

9° international conference of the European Forum for Restorative Justice

Leiden, 22 June 2016

Lessons learnt in the ALTERNATIVE participatory filming project

Emanuela Biffi and Edit Törzs

EFRJ (Belgium)

ALTERNATIVE

TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- The ALTERNATIVE project in a nutshell
- The filming project: proposal & reality

The ALTERNATIVE project



Trailer

Developing ALTERNATIVE understandings of security and justice through restorative justice approaches in intercultural settings within democratic societies

- *Under which conditions do people feel safe and secure?*
- *What do people consider as just and fair?*
- *How can restorative justice approaches contribute to people's feelings and experiences of safety and justice?*

urban neighbourhoods in

**NORTHERN
IRELAND**

social housing estates in Vienna

AUSTRIA

interethnic small town in

HUNGARY

interethnic border (small) towns in

SERBIA

we have four different action research
strategies being developed.

The filming project: Step by Step

- Film Kit
- Initial Training
- Trust Building
- Ethical safeguards and informed consent forms
- Filming and storing footage
- General guidelines
- Editing training
- Final film 'ALTERNATIVE' and online platform

The filming project: Purposes

Purposes

- Research & dissemination
- Training & Raising awareness
- Community engagement
- Restorative tool for dialogue**

Roles of local community members

- Source of information (i.e. Interviews)
- Participatory filming*
- Feedback for editing films

* Participatory filming

Participatory filming and editing

- in collaboration with locals
- for discovering and understanding realities
- for engaging with local community members



[What the real Schöpferwerker know](#) (Austria)

** Restorative tool for dialogue

- Storytelling
- Locals as critical audiences



[Building Bridges of Trust](#) (Hungary)

Challenges on contents

- Different purposes of the filming project
- Researchers as directors, cameramen, editors

‘When making a movie, what we do is constructing a story’

‘Bias arises from how conscious I was about the choices I made when filmmaking. Who to interview, how to visually portray them, what to edit’

- Films capture snapshots of opinions and conflict situations

‘Some locals refused to share their opinions...’

- Indignation from the local audience

‘I could have eaten you alive when I saw that film, it was very biased’

Challenges on practicalities

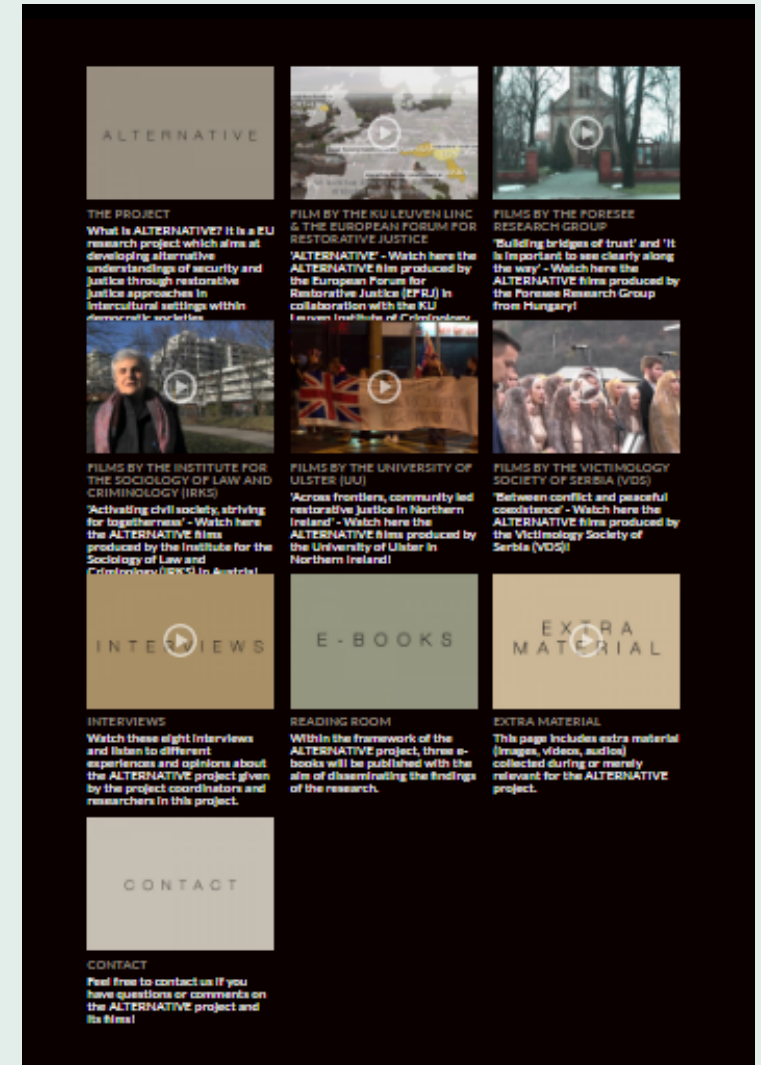
- Researchers as filmmakers
 - Only HU worked with a professional
 - Training provided by KU Leuven
- Four different films in one
 - Styles
 - Local contexts
 - More stories within each film
 - All footage in local language

Outcomes

- Films for building relationships
- Films as a platform for dialogue
- Films to gain scientific knowledge
- Film screening with locals to get different insights
- Films as a RJ intervention tool
 - Sharing stories and interpretations in films
 - Listening to other stories via the films

Solutions

- A new film was created with additional raw material
 - Interviews with researchers
 - One film and individual interviews online
- ALTERNATIVE Films Online Platform
 - alternativefilms.euforumrj.org
- Book chapter



ALTERNATIVE ALTERNATIVE

THANK YOU!

More info

edit.torz@euforumrj.org

emanuela.biffi@euforumrj.org