**Creativity, semiosis and morality in a transnational film production project with youth**

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This presentation sets out from an ethical dilemma encountered in the use of film as a vehicle for creative expression and transnational communication in a global youth education and research project. The project connects young people in globally diverse sites, who represent their lived experiences in video productions that are shared with participants in other countries. The project aims, among other objectives, to develop the youth’s critical cosmopolitanism (Hawkins 2014), as well as their digital literacies and their use of English as a lingua franca. More specifically, we shall present data collected in 2016 that enable a reconstruction of the process of production and sharing of one particular fictional film produced by teenagers at a project site in Spain for peers in Uganda. The data include the video itself, and ethnographic data collected by the researchers (observations of the process, post hoc interviews with participants). The video was deemed by the researchers to be potentially compromising for the Ugandan youth participating in the project as, without access to the ethnographic data that suggests otherwise, the film might be understood tell a story of homosexuality (which is criminally persecuted in Uganda, unlike in Spain). The video was precautionarily removed from circulation. Discourse analysis of transmodality (Hawkins 2018) will explore the cultural embeddedness of the students’ production, and the cultural models implicit in the video. It will consider what these mean for transnational communication among groups from diverse cultural, ethnic and language backgrounds. How do we understand semiosis as carried by creative video representations across spaces, diverse groups of people and cultures? What new meanings and possibilities come about as communicative resources flow in transmodal, transnational exchanges? The analysis will also speak to the moral arguments for sharing the students’ creative production, or for removing it from circulation.

**Keywords:** transnational communication, video production, digital literacies, English as a lingua franca, transmodality, discourse analysis.baak

**Hawkins, Maggie; Llompart, Júlia; Moore, Emilee, & Vallejo, Claudia (2018, September 7th)**. [*Creativity, semiosis and morality in a transnational film production project with youth*](https://baal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/BAAL2018-abstracts.pdf)*.* Paper presented at the thematic panel “Creative inquiry in Applied Linguistics” at BAAL 2018: Taking Risks in Applied Linguistics, York (United Kingdom). Speaker: Emilee Moore.