

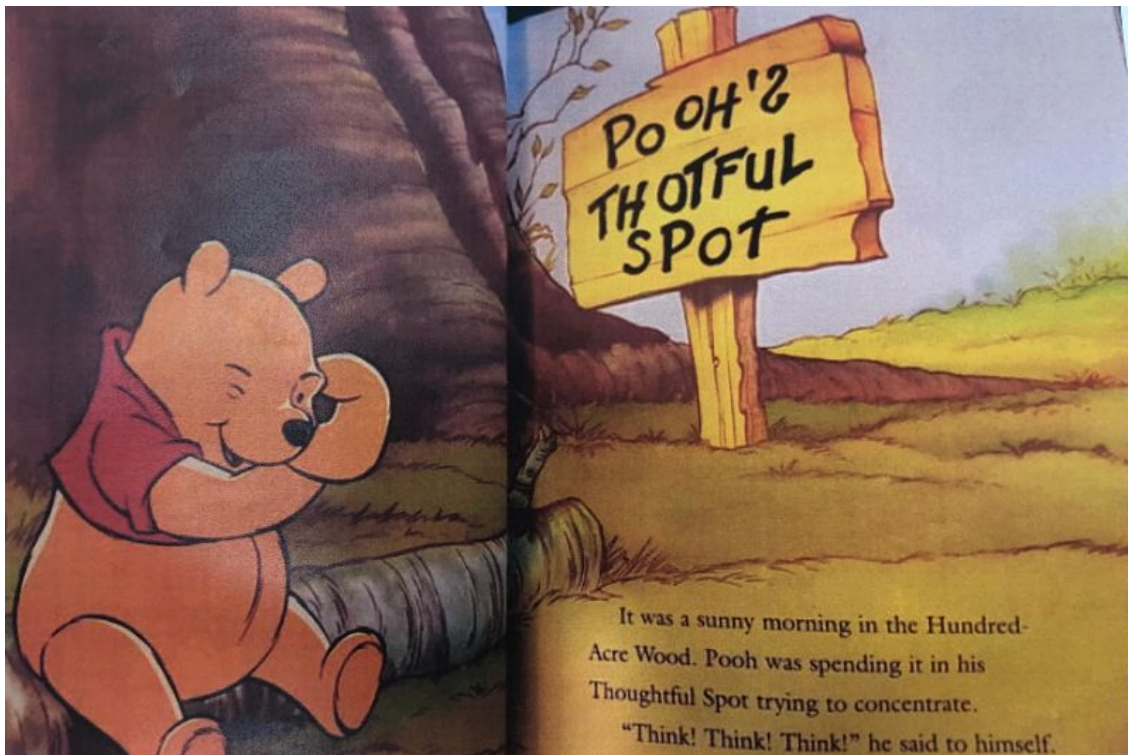
DSBS

DIVISION OF
SOCIAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL
SCIENCES



DSBS January - July 2020: What have we been up to?

DSBS FIELDNOTES



Our [Fieldnotes](#) site, a platform for promoting the role of critical social science

research, has been up and running since September 2018. The authors include our staff, PHD and MPH students, as well as our broader network of researchers, activists, community members, and public health practitioners with whom we collaborate.

We are currently living in changing and challenging times due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures put in place to protect us—physical distancing, wearing masks, hand sanitising and lockdown—have also forced us to adjust how we live, work and socialise with each other. As a way to capture some of our diverse lived experiences of this time, we have posted two pieces on the site focused on experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown from around the world. A third reflection piece is in progress.

[Have a look at our latest 2020 posts below:](#)

Covid-19 Tiny Stories and Number Stories: Collective Experiences During a Global Pandemic (DSBS Collaborators)

- [Volume 1](#)
- [Volume 2](#)

Other Posts:

- [Research With Adolescent Boys and Young Men Living With HIV – Reflections on Ethical Challenges During Fieldwork in the Eastern Cape](#) (Lesley Gittings)
- [Qualitative Evidence Synthesis \(QES\) for Informing Policy: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?](#) (Natalie Leon)
- [Femininities on the Cape Flats: Respectability or Fear?](#) (Catherine Chantre)
- [Adventures, Archives, and AIDS Research](#) (Carla Tsimpiras)
- [Connection, Community and Communication: A Reflection of the Successes and Challenges When Conducting Health Systems Strengthening Research to Better Link Men to HIV Care](#) (Myrna van Pinxteren. Chris Colvin & Nonzuzo Mbokazi)

MCSJ's Covid-19 Pandemic Response



The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted everyone's daily lives, but also inspired many to set up initiatives in South African communities. Since the country went into lockdown, MCSJ, the Movement for Change and Social Justice, set up a successful Covid-19 outreach campaign to inform residents in Gugulethu and Khayelitsha about hygiene rules, mask wearing practices, social distancing, self-isolation and assessment of other health conditions and referrals where needed, including HIV and TB care. With the assistance of DSBS, the University of Virginia, Acacia Global and many others, MCSJ has distributed 15,000 masks and was able to assist a number of families with food vouchers. MCSJ collaborates closely with the Western Cape Department of Health and goes into the community on a daily basis to inform and mobilise residents around Covid-19.

[iALARM](#) Site Updates



SUPPORTING MEN IN HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

iALARM stands for 'Using Information to Align Services and Link and Retain Men in the HIV Cascade' and is one of the flagship research studies within the Division. Since 2015, the iALARM team has worked together with health system and community partners to address challenges men face in accessing HIV prevention, treatment and care. iALARM is a collaboration between the Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Brown University, Sonke Gender Justice, South African Medical Research Council (MRC), the University of California, San Francisco, and the Movement for Change and Social Justice (MCSJ).

Since the launch of [our iALARM website](#) last year, the iALARM team has continued to update the site, resulting in a comprehensive platform where you can find the latest publications, get to know our staff and students, and learn more about the collaborations with MCSJ and the Men and HIV Research Network.

Curious how we aim to support men in HIV prevention, treatment and care? Go to the iALARM [website](#) and read all about this exciting and multifaceted research project.

The BRIDGES Program



The 'Building Research in Inter-Disciplinary Gender and HIV through the Social Sciences' (BRIDGES) Program is a 5-year NIH funded (D43) program housed in the University of Cape Town's Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences [DSBS], School of Public Health and Family Medicine.

The BRIDGES Program aims to strengthen UCT's capacity to serve as a global leader in gender and HIV social science research by:

1. Expanding the pool of early-career social science researchers working on gender and HIV in South Africa by recruiting and intensively training and mentoring PhD and postdoctoral research fellows in the Division's graduate program in HIV health social sciences. One BRIDGES

postdoctoral research fellow and seven PhD fellows are currently registered in the Division.

2. Growing the capacity of the DSBS training platform for PhD and Postdoctoral Fellows in gender and HIV by developing and delivering i) 2 new semester-long PhD courses and ii) 3 new short courses for trainee health social scientists at UCT. BRIDGES Fellows are currently engaged in a semester long 'PhD Proposal Development course', developed by BRIDGES staff, and will attend a 'Responsible Conduct of Research' short course later this year.
3. Increasing opportunities for training, networking and professional development in gender and HIV social science at UCT by hosting an Annual BRIDGES Symposium that will give Fellows the opportunity to present their work, engage with senior local and international gender and HIV researchers, and participate in intensive workshops in research methods, academic publishing, grant-raising, and knowledge translation. The first Annual BRIDGES Symposium took place from 9th – 13th March 2020 at Goedgedacht Farm, Riebeeck Kasteel, Western Cape. During the Symposium, BRIDGES Fellows were officially introduced and interacted with some of the local and international staff on the project, other BRIDGES affiliates and DSBS staff.

Congratulations to our recent MPH and PhD graduates

- John-Henry Hickman (MPH)
- Wilme Verwoed (MPH)
- Lesley Gittings (PhD)
- Rebecca Matter (PhD)

Recent Publications

[Journal Articles](#)

- Health Worker Experiences of and Perspectives on Engaging Men in HIV Care: A Qualitative Study in Cape Town, South Africa. *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care*;19. doi: [10.1177/2F2325958220935691](https://doi.org/10.1177/2F2325958220935691). Mbokazi N, Madzima R, Leon N, Lurie MN, Cornell M, Schmidt BM, Colvin CJ, 2020.
 - Tuberculosis infection prevention and control: why we need a whole systems approach. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*. 2020; 9(1):1-4, doi:[10.1186/s40249-020-00667-6](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40249-020-00667-6). Keilmann K, Karat AS, Colvin C, Swartz a, et al.
 - Building an implementation science of activism. *Critical Public Health*; 1-2, doi: [10.1080/09581596.2020.1774109](https://doi.org/10.1080/09581596.2020.1774109). Colvin CJ, 2020.
 - Estimating retention in HIV care accounting for clinic transfers using electronic medical records: evidence from a large antiretroviral treatments program in the Western Cape. *Tropical Medicine & International Health*. doi:[10.1111/tmi.13412](https://doi.org/10.1111/tmi.13412). Bengston AM, Colvin C, Kirwa K, Cornell M, Lurie MN, 2020.
 - [Perpetuating gender inequity through uneven reporting](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31258-8). *The Lancet*;385 (10232):1258. Cornell M, Horton K, Colvin C, Marino-Medina A, Dovel K, 2020.
 - Fostering a healthy public for men and HIV: a case study of the Movement for Change and Social Justice (MCSJ). *Palgrave Communications*;6(25). doi: [10.1057/s41599-020-0402-y](https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-0402-y). Colvin CJ, van Pinxteren M, Majola M, Leon N, Swartz A, Mbokazi N, et al, 2020.
 - Quantifying the HIV treatment cascade in a South African health sub-district by gender: retrospective cohort study. *Tropical Medicine & International Health*;25(2):186-192. doi:[10.1111/tmi.13334](https://doi.org/10.1111/tmi.13334). Lurie MN, Kirwa K, Callaway J, Cornell M, Boule A, Bengston AM, et al, 2019.
 - A multidimensional approach to inform family planning needs, preferences and behaviours amongst women in South Africa through body mapping. *Reproductive Health*;16(1):1-11. doi: [10.1186/s12978-019-0830-6](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-019-0830-6). Harries J, Constant D, Wright V, Morroni C, Müller A, Colvin CJ, 2019.
 - Exploring the barriers and motivators encountered by healthcare workers (HCWs) in low-and middle-income countries (LMICS) in the implementation of Tuberculosis infection. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*;113. Tan C, Kallon I, Colvin C, Grant A, 2019.
 - Exploring community residents' motivations for interacting with American Field School Undergraduates in South Africa. *Journal of Experiential Education*;42(2):171-184. doi: [10.1177/1053825918821140](https://doi.org/10.1177/1053825918821140). Wainwright M, Sicwebu N, Colvin CJ, Gong E, Henderson R, Swartz A, 2019.
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Division Changes

DSBS and the School of Public Health and Family Medicine are very pleased to announce the recent appointment of a new Head of Division, *Associate Professor Lucia Knight*. The DSBS team would like to extend a warm welcome to Assoc Prof Knight. We are looking forward to meeting and working alongside her when she begins work later this year.

Lucia Knight is a family demographer with particular experience in the study of HIV/AIDS, families, poverty and social protection in Southern Africa.



DSBS would like to thank everyone in our network for their continued support and collaboration. We wish everyone well as we all adjust to a new way of working and living during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Stay healthy, safe and remember to take time to rest. Look out for our next newsletter coming out towards the end of the year.

Warm Wishes
The DSBS Team





Keep safe and warm during this pandemic as we re-imagine new ways of being in the world

You are receiving these updates because you are part of the DSBS extended family!

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