

THESPINA (NINA) J. YAMANIS

4400 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20016-8071

yamanis@american.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2011 - Present	Assistant Professor, International Development, School of International Service, American University
2009 - 2011	Postdoctoral Fellow, Duke Global Health Institute, Duke University

EDUCATION

2009	Ph.D.	Health Behavior and Health Education, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) Dissertation: "Geographic and Social Influences on HIV Risk Behavior among Urban Young Men in Tanzania" Committee: Suzanne Maman (chair), Sharon Weir, Irene Doherty, Jo Anne Earp, Susan Ennett, Michael Bowling
2004	MPH	Health Behavior and Health Education, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC Action-oriented community diagnosis: "A Participatory Assessment of the Latino Community of Carrboro, North Carolina"
1996	B.A.	Psychology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Highest Honors Honors' thesis: "Influence of Surgeons' Attitudes on Patients' Decisions for Breast Cancer Treatment"

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Health Disparities Scholar, National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Program 2009-2011
- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service (dissertation fellowship) 2007-2009
- C.V. Starr International Research Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (\$7500) 2006-2007
- Global Health Fellow, Duke University's Sanford Institute of Public Policy Program on Global Policy and Governance in Geneva, Switzerland 2006
- Intern, World Health Organization, Department of Gender, Women & Health 2006
- Doctoral Research Travel Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), Center for Global Initiatives (\$1000) 2006
- Meritorious Student Paper Award, Society of Behavioral Medicine 2006
- Field Research Travel Award, UNC, Institute for Latin American Studies (\$1013) 2005
- Doctoral Merit Assistantship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2004 – 2005
- Member, Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health 2004
- Lucy S. Morgan Fellowship Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, prize for outstanding leadership in Health Behavior and Health Education (\$5000) 2004
- Undergraduate Research Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 1995-1996

ARTICLES

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- Yamanis, Thespina, Suzanne Maman, Jessie Mbwambo, Jo Anne Earp, and Lusajo Kajula. (2010). Social venues that protect against and promote HIV risk for young men in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *Social Science & Medicine*, 71 (9), 1601-1609.
- Linnan, Laura, Allan Steckler, Suzanne Maman, Meg Ellenson, Elizabeth French, Lynn Blanchard, J. Michael Bowling, Thespina Yamanis, Stacey Succop, Amy Davenport, Beth Moracco. (2010). Engaging key stakeholders to assess and improve the professional preparation of MPH health educators. *American Journal of Public Health*, 100 (10), 1993-1999.
- Kennedy, Lindsay, Taya Cohen, Abigail Panter, Brenda DeVellis, Thespina Yamanis, Joanne Jordan and Robert DeVellis. (2010). Buffering against the emotional impact of pain: mood clarity reduces depressive symptoms in older adults. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 29 (9), 975-987.
- Maman, Suzanne, Thespina Yamanis, Fiona Kouyoumdjian, Melissa Watt, and Jessie Mbwambo. (2009). Intimate partner violence and the association with HIV risk behaviors among young men in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 20 (10): 1-18.
- Gonzalez, Tonatiuh, Pastor Bonilla Fernandez, Berenice Jauregui, Thespina Yamanis, and Nelly Salgado de Snyder. (2007). Well-being and family support among elderly rural Mexicans in the context of migration to the United States. *Journal of Aging and Health*, 19 (2): 334-355.
- Blalock, Susan, John Byrd, Richard Hansen, Thespina Yamanis, Katherine McMullin, Brenda DeVellis, Robert DeVellis, Abigail Panter, Ariane Kawata, Lea Watson, and Joanne Jordan. (2005). Factors associated with potentially inappropriate drug utilization in a sample of rural community-dwelling older adults. *American Journal of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy*, 3(3): 168-79.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

- Yamanis, Thespina, Irene Doherty, Sharon Weir, J. Michael Bowling, Lusajo Kajula, Jessie Mbwambo, and Suzanne Maman. High prevalence of sexual partnership concurrency among 15-19 year old men recruited from urban venues in Tanzania.
- Yamanis, Thespina, M. Giovanna Merli, Feng Tian, and W. Whipple Neely. Assessing recruitment behavior and sample inclusivity in Respondent-Driven Sampling among a socially ordered population of Chinese female sex workers.

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

Yamanis, Thespina, Suzanne Maman, Jessie Mbwambo, Gideon Kwesigabo and Claudia Garcia-Moreno. Financial autonomy, violence against women and HIV testing disclosure among a national sample of Tanzanian women.

Yamanis, Thespina, Suzanne Maman, Jo Anne Earp, Susan Ennett, Lusajo Kajula, Jessie Mbwambo, and Irene Doherty. Types of concurrent sexual partnerships and associations with HIV risk behavior among men ages 15-19 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

POLICY PAPER

“HIV Testing at a Crossroads: Directions for the Future: A Review of Current and Critical Evidence”.
(with S. Maman and P. Nanda), Center for Health and Gender Equity (October 2005).

RESEARCH FUNDING

ONGOING

Principal Investigator (with James Moody, co-PI, Duke University Sociology), Duke Center for AIDS Research Small Grant, (2010 - 2011), “Exploring Social Network Influences on Sexual Partnership Concurrency among Young Men in Tanzania”, \$39,976.

Co-Investigator (with Suzanne Maman, PI, Health Behavior and Health Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Gillings Innovation Laboratories, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, (2010-2011), “Assessing Impact of Microfinance, Leadership Training on Young African Men”, \$80,000.

COMPLETED

Co-Investigator (with Suzanne Maman, PI, Health Behavior and Health Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), National Institute of Mental Health, R21MH080577, (2008-2010), “Identifying Venues and Strategies to Prevent Violence and HIV”, \$198,604.

Principal Investigator, GlaxoSmithKline Global Health UNC/Duke Collaboration, Student Research Grant, (2007 – 2008), “A Feasibility Study of Mobile HIV Testing in High Risk Venues Frequented by Young Men in Dar es Salaam”, \$5,000.

INVITED LECTURES

2010 “Reaching High Risk Groups with Innovative HIV Prevention Strategies” presented to the Department of Global and Community Health, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, April.

"Microfinance and HIV Prevention: A Review of the Evidence and Case Study from Tanzania" presented in the Global Health Exchange series, Duke Global Health Institute, Durham, North Carolina, April.

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

2010 “HIV Risk Behaviors among Young Male Injecting Drug Users in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania”, poster presented (with Lusajo Kajula) at the **International AIDS Conference**, Vienna, Austria, July.

- “Partnership-level Determinants of Relationship Violence by Young Men in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania”, poster presented at the **International AIDS Conference**, Vienna, Austria, July.
- 2009 “Social Venues as Risk and Protective Landscapes for HIV among Networks of Young Men in Tanzania”, paper presented at the **International Network for Social Network Analysis** Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, March.
- 2007 “Community-based HIV and Violence Prevention, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania”, paper presented at the **Tanzanian Coordinating Committee for Youth Programs** Annual Meeting, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, June.
- 2006 “Neighborhood Poverty and Lifetime Depression among Older, Rural Adults”, paper presented and selected as a **meritorious student paper** at **Society of Behavioral Medicine** Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, March.
- “A Latent Growth Curve Analysis of Osteoarthritis and Depressive Symptoms among Older Adults”, paper presented at **Society of Behavioral Medicine** Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, March.
- 2004 “Moderators of the Relationship between Rumination and Depressive Symptoms among Older, Rural Women: Perceived mastery and Valued Activities”, poster presented at **Society of Behavioral Medicine** Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, March.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES TAUGHT

- 2006 **Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Global Health** (Graduate and undergraduate seminar, PUBH 510).
Explores contemporary issues, problems and controversies in global health and examines the complex tapestry of social, political and environmental factors that affect global health.
Co-Instructor with Peggy Bentley, Gail Henderson and Kim Chapman-Page, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Developed and coordinated discussion section component for 125 students.
 - Evaluated students’ written assignments and course participation.
- 2005 **Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health** (Graduate Seminar, HBHE 600).
Introduces students to social and behavioral science theories, research and interventions aimed at promoting health of individuals, groups, communities and populations.
Teaching Assistant for Shelley Golden, Health Behavior and Health Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Facilitated discussion section and graded all written assignments of 12 graduate students.
- 2004 **Social Determinants of Health** (Graduate Seminar, HBHE 802/EPID 825).
Introduces population vs. individual perspectives on health, risk conditions vs. risk factors, concepts of causation, knowledge development as a social, historical process, and macro-level determinants of health.
Co-Instructor with Shelley Golden, Health Behavior and Health Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Developed course syllabus, facilitated seminars and evaluated written assignments.
 - Developed and delivered 2 lectures: “Place and Health: An Introduction to Theory and Method”; “Feminist Theory and Health”

GUEST LECTURES

- 2010 “Sampling Strategies for Hard-to-Reach Populations”, delivered in research methods seminar for students in Master’s of Global Health Program, Duke University.
- 2005-2007 “Globalization and Health: Determinants, Consequences and Theoretical Frameworks”, delivered annually in Social Determinants of Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2005-2007 “Social Capital: Measurement and Application”, delivered annually in graduate seminar Social Determinants of Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- June 2010 – Present **Consultant**, *Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women*, World Health Organization (WHO), Department of Gender, Women and Health, Geneva, Switzerland and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Analyze quantitative data and prepare manuscript on relationship between HIV testing disclosure, financial autonomy, and violence against women among national sample of women interviewed for the WHO multi-country study in Tanzania
- 2009 **Consultant/Network Analyst**, *Formative Assessment and Social Network Study on Transactional Sex in Cote d’Ivoire and Zambia*, Academy for Educational Development and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Developed measurement tools to assess social, sexual and environmental networks for a study on transactional sex and HIV risk
- 2006 - 2008 **Project Coordinator**, *PLACE (Priorities for Local AIDS Control Efforts) Assessment in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*, funded by the Center for AIDS Research and Injury Prevention Research Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Coordinated and supervised field research activities, including hiring, training, monitoring and evaluating 20 local staff members, for a study of HIV risk behavior in high transmission venues of Dar es Salaam
 - Data collected included 941 structured surveys, 454 brief interviews, and geographic information systems (GIS) codes on 90 venues
 - Prepared applications for approval from Institutional Review Boards at University of North Carolina and from Tanzanian National Institute of Medical Research
 - Applied weighting scheme and analyzed survey data using Stata
- 2006 **Intern**, *Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women*, World Health Organization, Department of Gender, Women and Health, Geneva, Switzerland
- Analyzed quantitative data on types of intimate partner violence (physical, sexual, and emotional) experienced by women from 15 countries using factor analysis, principal components analysis, and structural equations modeling
- 2001 – 2006 **Project Director**, *Psychiatric and Medical Comorbidity in a Rural Community* (National Institute of Mental Health RO1-MH64034-01) University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education
- Coordinated data collection for a longitudinal cohort study
 - Supervised and trained four interviewers to administer computer-assisted survey

- 2004 – 2005 **Research Assistant**, National Institute of Public Health, Department of Community Health and Social Well-being, Cuernavaca, Mexico
- Analyzed quantitative surveys for study on the effects of cross-national migration for work on the health of rural Mexicans

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- 1999 - 2001 **Social Worker**, Child Protective Services, Orange County, North Carolina
- Investigated and intervened in cases of child physical and sexual abuse and neglect
- 1998 - 1999 **Victim's Advocate**, Orange County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina
- Provided advocacy and support to victims of sexual and domestic assault
 - Wrote and received grant to train sheriff's officers to respond to domestic violence

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

COMMITTEES

- 2009 - 2011 **Member**, Gender and Health Inequalities Working Group, Duke University
- 2006 - 2007 **Student Representative**, Master's Program Review Committee,
Health Behavior & Health Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC)
- 2004 - 2006 **Service Committee Chair and Coordinator of *Narratives of HIV* Series**, Student Global Health Committee, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC

OCCASIONAL REVIEWER

Journal of Social Structure

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International AIDS Society	Society of Behavioral Medicine
American Public Health Association	Global Health Council
International Network for Social Network Analysis	Duke Center for AIDS Research

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Experience with programming using SAS, STATA, Mplus and SPSS to perform statistical analysis using multi-level models, logistic and linear regression, and structural equations models. Experience analyzing qualitative data using Atlas-ti. Experience using UCINET for social network analysis.

Languages: Modern Greek (Fluent); Kiswahili (Intermediate); Spanish (Intermediate); French (Basic).