Background

People who develop an interest in international health come to it from a variety of different disciplines and experiences. Efforts to improve health in the developing world should be underpinned by a scientific and evidence-based approach, and this requires the collection and analysis of data for monitoring and evaluation of health related programs.

Field work describes the collection of raw data in the natural and social sciences, but data collection and research undertaken in the field is different to laboratory or experimental research as there is a lot less control over the environment. Collecting information in a different language might be hard enough, but think about the overlay of different cultures and health beliefs, and throw in stress as a result of a natural disaster or conflict for good measure. So how do we translate the theoretical or academically ideal ways of collecting and analysing data to the realities of work in the developing world? And what methods are best to use?

One method this course will explore is respondent-driven sampling (RDS). RDS is a relatively new sampling method that has been recognized and adopted by public health researchers as a promising alternative to sample hard-to-reach populations. This method is particularly useful for HIV biological and behavioral surveying where the application of probability-based sampling has limited capacity of generating representative samples of high risk populations.

This course will include a practical discussion on the technique of respondent driven sampling in the context of HIV/AIDS in the developing world, and other means of sampling, interviewing or observing people in the field to learn about one or many aspects of their health status, beliefs and behaviours. Protocols must be devised to reduce the risk of bias and in a way that is ethical. The course will reinforce your academic understanding, as well as teaching practical field techniques that can be applied in developing world settings, whether you are a manager, practitioner or researcher.

Audience

The course is suitable for individuals working in resource poor settings in health and HIV programs and is relevant to all kinds of health workers, including nurses, doctors, nutritionists, laboratory technicians, public health personnel and pharmacists, as well as academics, researchers, postgraduate students, program managers and social workers.

Syllabus

This course will develop participants’ competence in the basic quantitative and qualitative tools used to manage community-based primary health care programs, including needs assessments, planning and evaluation, health information collection and operations research in a developing country setting. Topics covered include:

- Rapid appraisal of community health needs
- Participatory evaluation of health programs
- Applied health research
- Sampling techniques used to sample hard to reach populations
- RDS specific formative research
- RDS theoretical concepts and methodology
- Elements needed to design an RDS study
- Management tools needed during data collection
- Essential data to collect for RDS analysis
- The RDSAT software and special techniques to code and format data files
- Developing a study protocol to conduct an RDS study in a hard-to-reach population
- Ethics in international field settings
Course Outcomes

The course outcomes are as follows:

- Recognise and apply qualitative field methods (observation, mapping, interviews, focus groups and participatory appraisal techniques)
- Describe the processes of good program planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Explain the importance and application of ethics considerations in relation to field research tasks
- Demonstrate an understanding of how global programs translate into local action and operations research
- Recognize the difference between probability and non-probability based sampling and describe the different sampling techniques used to sample hard to reach populations
- Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical and methodological principles that make RDS a probability based sampling method
- Explain the assumptions and requirements necessary to conduct an RDS study
- Define important theoretical concepts related to RDS and social network sampling
- Demonstrate the process of RDS specific formative research and explain and justify under what circumstances RDS can and cannot be used in a particular population/country
- Describe the elements (coupons, coupon numbering system, seed selection, study site location, etc) and management tools (forms for managing coupons and incentives, client checklist form, etc) necessary to conduct an RDS study and design those elements and tools into a protocol to conduct an RDS study among a hard-to-reach population
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages in using RDS to sample hard-to-reach populations
- Demonstrate an understanding about the RDS software that is available now (RDSAT 6.0) and describe its capacity and limitations
- Format and code data files that can be used in RDSAT and analyse RDS data using the partition and breakpoint analysis functions of RDSAT
- Understanding ethical issues in international health contexts

Approach

Course materials provided will include detailed course notes and a CD reference library with comprehensive supporting materials and tools. Course methods will include lectures, case studies, applied group work and post-training support.

About the Centres/Credits/Certificates

Curtin University of Technology, which has campuses in Australia and Asia, is one Australia’s largest and most diverse universities with international students comprising about 40% of its student body. The Centre for International Health has an excellent reputation for its Postgraduate Diploma, Masters, Doctoral and professional courses and consulting services in international health. If participants complete post-training assessment, academic credit will be granted in the Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and Doctoral programs offered by the Centre. For more information please contact the Secretariat. Certificates of participation will be provided to all participants.
Facilitators

Lisa Johnston  MA, MPH (California) PhD (Tulane)

Dr. Johnston received her Masters of Public Health from the University of California, Los Angeles and her PhD from Tulane University, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Lisa has worked in the field of Epidemiology for more than 13 years. Over the past five years, her area of focus has been providing supervision and training on using respondent driven sampling methods, HIV/STI biological-behavioural surveillance survey planning and implementation and data analysis using the RDS Analysis Tool in more than 25 countries throughout the world for the following organizations: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Global AIDS Program, Family Health International, Global Fund, World Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Vision, USAID and several universities and national ministries of health. She has authored several journal articles on using respondent driven sampling. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Tulane University, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and has affiliations at numerous other Universities.

She has been involved in RDS projects in the following countries: Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Eastern Caribbean States, El Salvador, Estonia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Montenegro, Nepal, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, The United States, Vietnam and Zambia.

She has written the official Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Global AIDS Program training manual for planning and implementing RDS and is currently writing a training manual for analysing data using RDSAT 6.0.1. Dr. Johnston is currently based in Amsterdam, Netherlands, with her husband and two cats.

Jaya Earnest  MA & BA (India), Grad Cert (Ed) (Bath), PhD (Curtin)

Dr Jaya Earnest is a science educator and sociologist who has worked for over 20 years with international and local organisations in India, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Australia. Jaya worked in Africa for 10 years and during this period developed an interest in HIV/AIDS and post-conflict societies. She is currently a Senior Lecturer and Doctoral program coordinator at the Centre for International Health, Curtin University and teaches postgraduate courses in international health, and undergraduate development studies .

A skilled vulnerability assessor, Jaya has carried out field research in the post-conflict societies of Uganda, Rwanda, Kosovo, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. Her focus is on the social, cultural, contextual and human dimensions of vulnerable populations in transitional countries (developing, protracted and post-conflict nations).

In Timor-Leste, she carried out a vulnerability assessment mapping (VAM) and migration survey for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in 2005/6. In early 2006, as team-leader and UNICEF consultant, she developed a vulnerability framework for children in communities affected by protracted conflict in the North and East Sri Lanka. Since 2004, she has been project supervisor supporting 5 research projects with 3 local NGOs in India mapping the vulnerability, stigma and discrimination faced by women living with HIV/AIDS.

In Western Australia, she was chief investigator on a Healthways project that examined the psychosocial well-being of adolescent refugee students in government schools in Western Australia. Jaya is currently involved in 3 large projects between 2008-2009 focusing on refugee youth in tertiary institutions and on a migrant community in Western Australia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday 3rd November</th>
<th>Tuesday 4th November</th>
<th>Wednesday 5th November</th>
<th>Thursday 6th November</th>
<th>Friday 7th November</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Discussion &amp; questions from first day</td>
<td>Discussion &amp; questions from second day</td>
<td>Discussion &amp; questions from third day</td>
<td>Discussion &amp; questions from fourth day</td>
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<td>9.00</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and participant introductions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Review agenda and training objectives&lt;br&gt;Sampling methods for high-risk groups in the communities: non-probability and probability based methods</td>
<td><strong>Organization of RDS:</strong> selecting study sites, seeds and field staff, designing coupons and developing questionnaires (LJ)&lt;br&gt;Sample size calculations (LJ)</td>
<td><strong>Data management and analysis:</strong> how to develop databases for RDS data management and use RDS Analysis Tool (RDSAT 6.0) (LJ)</td>
<td><strong>Qualitative methods:</strong> use of frameworks in field research&lt;br&gt;Part 1 - Vulnerability Assessment Framework (JE)&lt;br&gt;Part 2 - Psychosocial framework for populations in complex emergencies (JE)</td>
<td><strong>Quality of life indicators:</strong> human development reports&lt;br&gt;Practical Group Work:&lt;br&gt;• Use of quality of life indicators&lt;br&gt;• Creating scatter plots (JE)</td>
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<td>10.30</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<td><strong>RDS overview:</strong> overview of the principles, theories, assumptions and requirements of RDS&lt;br&gt;Flow of RDS study sites&lt;br&gt;Advantages and disadvantages of RDS (LJ)</td>
<td><strong>Implementation of RDS:</strong> recruiting participants; staff roles responsibilities; data management and documentation; controlling sample growth; ending RDS (LJ)</td>
<td><strong>Statistical analysis of RDS data (cont.)</strong> (LJ)</td>
<td><strong>Social Mapping</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Venn diagrams, transect walks, chappati diagrams, social maps, charts, wealth ranking)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Participatory Techniques:</strong> Participatory Rural Appraisal &amp; Rapid Ethnographic Assessment (JE)</td>
<td><strong>Ethics of field research</strong> (JE)</td>
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<td>1.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>3.30</td>
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<td><strong>Starting RDS (cont):</strong> survey objectives, inclusion criteria, seed selection, survey time-line (LJ)</td>
<td><strong>Group work (cont):</strong> sample size calculation, inclusion criteria, questionnaire development and HIV and STI tests (LJ)</td>
<td><strong>Group Presentations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group Work:</strong> Qualitative field methods, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, observations, participatory evaluation (JE)</td>
<td>Closing ceremony and distribution of certificates</td>
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<td>5.00</td>
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Course Location
The course will be held in Perth, Western Australia’s vibrant riverside capital. Perth has many advantages as a training venue. It is Australia’s closest city to Asia and Africa, situated only three hours from Indonesia, five hours from other South East Asian countries and nine hours from Africa with frequent and affordable air services to these continents. Perth city is located approximately 25 minutes from the international and national airports. It offers reasonably priced training, accommodation and recreation facilities. Safe and clean, it enjoys more hours of sunshine than any other Australian city and was voted the world’s friendliest city in 2002. Major tourist attractions, including beaches, national parks, wineries and historical regions, are situated on Perth’s doorstep, comfortably accessible by day tours. A sophisticated, yet casual city, there are museums, art galleries, parks, restaurants and a wealth of shops to explore. For a comprehensive guide to touring Perth and Western Australia visit www.westernaustralia.com

Course Venue
Building 405, Room 205
Curtin University of Technology
Kent Street, BENTLEY, 6102 Western Australia
T: +61 8 9266 3985    F: +61 8 9266 2608

Car Parking
As it is the end of semester at Curtin University, participants are able to park in the green student bays free of charge. There is also metered undercover visitor’s parking available. For the campus map, see: http://www.properties.curtin.edu.au/your_campus/maps/

Climate
November is spring in Perth. Perth enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with an average of 24-27C for November days and 12-15C at night.

Registration Acknowledgement
Your registration and payment will be acknowledged by email, confirming your requirements according to your registration form.

Cancellations and Refunds
Cancellations must be advised in writing to the Secretariat. Cancellations received prior to September 30 will receive a refund of registration fees, less an administration charge of $100AUD. After this date all refund requests will be subject to the discretion of the Secretariat. The Centre for International Health reserves the right to cancel the course if the minimum number of 20 participants is not reached.

Travel Information
Participants are responsible for their own accommodation and travel arrangements. A valid passport with a visa is required for all non-citizens of Australia. Visas can be applied for at any office of the Australian High Commission, Embassy or Consulate. It is strongly recommended that all participants take out adequate medical, travel and personal insurance prior to commencement of travel.
Accommodation

Please find below a selection of accommodation choices. Participants requiring accommodation are encouraged to book early to ensure room availability.

Participants will also need to organise transport from their chosen accommodation to the course venue (Building 405, Room 205, Curtin University, Bentley campus). Transperth, WA’s public transport system, has a Journey Planner available where details of the ‘from’ and ‘to’ addresses can be inputted and then a choice of routes is displayed. Please note, due to the significant size of the Bentley campus, it is best to nominate the ‘to’ address (using the Suburb box) as Curtin Bus Station (located on Hayman Road). The course venue is a short walk (north) from the bus station (see map on previous page). The Journey Planner is available from http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/Home/JourneyPlanner/tabid/56/Default.aspx

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**Esplanade River Suites**

112 Melville Parade  COMO  6152
Tel: +61 8 9367 0300     Fax: +61 8 9367 0388
Email: rm@esplanaderiversuites.com.au   Web: www.esplanaderiversuites.com.au

The Esplanade River Suites, Perth’s famous historic riverside landmark, comprises a range of superbly appointed fully self-contained studios. Only minutes from Perth CBD, and overlooking the beautiful Swan River, it is close to public transport, shops, a cinema and attractions such as the Perth Zoo, Swan River and South Perth foreshore.

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**YMCA Jewel House**

180 Goderich St  EAST PERTH  6000
Tel: +61 8 9325 8488    Fax: +61 8 9221 4694
Email: jewellhouse@ymca.org.au   Web: www.ymcajewellhouse.com.au

YMCA Jewell House offers safe, affordable budget accommodation right in the heart of the city. They provide all the necessary services for travellers including internet kiosk, tour information and bookings, and a café. Jewell House is close to public transport, nightlife, shopping, cinemas and the Swan River.

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**Goodearth Hotel Perth**

½  195 Adelaide Tce  PERTH  6004
Tel: +61 8 9492 7777    Fax: +61 8 9492 7749
Email: stay@goodearthhotel.com.au  Web: www.goodearthhotel.com.au

A full-service, apartment style hotel, the Goodearth Hotel is an easy walk to the Perth CBD. The hotel is located just 5 km from the Burswood International Casino, 12km from the Domestic Airport and 15km from the International Airport. The Goodearth Hotel takes in great views of the tranquil waters of the Swan River.

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**The Windsor Lodge Como**

3 Preston Street  COMO  6152
Tel: +61 8 9367 9177    Fax: +61 8 9474 1006
Email: windsorlodge@bigpond.com  Web: www.windsorlodge.com.au

The Windsor Lodge Como is only minutes away from many of Perth’s beautiful attractions, offering single, double, twin and triple rooms with all the amenities.
RDS & Field Methods in International Health
REGISTRATION FORM
3-7 November, 2008

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title (Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss)  Family Name  Given Name
Street Address  City/Town/Suburb
Post/Zip Code  State  Country
Telephone  Fax

Email (this will be our primary contact with you)

Special Dietary Requirements eg - vegetarian, coeliac (please specify)

OTHER DETAILS

Company/Organisation
Position
Brief description of current responsibilities

Describe briefly what you expect to gain from the course

REGISTRATION FEES & PAYMENT DETAILS

(Please tick appropriate box)

Early bird registration fees (closes 10 Oct 2008)  $1550 AUD (GST inclusive)
Normal registration fees (closes 17 Oct 2008)  $1650 AUD (GST inclusive)
Late registration (closes 24 Oct 2008)  $1750 AUD (GST inclusive)

Please register me for the following event which is available at no extra charge to course participants:
Closing Ceremony and Certificate Presentation (7 Nov)

*All payments must be in AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS only. Payments in other currency will not be accepted.

*Please make all bank cheques/drafts payable to Curtin University of Technology. (personal cheques will not be accepted)

Visa  Mastercard  (Please tick appropriate box)

Card Number  Card Expiry Date ____/____
Cardholder’s Signature

Send completed registration forms with payment to:
Secretariat, Centre for International Health
Curtin University of Technology
GPO Box U1987, Perth, 6845, Western Australia, AUSTRALIA
F: +61 8 9266 2608  E: cihevents@curtin.edu.au
Education Without Borders

Our Distance Education courses are flexible and tailored to meet the needs of professional candidates from diverse locations and backgrounds. They provide knowledge and skills relevant to practice in a broad range of international health settings.

A wide range of units are available including International Health and Primary Health Care, Maternal and Child Health, Ethics in International Health, Refugee and Migrant Health, STI/HIV, Ageing and International Nutrition. All of these units can be undertaken as part of a degree program or as an individual subject of interest.

Yes, I would like to receive further information on the following courses (please tick):

Graduate Certificate in International Health
Postgraduate Diploma in International Health
Master of International Health (coursework)
Master of Philosophy (International Health) (research)
Doctor of International Health/PhD
Extension units (complete a unit without enrolling in a degree)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title (Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss)
Family Name
Given Name
Street Address
City/Town/Suburb
Post/Zip Code
State
Country
Telephone (        )
Fax (        )
Email
Citizenship

Send request for information to:
Centre for International Health
Curtin University of Technology
GPO Box U1987, Perth, 6845
Western Australia, AUSTRALIA
F: +61 8 9266 2608
E: cih@curtin.edu.au
W: www.cih.curtin.edu.au

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