

## **Animated Documentary Films to Raise Awareness of Elder Abuse through the Interdisciplinary Collaboration**

HeeSoon Lee, Ph.D., MSW  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Human Services  
227 College of Health and Human Services  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
419-372-9538  
[leeh@bgsu.edu](mailto:leeh@bgsu.edu)

Heejoo Gwen Kim  
Digital Arts, School of Art, BGSU  
1000 Fine Arts Center #1020, Bowling Green, OH, 43403-0204  
224-616-0588  
[hkim@bgsu.edu](mailto:hkim@bgsu.edu)

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### **Abstract:**

Animated documentary films are increasingly being used in raising public awareness of social issues, emphasizing them in a very friendly and approachable way. The purpose of this study is to unveil the covered problems of elder abuse based on a real story with the short animated documentary film. Elder abuse is the intentional mistreatment or neglect against an older adult by a family member or trusted individual. Due to increasing baby-boomers, it is a growing, prevalent social issue in all parts of society regardless of socioeconomic classes, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. However, it has been ignored, or hidden because the older adults are reluctant to report due to fear of retribution, lack of ability to report, or don't want the abuser (e.g., their family members) in trouble. Moreover, signs of elder abuse are often overlooked by professionals working with older adults because of lack of training on identifying abuse. Raising public awareness is the first step to help victims of elder abuse and prevent the issue from worsening. The objective of this interdisciplinary project between social work and digital art is to promote awareness of elder abuse through an animated documentary film combining animation and documentary as an art format. This short animated documentary film intended to reveal the hidden physical, emotional, and financial crises of older adults by presenting personal experiences of impairment and exploitation based on real stories. Through text and moving images, this short film reflects the catastrophe of what elder people have experienced, depicting the complexity of interactions that can lead to the abuse, suffering, agony, and segregation of the victims. It is expected that this film may be used for an educational purpose for general publics, emphasizing the need for society's attention, understanding, and provision. This film may be also utilized as a training tool for future social workers who work with older adults.