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Participants

- 21 forced immigrant male youth
 - *M* age = 13.5 years old
 - Born in 4 different countries
- YMCA Settlement Services staff
- Laurentian Academic Research Team

Methodology

- Critical theoretical paradigm underpinned by social constructionist epistemology
- Community-based participatory action research (CBPAR)

Data Collection Methods

- 21 arts-based interview transcripts (*M* = 38 minutes)
- 21 pieces of youth art work
- Field journal kept by presenter

Data Analysis Methods

- Reflexive thematic analysis
- Collaborative storied re-presentation through three-scene polyphonic vignette

"I miss my home the most when I want to play football"

- Scene 1: "I will always be connected to my home country"
 - *Soccer is the most popular sport in every country forced immigrant youth grew up in.*
 - *"Part of me is always going to be from my home country, that will never go away"*
- Scene 2: "We just wanted to be safe and accepted"
 - *Many youth did not have time or space to play sport during their journey to Canada; Those who did play sport played primarily with family or youth from their home country*
- Scene 3: "The beginning of a new adventure"
 - *Sport (in different forms) can help youth maintain and develop connections to other youth*
 - *Support in Canada offered for a finite term; fails to recognize ongoing need for support*
 - *Soccer (even in an informal setting) can provide space for thoughtless play*

Key Take-Aways

- Informal sport is a familiar context that can provide a sense of continuation for youth
- E-Sport can help forced immigrant youth maintain connections to their home country
- Sport context, if developed properly, can foster a sharing of cultural values, help forced immigrant youth maintain and/or improve mental well-being and form secure sense of identity

Practical Implications

- Polyphonic vignette to be used in cultural sensitivity/competence training for YMCA staff
- Learning fostered through stimulating discussion designed to help YMCA staff critically examine one's own values and assumptions in relation to the stories told in the vignette
- Questioning of 'status quo' can foster actions that lead to more socially just sport context

References

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