

I Made it Myself: Empowerment through Community Based Open Art Events

An Abstract of the Project by Maria Asselin-Roy, Rebecca (Bex) Steinberg, Rimna Adam

Our Human Rights Project explores the intersection of social work and human rights by focusing on the empowering potential of community-based open art events through a participatory approach. The objective of this project was to create a series of art events in collaboration with a local non-profit organization, Selbsthilfe&Beratung. Our project was aimed at women and trans*individuals who have experienced sexualized violence in their childhood. Through these four planned events, we sought to foster a supportive environment where participants could express themselves creatively, build connections, and reclaim their voices. Drawing on principles and theories learned from the MA-SWHR program, we examined the significance of these events in promoting empowerment and addressing the issue of sexualized violence from a systemic perspective. Additionally, we explored the concepts of intersectionality and decoloniality of services and power, highlighting their relevance and importance in understanding and addressing human rights issues. The findings of this project contribute to a deeper understanding of the potential for collective solidarity and cultural understanding in addressing the impact of sexualized violence in childhood and moving towards a more decolonized approach of support.