

# Researching with Indigenous Youth: Using design to support identity representation in the Ecuadorian Amazon

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Course Social Geographies of the Global South (Prof. Paola Minoia), ACE MA programme

**Summary:** This interactive presentation will explore a participatory intervention focused on using design with indigenous youth: more specifically, forming pictograms to enhance identity representation that could support specific claims in the political spaces of education, public communication, and agency. The presentation will report on ongoing action research with Indigenous youths of different nationalities based in the Amazonian region of Ecuador.

**Nathaly Pinto** is an Ecuadorian design researcher. She is doctoral candidate at the Design Department of Aalto University (FI); and adjunct professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica (EC). Her research focuses on participatory design from the Global South, popular communication and design for social change. She collaborates with indigenous organizations and youth in the Ecuadorian Amazon, researching and learning from local practices of resistance that challenge social exclusion. Together, they are designing visual materials and sustaining processes that aim to support and advocate for diverse indigenous struggles.