

HERITAGE AND PHOTO-DIALOGUE: AN APPROACH ON ARTS BASED RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY.

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Rioja Alavesa is a region in Basque Country, North of Spain, which has special characteristics: its landscape, its architecture, its traditions, its natural borders... And all of this makes a singular culture, heritage and in consequence, society; nevertheless, it has an identity problem in spite of everything.

This kind of circumstances has done in our educational and cultural spaces a clear problematic about who are we and where are we going on (in relation with politics, economic, sanitary and educative system). Because of that, this research focuses our purpose in the huge importance of a new tool to work with communities and their cultural heritage (Fontal, 2013; Gutiérrez Pérez, 2012; Huerta y De la Calle, 2013) and we thought that this tool was Photo-Dialogue (Roldán Ramírez y Genet, 2012).

This project has clarified its relevance in communities with any problems, giving us a practice paid off where our participants have recalled their culture, traditions and more important, their identities. Our findings tell us that Photo-dialogue is an important educational and research tool where their participants can join in, and help to our downstream to improve the quality of life.

Therefore, in this article, we describe this Art-Based-experience that develops visual thinking (Roldán, 2012) and helps us to understand our cultural heritage, our region and our society.