Center
Hibiscus 2 Room, Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 8:10 am - 9:10 am,

Session Title: *Talking with pictures: Envisioning community integration of older adults with acquired brain injury*

Presenter: Laura Lorenz, PhD, MEd (llorenz@brandeis.edu; www.lslorenz.com)

Background. Lack of community integration (participation in community life) is known to cause stress and worsen health among older adults and people with acquired brain injury (ABI). The concept of community integration that guided this study has three domains: independence, relationships and meaningful things to do.

Objective/Hypothesis. Study purposes were to increase awareness of environmental factors associated with community integration of older adults with ABI, and explore personal and community impacts of participation.

Methods. This study used a participatory group process (Photovoice) involving photography, discussion, writing and exhibits. Analysis methods included participatory selection of photos and captions for exhibit, group deliberation on categorization of exhibit photos by community integration domain, and a critical appraisal by participants of the study's guiding theoretical frame.

Results. Five adults aged 53 to 69 years with acquired brain injury from Traumatic Brain Injury, stroke, brain tumor, and Guillain-Barre participated. Study photos showed environmental barriers (steep walkway entrance) and supports (family members) and also personal post-injury experiences (volunteering, working) that inspired emotional discussions.

Conclusions. Community integration domains were seen as fluctuating in importance for any individual on any given day. Study photos supported improvement of a walkway and ongoing advocacy by the local Commission on Disabilities to improve town sidewalks. Study participation made the experience of aging with brain injury visible and became a meaningful thing to do.

Interactive format. After a brief review of this study and the Photovoice method, participants will work with photos and captions created by people with acquired brain injury to gain hands-on experience with the power of photographs, reflection, writing and exhibits to understand lives, communicate perspectives, raise awareness among stakeholders, and challenge dominant paradigms.