

# PIONEERS IN AGING

Using Photovoice to Understand the Lived Realities  
of Women Age 85 and Older, Living in Rural Prince  
Edward Island

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June 17, 2016



# Purpose of the Study

To learn about the lived realities for women age 85 and older living alone (or with someone but still managing their own activities) in rural communities in PEI?

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# Research Questions

1. What are the lived realities of women age 85 and older living alone (or with someone but still managing their own activities) in rural communities?
2. How do social structures and government policies influence these women?
3. How do these women learn, and how do they obtain the information they need?
4. How do these women share their knowledge and mentor others?



# Theoretical Perspective

- ✿ Critical Social Theory

- ✿ Critical social theory will be used to raise consciousness in the literature review and data collection, question the status quo, gather data that may disrupt convention through discovery of what helps and limits the lived realities of the women who participate, invite engagement by participants in telling their stories and raising critical questions (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016; Bennett, Bergin & Wells, 2016)

- ✿ Critical Feminist Lens

- ✿ A critical feminist lens will focus the use of critical social theory to look specifically at the experiences of women 85 and older by inquiring how power relations shape and are shaped by the realities of their lives (Mertens, 2015)

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# Methodology & Methods

- ☀ Qualitative Research

- ☀ Methods

- ✂ Photovoice (Wang & Burris, 1997; Lewinson, 2015; Simmonds, Roux and ter Avest 2015)
- ✂ Researcher's Reflective Journal (Ortlipp, 2008)

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# Photovoice

- photovoice refers to a photographic technique that is based on the participatory research of Wang and Burris (1997)
- Photovoice is a qualitative research technique in which participants record and reflect on their realities through photography Novek, Morris-Osweld and Menec (2012)
- Photovoice gives voice both individually to participants (through taking photographs and reflective activities), and collectively (through discussion groups related to photographs Evens-Agnew and Rosenberg, (2016)
- Photographs and commentary provided a starting point for a focused and nuanced discussion and Images add power and strength to words and when used in qualitative research have the potential to initiate social change Jarldorn (2016)

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# Study Design

- Study population
- Selecting participants
- Sample size

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# Data Collecting



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# Data Analysis

- Participants should be involved in a three-stage process that provides the foundation for analysis
  - ✧ Selecting
  - ✧ Contextualizing
  - ✧ Codifying
- NVivo a computer-assisted qualitative data analysis program will be used to code all data including photographs

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# Significance of this Study

- Findings will create new knowledge about women age 85 and older, specifically those living in rural communities
- This study will contribute new information about the realities of older women for existing critical education, feminist and gerontological literature
- This new knowledge about realities of older women living in rural communities and will inform policy makers as they develop strategies for an aging population and rural development
- This study will demonstrate strength and wisdom of these women as they navigated uncharted waters of the aging process

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COMMENTS  
and  
SUGGESTIONS?

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