

Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMESA)  
2010 AMERSA National Conference, Washington, DC. November 4-6

Title: Talking with Pictures: Concepts and Hands-on Experience  
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Skills to Be Developed:

- Participatory research
- Visual literacy (reading images)
- Discussing images and text
- Writing narratives to show perspective
- Analyzing visuals to identify themes and possibilities

Content and Methods:

Photovoice is a participatory research method that allows patients, clients, students, and community members to share their experiences and work with researchers, clinicians, faculty, and service providers to identify opportunities for change. For example, with photovoice, participants take photographs of their lives and experience and discuss them with service providers and each other. The approach has been used to explore lived experience with health and healthcare, illuminate barriers to access, illustrate quality of care, and evaluate programs in respectful and meaningful ways. This seminar will briefly cover the foundations of photovoice, provide examples of photos and narratives from work with brain injury survivors and people living with HIV/AIDS, and provide hands-on experience with several photovoice steps: becoming a visual researcher, discussing images and writing narratives, and developing project themes. The seminar will culminate in a brainstorming session by session attendees on possibilities for adapting the photovoice methodology to their educational, research, service, and evaluation programs.