



## Chronicling lives: Tec CCM students create films with global magazine

48 students at the School of Humanities and Education on **Tec de Monterrey's** Mexico City campus have produced **three documentaries** that aim to make an **impact on society** in partnership with [Stanford Social Innovation Review en Español](#) (SSIR).

The three groups of students from the Communications degree program have produced ***Hilos de la Tierra***, ***Sensibilia***, and ***Cruor***. Respectively, these stories reflect the themes of appreciation of **textile craftsmanship**, the resilience developed through **sensory photography**, and the perspective of **people living with HIV**.

These productions were recognized and **published** by SSIR, reaffirming the publication's belief that "*we all have the power to inspire and create **positive change**,*" said Carla Aguilar, deputy editor of *SSIR en Español*.

In October 2023, the magazine *SSIR en Español* went to the **narrative documentary** class and challenged students to create short documentary films in 5 weeks.

These short films were inspired by the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). As a result, in addition to learning about audiovisual narrative in non-fiction films, participants **depicted different realities** and raised **awareness** about various social problems

### ***Hilos de la Tierra: Where nature and culture intertwine***

Directed by Nadia Chávez and Óscar Palacios, ***Hilos de la Tierra*** depicts the work of **indigenous women** and their deep **connection** with **nature** and their **families**.

The film highlights the importance of recognizing and **valuing** the **ancestral skills** and knowledge of these women, who keep their culture and **traditions** alive through colorful creations

*“We want to convey an appreciation for the **art of hand embroidery** from Esmeralda’s perspective and the value, both human and artistic, of her discipline,”* shared director Óscar Palacios.



## ***Cruor*: A call for help and the crisis of drug shortages**

*Cruor* is a story that denounces the serious **shortage of anti-retroviral drugs** in Mexico.

The film’s mission is to raise awareness about the importance of an **inclusive** health system, to **give a voice** to those who suffer in silence, and to bring about **real change** in society.

“The whole point of *Cruor* was to make you feel **uncomfortable**, and to try to **challenge** the idea of what HIV is,” said the film’s director, Aislynn Velasco.

## ***Sensibilia*: Going beyond sight**

*Sensibilia* takes viewers on a journey through the daily struggles of **visually impaired** people, showing how they overcome barriers using their inner **strength** and determination.

The documentary features **Alejandra**, a Mexican woman who has been blind since birth, whose story allows the audience to observe how she found a form of expression and **connection** with the world through **photography**.

This production provides a **human perspective** on **visual impairment** and aims to connect the audience with Alejandra’s story through **the way she sees the world**.

*“Life is not experienced through just one **sense**, but through all of them. It enriches the human experience,”* said director Fernanda Sánchez, in a broadcast for *SSIR en Español*.



## From theory to practice: The responsibility of telling a person's story

For the directors, collaborating with the **Stanford** magazine was an **enriching** experience that opened doors for them to reach a broader audience and provide greater **visibility** to the stories depicted.

However, they agreed that wider recognition also created considerable **challenges** due to the sensitive nature of the topics addressed and the need to respect the privacy of the participants. This required **sensitivity** and **creativity** on the part of the directors.

*"This was an **opportunity** to present a real story to the audience **without idealizing** or romanticizing the situation, but rather as a reminder that the best form of **resistance** is to have a voice,"* concluded the creator of Cruor.

***“Presenting a true story was a reminder that the best form of resistance is to have a voice.” - Aislynn Velasco.***

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