



DIVISION OF
SOCIAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL
SCIENCES



DSBS News

August - December 2020

Welcome Associate Professor Lucia Knight

The DSBS team would like to extend a warm welcome to Lucia Knight as the recently appointed Head of Division. She started in her new role on the 1 November 2020 and we look forward to developing this relationship and working alongside Lucia.



Lucia Knight is a family demographer with training in social anthropology and population studies. Her current research focuses on the development of social and behavioural interventions to improve access to HIV treatment and care and ART adherence. She is also conducting research on the quality of maternal health care and is exploring new areas of research in sexual and reproductive health.

DSBS FIELDNOTES



2020 has been an extraordinary and challenging year, mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Like others, we at DSBS had to learn new ways of working, being with people and adjusting to the 'new normal'. Most of us have spent the majority of 2020 working from home (with our children also at home while schools were closed), we have been unable to socialise with family and friends both locally and internationally; and we have lost loved ones. It has been a painful and challenging year. However, despite the challenges, we have come together as communities to support each other during the pandemic and the resultant lockdown.

Our Fieldnotes site has captured people's diverse experience of lockdown from all over the world in 4 volumes of Tiny and Number Stories. We share these volumes with you below:

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

- [Volume 1](#)
- [Volume 2](#)
- [Volume 3](#)
- [Volume 4](#)

For further reading around Covid-19 have a look at the following posts:

1. [In the Midst of Two Epidemics: MCSJ Men's Forum Stands Against Gender Based Violence in the Context of Covid-19](#)
2. [The Power and Important of Community-based Organisations: Initiative and Solidarity](#)
3. [How Covid-19 May Change Mask-wearing Practices in Clinics and Public Places in South Africa](#)
4. ["People are Suffering...They Don't Have Food, They Don't Have Work": Visual Storytelling During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)
5. [How Covid-19 Changed Community Engagement in South Africa's Low Income Areas](#)

[iALARM](#) Updates



iALARM

**SUPPORTING MEN IN
HIV PREVENTION,
TREATMENT AND CARE**

Despite the hardships in 2020, we have been able to continue our support and engagement with MCSJ and Dr Morna Cornell has been involved in several international networks focusing on Men and HIV, including the WHO working group on enhancing uptake of HIV care among men and the JIAS Working Group on implementation science. Furthermore, there are several publications that are in production or currently under review. Topics of the papers include:

- A process evaluation of the iALARM study
- A paper assessing the services at the Men's Wellness Centre in Gugulethu
- A case study examining leadership training for soccer coaches in Gugulethu
- A case study examining the use of Adolescent Health Profiles in clinics
- Several other outputs focusing on community engagement in Gugulethu

Recent Publications (which can be accessed under the [resource section](#) of the iALARM site:

1. Health Worker Experiences of and Perspectives on Engaging Men in HIV Care
2. Fostering a Healthy Public for Men and HIV: A Case Study of the Movement for Change and Social Justice (MCSJ)

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.

BRIDGES Updates

The last eight months have been busy and productive for our BRIDGES team.

BRIDGES in-house courses: We launched our PhD Proposal Development course in March 2020 which ran until October 2020. From 30 November to 04 December 2020, BRIDGES hosted a Responsible Conduct of Research Short Course co-facilitated by UCT DSBS faculty and our partners from Brown University.

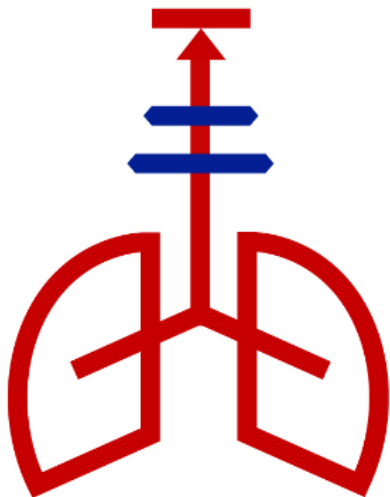
Progress on proposals: Following completion of the course, four Fellows – Namhla Sicwebu, Shehani Perera, Tsidiso Tolla and Chantal Fowler – successfully defended their PhD proposals and are currently in the process of preparing their protocols for submission to the Faculty of Health Sciences Human Review Ethics Committee (HREC) for approval to commence data collection early in 2021. In October 2020 our postdoctoral Fellow, Carmen Spath, received HREC clearance to proceed with her postdoctoral research.

Mentoring: We have established mentoring teams (distinct from supervision teams) to offer additional support towards professional and holistic growth of our Fellows beyond their academic projects. In addition, the Fellows took initiative to establish a biweekly peer mentoring group facilitated by Carmen, our postdoctoral fellow.

In the midst of our academic pursuits, we have made time to get together and appreciate each other: 'Masks off for a second and smile!' left to right: Carmen, Tsidiso, Jennifer & Namhla at the BRIDGES end of year luncheon in Kirstenbosch



Umoya Omuhle Project on DR-TB in South Africa



Umoya omuhle

Umoya Omuhle (UO) meaning “fresh air” in Isi-Zulu, is a research collaboration between the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Queen Margaret University, the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), and the University of Cape Town (UCT). The study uses a “whole-systems” approach to study nosocomial transmission of drug resistant-TB (DR-TB) and infection prevention and control implementation in two South African provinces (the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal). The UO project aimed to respond to this

problem drawing on disciplines and methods such as, anthropology, epidemiology, health policy and systems, health economics and mathematical modelling. The longer-term hope is that a better understanding of these factors may help in identifying ways of minimising DR-TB transmission in primary health care clinics in South Africa. The project was initiated and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council in the United Kingdom in partnership with the National Institute for Health Research, Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Medical Research Council, in South Africa, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate in the UK.

The outputs from this project so far include:

- An editorial paper entitled [“Tuberculosis infection prevention and control: why we need a whole systems approach”](#). Authored by Karina Kielmann and other authors, including Chris Colvin, Alison Swartz and Idriss Kallon published in 2020
- A journal article entitled [‘It has become everybody’s business and nobody’s business’: Policy actor perspectives on the implementation of TB infection prevention and control \(IPC\) policies in South Africa public sector primary care health facilities](#) authored by Chris Colvin, Idriss I Kallon, Alison Swartz and other authors published in 2020
- A journal article entitled [“Barriers and facilitators of tuberculosis infection prevention and control in low-and middle-income countries from the perspective of healthcare workers: A systematic review”](#). Authored by Charlene Tan, Idriss I Kallon, Chris Colvin and Alison Grant published in 2020
- A show and tell webinar that was held on 14 October 2020. The research team presented initial results from the project activities so far. The attendees included all researchers in the project and other stakeholders as well as targeted health organisations and institutions in South Africa and abroad. The attendees included provincial staff, clinic managers and health researchers. More show and tell seminars/webinars and planned for the first and second quarters of 2021.
- Other papers are written by researchers in the project that will be published in 2021

DSBS Upcoming Short Courses 2021

- Gender Theory
- Grant-writing

- NVivo

Congratulations to our recent MPH and PhD graduates

- Rizqa Armien (MPH)
- Farzanah Frieslaar (MPH)
- Taurai Ndemere (MPH)
- Myrna van Pinxteren (PhD)
- Rebecca Matter (PhD)

2020 Publications

Journal Articles

- Barriers and facilitators of tuberculosis infection prevention and control in low-and middle - income countries from the perspective of healthcare workers: A systematic review. PLoS One;15(10):e0241039. doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0241039](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241039). Tan C, Kallon II, Colvin CJ, Grant AD. 2020.
- 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.
- Definitions, components and processes of data harmonisation in healthcare: A scoping review. BMC Med Inform Decis Mak;20:22. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12911-020-01218-7>. Schmidt BM, Colvin CJ, Hohlfeld A, et al. 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.

- Fostering a healthy public for men and HIV: A case study of the Movement for Change and Social Justice (MCSJ). *Palgrave Commun*;6(25). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-0402-y> Colvin CJ, van Pinxteren M, Majola M, et al. 2020.
- 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.
- 'It has become everybody's business and nobody's business': Policy actor perspectives on the implementation of TB infection prevention and control (IPC) policies in South African public sector primary care health facilities. *Glob Public Health*;8:1-14. doi: [10.1080/17441692.2020.1839932](https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2020.1839932). Colvin CJ, Kallon II, Swartz A, et al. 2020.
- Perpetuating gender inequity through uneven reporting. *Lancet*;395(10232):1258. doi: [10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30216-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30216-6). Cornell M, Horton K, Colvin CJ, Medina-Marino A, et al. 2020.
- Reported infant feeding practices and contextual influences on breastfeeding: Qualitative interviews with women registered to MomConnect in three South Africa provinces. *Int Breastfeed J*;15:81. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13006-020-00315-7>. Trafford Z, Jewett S, Swartz A, et al. 2020.
- Tuberculosis infection prevention and control: why we need a whole systems approach. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*; 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. 2020.



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

DSBS would like to thank everyone in our network for their continued support and collaboration. We wish everyone a well-deserved rest over the December holiday period.

Stay healthy, safe and remember to take time to rest. Look out for our next newsletter coming out towards the middle of 2021.

Warm Wishes
The DSBS Team

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