

Visual graphics as a tool for communication and relationship building

Melody Morton Ninomiya¹

¹Memorial University, Canada, melodym@mun.ca

Ethical and authentic relationships between (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) researchers and Indigenous peoples are, in part, facilitated through effective and appropriate communication. In this poster, I illustrate and describe how researchers can improve communication of information through the use of visual graphics throughout all research phases. Visual graphics such as graphs, charts, figures, and photographs are common in scientific research (especially dissemination) materials however they are less common as communication tool in research. Using examples from my own community-based health research project with a rural Indigenous community in eastern Canada, I demonstrate how visual graphics made communication of information both accessible and engaging with community members, research informants and (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) government stakeholders at different phases of research. While I advocate that researchers use visual graphics to enhance and improve communication and build authentic relationships, I also argue that researchers must carefully consider how visual graphics are used and what they represent.