

RESEARCH BRIEF

Photovoice: a promising method in climate research?

September 2025



Y-ENGAGE
A PHOTOVOICE PROJECT

BACKGROUND



We set out to understand how Photovoice—a participatory visual method designed to foster critical reflection and social change—has been used to study and respond to climate change. We examined 31 studies from around the world to offer a comprehensive overview of the method's current contributions and limitations in climate change research.

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The article

Bagge-Petersen, C., Raju, E., Nuhu, S., Mtwangi-Limbumba, T., Masao, C.A. and Skovdal, M., 2025. Photovoice: A Promising Method for Capturing and Responding to Climate Change?. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 16(3), p.e70009.



FINDINGS

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The review identifies five primary uses of Photovoice that effectively elicit lived experiences of climate change. However, most studies did little to connect local experiences with global drivers of climate change, nor did they involve more powerful stakeholders.



IMPLICATIONS

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If Photovoice projects do not explicitly connect local environmental observations to broader climate processes, participants are limited in their ability to situate their experiences within global climate dynamics or to engage in collective action. Excluding powerful stakeholders in Photovoice projects – such as policymakers – undermines the method's potential to influence decision-making.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Photovoice projects should introduce climate change explicitly and reflexively.
- They should help participants connect their photographs and experiences to wider climatic patterns, scientific knowledge, and global political structures.
- They need to include a broader range of stakeholders and build actionable pathways into their design, so that participants can translate insights into social and political action.