

THESPINA (NINA) J. YAMANIS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2011 - Present	Assistant Professor, International Development and Public Health, 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 2010-2014
- American University International Travel Award for Faculty 2012-2013
- 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
- Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 1995

ARTICLES

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- Yamanis**, Thespina (2013), M. Giovanna Merli, W. Whipple Neely, Feng Tian, James Moody, Tu Xiaowen, and Ersheng Gao. An empirical analysis of the impact of recruitment patterns on RDS estimates among a socially ordered population of female sex workers in China. *Sociological Methods and Research*, 42(3), 392-425.
- Yamanis**, Thespina, Irene Doherty, Sharon Weir, J. Michael Bowling, Lusajo Kajula, Jessie Mbwambo, and Suzanne Maman (2013). From coitus to concurrency: sexual partnership characteristics and risk behaviors of 15-19 year old men recruited from urban venues in Tanzania. *AIDS and Behavior*, 17(7), 2405-2415.
- 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 IN PREPARATION

- Yamanis**, Thespina, Suzanne Maman, Jessie Mbwambo, Gideon Kwesigabo and Claudia Garcia-Moreno. Financial autonomy, relationship violence and associations with HIV status disclosure among a population-based sample of Tanzanian women. (Revise and resubmit)
- Yamanis**, Thespina, Jacob C. Fisher, Lusajo Kajula, and James Moody. Social network factors associated with concurrency among young men (aged 15-33) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Yamanis, Thespina, Molly Maguire-Marshall, Maria De Jesus and Suyanna Barker. Social and structural factors associated with HIV risk for young, immigrant Latino men who have sex with men.

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

Co-Investigator, National Institute of Mental Health R01 MH098690 (2012-2017), “A Multilevel Intervention to Reduce HIV Risk among Networks of Men in Tanzania” (Suzanne Maman, Principal Investigator, UNC)
To determine whether men in camps randomized to receive a microfinance and health leadership intervention have a lower incidence of sexually transmitted infections and report perpetrating less physical or sexual violence against female sexual partners as compared to men in camps that were not randomized to receive the microfinance and health intervention. (Total grant: \$2,693,726)

Principal Investigator, District of Columbia Developmental Center for AIDS Research (2013-2015), “Exploratory Investigation of the Social and Geographic Context of Sexual Risk Behavior, Identity Development and Service Use among Adolescent Black MSM in DC”.
To gather preliminary data to guide the subsequent design of an intervention to increase service utilization and decrease sexual risk behavior among adolescent black men who have sex with men (MSM), a high-risk group which has experienced the largest recent increase in HIV infections but for which there has been insufficient attention in intervention research. (Total grant: \$49,712)

Principal Investigator, American University Start-up Funds, (2011 - 2014), “Exploring Social Networks to Reduce HIV Risk among Youth in Tanzania”.

COMPLETED

Principal Investigator, American University School of International Service Collaborative Research Awards (2012-2013), “Identifying HIV Prevention Strategies for Latino Sexual Minority Young Men Living in DC”.
To collect formative data from a population of highly vulnerable young Latino men who have sex with men in DC to lay the groundwork for a future grant proposal to pilot an HIV prevention intervention for them. The community collaborator on this project is *La Clínica del Pueblo*. (Total grant: \$22,392)

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.

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 **Job talks:** Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, November (offer declined)
George Mason University, April (offer declined)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- 2013 “The social context of HIV risk behavior among immigrant Latino men who have sex with men (MSM) living in Washington D.C.”, poster presented at the **NIH Center for AIDS Research Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Network (SBSRN)**, 7th National Scientific Meeting
- 2012 “Sexual partnership concurrency and associated risk factors among 15-19 year old men recruited from venues in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania”, poster presented at the **International AIDS Conference**, Washington, DC, July.
- “Social network factors associated with concurrency among young men (aged 15-33) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania”, poster presented at the **Population Association of America** Annual Meeting, May.
- 2010 “HIV Risk Behaviors among Young Male Injecting Drug Users in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania”, poster presented 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, 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.
- 2006 “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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2011, 2013 **Health in Developing Countries and Tools for Program Planning** (Graduate seminar, SIS 633).
Exposes students to the current global health agenda, major players in setting this agenda, the integration of health with other development efforts, and major successes in global health interventions. Students learn how to write an effective and persuasive plan for a health promotion intervention in a developing country setting, including a theoretical framework, intervention strategies, and an evaluation plan.
Instructor, American University
- 2012-2014 **Health in the Developing World** (Advanced undergraduate seminar, SIS 419).
Exposes students to the contemporary issues, problems, and controversies in global health through an interdisciplinary perspective. Students examine the major determinants of global health problems, and explore solutions to these problems through a social justice and human rights lens.
Instructor, American University

- 2012 **Micropolitics of Development** (Graduate seminar, SIS 636).
Exposes students to the key social categories (e.g. gender, class, elites, etc.) that affect development at the local, micro or project level. Students learn practical tools to assess micropolitics during the planning and implementation stages of development projects, including qualitative research methods.
Instructor, American University
- 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, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Developed discussion section component, evaluated written assignments for 125 students.
- 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, UNC
- 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, UNC

Doctoral students

Ervin Dervisevic, Economics Ph.D.

Master's student research papers

Drew Cameron (now employed at 3ie), International Development MA, "Roads and Diarrhea: A Mixed Methods Study of the Relationship between Rural Transportation Infrastructure and Enteric Disease in Northwest Ecuador", Fall 2012

Elizabeth Cross (now employed at IFPRI), International Development MA, "Livestock Ownership and Consumption of Animal Source Foods in Rural Uganda", Spring 2012

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.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- June 2010 – December 2011 **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 **Research 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 state-wide grant to train sheriff's officers to respond to domestic violence

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

EXTERNAL SERVICE

- 2013 – present **Early Career Reviewer**, Center for Scientific Review (CSR), National Institute of Health, Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences
- 2012 – present **Junior Scholar**, Global HIV/AIDS Mentoring & Training Network, Wayne State University
- 2012 – present **Member**, DC Concerned Providers Coalition (HIV/AIDS risk among youth in Washington, DC)
- 2011 - present **Member**, District of Columbia Developmental Center for AIDS Research

INTERNAL SERVICE

- 2013-2014 **Member**, Faculty Actions Committee, American University
- 2011 - present **Member**, Center on Health, Risk and Society, American University
- 2011 - 2013 **Member**, Search Committee, International Development Program, American University

PRIOR SERVICE

- 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

REVIEWER FOR SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

<i>AIDS Care</i>	<i>Social Science and Medicine</i>
<i>Journal of Social Structure</i>	<i>Journal of the International AIDS Society</i>
<i>Health & Place</i>	<i>BMC Public Health</i>
<i>International Journal of Behavioral Medicine</i>	<i>International Journal of STD & AIDS</i>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Population Association of America	International AIDS Society
American Public Health Association	Global Health Council
International Network for Social Network Analysis	Society for Prevention Research

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Programming and Data Analysis: Programming using SAS, STATA, Mplus and SPSS to perform statistical analysis using categorical data analysis, multi-level models, logistic and linear regression, GEE, and structural equations models. Qualitative data analysis using Atlas-ti. Experience using UCINET and SAS for social network analysis.

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