



Resilience in Crisis: Community Creative Arts for Promoting Social Justice.

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Background

- Immigrant healthcare workers play a vital part in fighting against the pandemic and providing culturally sensitive care (Tayaben and Younas, 2020)
- Immigrants have under-representation in mainstream media narrative showing that there is a need to showcase these experiences (Wright and Merritt, 2020)
- Oral history/Storytelling serves as a good outlet for folks
- CIRCA-Pintig is a Filipino American community theatre arts group that used art to promote social justice and activism

Methods

- Collaboration with CIRCA-Pintig, providing immigrants with a voice for storytelling via theatre arts
- Qualitative methods of oral history: interviews with immigrants conducted via Zoom
- Creating comfortable, safe, and accessible space for sharing of personal experiences, values, and ideas concerning social justice, identity, and minority cultural issues
- Two types of questions asked:
 - 1) about general immigrant experience
 - 2) about specific COVID-19 living conditions

Conclusion

- Immigrants' agency to overcome difficulties
- Immigrants' autonomous responses to hardships as challenges to the passiveness portrayed by the media
- Oral history serves as an outlet: they need listeners to understand their resilience in crisis

Purpose

- Spark public conversations around immigrants rights, especially during this public health crisis
- Raise up the voices of immigrants to share their own experiences
- Advocate for the wellbeing and cultural understanding of immigrants across the US

Results

- Interviewed San Francisco-based playwright, Conrad Panganiban
- Interviewed Los Angeles-based actor, Regina Devera
- Interviewed Phimmasonne Owens
- Interviewed CIRCA-Pintig associate, Connie Triggiano

Next Steps

- Share interviews through a podcast and verbatim theatre arts piece
- Documentary collaboration with CIRCA-Pintig advisory board
- Share and collect more stories of immigrants

Bibliography

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