

PARTICIPANT BIOS

Kim Ashburn

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Kim Ashburn is a Social Scientist in the Health and Development Unit at the International Center for Research on Women where she works on a range of research projects in HIV/AIDS prevention with a gender perspective. Her research interests include exploration of factors in the social environment that influence HIV risk; the construct of women's empowerment; and qualitative research methods. Kim's work on micro-credit and HIV was conducted in the Dominican Republic.

Monica Biradavolu, PhD

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Monica Biradavolu is a Postdoctoral Associate at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at Yale University. For the past two and a half years, she has been involved in Project Parivartan, a Gates Foundation-funded multi-method research study based in Rajahmundry, in southern India that aims to understand both the process and impact of a community-led sex worker intervention to prevent HIV. Monica spent two years working in a team as the Lead Ethnographer at the Rajahmundry office, observing the day-to-day work – the struggles, successes and setbacks - of the implementing NGO and the birth and growth of a fledgling sex worker community-based organization. She also conducted in-depth interviews with sex workers, madams, brokers, clients, intervention staff, police and other actors who form a part of the sex trade. Monica recently returned to New Haven to resume work at the Yale office, focusing on data analysis and writing based on the two-year intense data collection efforts.

A sociologist by training, Monica is broadly interested in issues of development in India, and her dissertation research focused on an area where India is doing exceedingly well - the information technology industry - and the emergence and influence of transnational Indians. Monica's postdoctoral research has allowed her to view up-close another angle of India's development sector – the arena of public health – and its intersection with issues of gender, stigma, vulnerability and global funding for HIV/AIDS.

Kim M. Blankenship, PhD

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Kim Blankenship is a sociologist whose research and publications have focused on race, class, and gender analyses of law, public policy, and health. In particular, her health-related research examines the social context of risk-taking among women and drug users and its implications for HIV prevention policy, and analyzes the role of law and public policy in shaping HIV risk and transmission. She has also worked to develop a systematic approach to identifying and assessing structural interventions in public health generally and HIV in particular. Between 1991 and 1997 she conducted fieldwork among and, more recently, life history interviews with female sex workers in New Haven to understand better the factors (especially the social structural and

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contextual factors) that shape their drug-use and sexual behaviors. She has also been conducting research on the relationships among drug and social welfare policy, incarceration and policing, and race disparities in health. She is currently the PI on a research project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that analyzes the implementation and impact of a community led structural intervention to address HIV risk in sex workers (mobilizing sex workers to challenge structures of power that put them at risk). She is also the PI on a NIDA funded grant to analyze the impact of the criminal justice system in shaping HIV risk among drug users, and race and gender differences in these impacts. In all of this work, she is also interested to understand policy factors associated with changes in health-related social structures, institutions, and processes and their subsequent impact on individual behavior change and disease patterns.

Scott Burris, J.D.

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Scott Burris is a Professor of Law at Temple Law School, Associate Director of the Center for Law and the Public's Health at Johns Hopkins, and a member of CIRA's Law, Policy and Ethics Core. His work for many years has focused on how laws and legal institutions influence health. He is currently working on health governance, and in particular on developing strategies of governance that can promote health at the community level. Communities that can effectively adapt to stressors through collective action are likely to be healthier than those that cannot, all else being equal. Well-governed communities have a greater chance than others to individually or in cooperation with other communities influence the upstream forces that powerfully influence local conditions.

Flora Cornish, PhD

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Flora Cornish is a Lecturer in the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Community Health at Glasgow Caledonian University. Her background is in Social Psychology, with a PhD from the London School of Economics. Her research interests focus on community development approaches to improving public health. She is interested in how the social and structural context shapes health; community-led interventions to tackle these social determinants of health; and the social and structural shaping of community interventions themselves. She has a particular interest in partnerships between communities, voluntary sector organizations and state or private institutions - and how the shape of a community project is negotiated at the intersection of these three interest groups. Using qualitative and ethnographic methods, her research looks at the micro-social processes through which interventions function. She has a longstanding research engagement in the area of sex-worker-led HIV prevention in India, with current research aiming to understand the social conditions which facilitate effective community-led health promotion. In the UK context, she has a research interest in health inequalities and community interventions to tackle such inequalities.

Beth Osborne Daponte, Ph.D.

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Beth Osborne Daponte is a Senior Research Scholar with the Yale Institution for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS) and also holds appointments in the School of Management (Program on Non-Profit Organizations) and the Yale Center for International and Area Studies. Trained as a demographer/sociologist, she conducts research in three areas: Bayesian demography, welfare policy, and human rights. She has applied her work in Bayesian demography to the populations of South Africa, Lesotho, and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Her work on welfare policy focuses primarily on food assistance policies. She served as the vice-chair of the Technical Advisory Board for Second Harvest's national study "*Hunger in America 2001*." In the human rights arena, her research examines the impact of economic sanctions and war on populations, concentrating on Iraq. Dr. Daponte has received grants from the National Science Foundation, Joint Centers for Poverty Research, MacArthur Foundation, the Institute for Research on Poverty, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, the Forbes Fund, Greenpeace International, and the U.S. State Department. Her articles have appeared or are forthcoming in *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Poverty*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *PSR Quarterly*, *Jurimetrics*, *Regional Studies*, and the *Journal of Nutrition Education*. Currently, she has support from the Institute for Research on Poverty to examine the relationship between domestic obesity trends and food policy, from the National Science Foundation to examine U.S. census undercount, and from the Joint Centers for Poverty Research to examine the relationship between food security and food assistance policies.

Julia Dickson-Gomez, PhD

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Julia Dickson-Gomez, Ph.D. is a medical anthropologist at the Institute for Community Research with extensive field experience among urban high-risk groups, including substance abusers and commercial sex workers, and expertise in community-based research, HIV/AIDS prevention, substance abuse and ethnic minority communities. She is currently co-Investigator and Ethnographic Coordinator for two CIRA affiliated projects, one to train active drug users to disseminate HIV prevention interventions among their peers, and the other studying the long-term sustainability of female condom use in high risk women. She is also Principal Investigator of two NIDA funded projects. Housing Status/Stability among Active Drug Users explores the relationship between housing policies, housing status/stability and HIV risk among active drug users in Hartford CT. The purpose of the High Risk Crack Use Settings and HIV in El Salvador project conducted in collaboration with the Fundacion Antidrogas de El Salvador, and the Universidad Centroamericana Jose Simeon Canas is to conduct formative research on the social context of crack use and sexual risk taking in targeted communities in the San Salvador metropolitan area in order to develop and test the feasibility and acceptability of a multi-level HIV prevention intervention.

Dr. Dickson-Gomez has conducted extensive research in El Salvador studying structural factors related to war, violence, drug use and HIV. Her dissertation research was concerned with the psychosocial effects of war on families in a rural repopulated community in El Salvador. After receiving her Ph.D., she began training in HIV and drug use research as a post-doctoral fellow at

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Arizona State University. As part of this training, she conducted a pilot investigation on the drug use and sexual risk of Salvadoran immigrants, and was involved in analyzing ethnographic data from a peer led HIV prevention intervention among African American drug users, project SHIELD, in Baltimore, MD. She has also been involved as consultant in the design and analysis of a project funded by the United Nations Development Program studying the structural factors influencing the relationship between drugs and violence in El Salvador.

Shari L. Dworkin, PhD, MS

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Shari L. Dworkin is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Behavioral Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University in New York City and a Research Scientist at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at the New York Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology with special emphasis in masculinity and gender relations. Her areas of research link the ways in which gender inequalities and privileges shape HIV/AIDS risks. Some of her recent research focuses on gender, power, and how the distribution and control of economic resources in heterosexual relationships influences sexual relationship power and safer sex negotiations. In her current and future research, she seeks to further an understanding of the relationship between sexual and economic empowerment and desires to intervene on HIV/AIDS vulnerabilities through integrated microfinance and HIV/AIDS prevention programs. Her journal articles have appeared in the American Journal of Public Health, Gender & Society, Journal of Sex Research, AIDS and Behavior, the American Journal of Community Psychology, and more. She currently serves on the editorial boards of Social Problems and Gender and Society, is a Consulting Editor at the Archives of Sexual Behavior, and remains an active reviewer for several gender, sexuality, health, medical, and HIV/AIDS related journals. Given travels which offered the opportunity to examine the potential for MF/HIV collaborations, she is most invested in MF/HIV integrations in Vietnam, South Africa, and domestically.

Jason Globerman, BSc

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Jason Globerman is a Project Coordinator in the area of Community-Based Research at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) in Toronto, Canada. He received a Bachelor of Science degree with Highest Distinction from the University of Winnipeg and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Health.

Jason's research interests include global health - specifically the ways of providing universal access to health care and support systems for individuals in impoverished nations; gender inequality and how it can be overcome through the empowerment of women; and HIV as it relates to the social determinants of health. His current work involves the use of a microfinance intervention as a means of improving quality of life for low-income HIV-positive women from marginalized communities.

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In addition to this, Jason is an Advisor with the Canadian International Development Agency's Youth Challenge International where he oversees the development and implementation of a national HIV/AIDS project on barriers to accessing affordable medications. He is also an Associate Member of the Ontario Coalition for International Cooperation's HIV/AIDS Working Group, a Committee Member of the University of Toronto International Health Program's HIV/AIDS Strategy, and a Board Member with the Planned Parenthood of Toronto. Jason is also the Co-founder of the *Simunye Initiative*, a project created to raise awareness and funds, and elicit support for those battling HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

Sarah Hanck, MPH

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For the past two and a half years, Sarah Hanck has served as Project Manager for Project Parivartan, an interdisciplinary team of researchers analyzing community-led structural interventions for at risk populations, particularly sex workers, in India. She received her Masters in Public Health from Yale University with a focus on international HIV/AIDS policy. Her graduate level research focused on the evaluation of various HIV/AIDS programs in Malawi, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

Kristi McClamroch, PhD

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Kristi McClamroch is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University at Albany, SUNY. After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology at the University of Michigan, she completed a Doctorate of Philosophy in Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For her doctoral dissertation, entitled "Selecting Treatment Policies Using Decision Analytic Techniques: Applications to Epidemiology", she worked in Madagascar to develop national guidelines for treatment of sexually transmitted infections in Malagasy sex workers. After finishing her dissertation, she worked for one year as the Epidemiologist for the Global AIDS Program at the University of North Carolina. Currently, she is working with FOSREF, a Haitian NGO that provides services to sex workers, to develop HIV interventions focused on improving health and economic security. She is also leading a project to develop interventions for teens in Albany who are at high-risk of becoming involved in gangs.

Laura C. Nelson, PhD

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Laura Nelson is currently an assistant professor, and the associate chair, of the department of anthropology at California State University, East Bay. She has a PhD in cultural anthropology from Stanford University and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning, with a concentration in community economic development, from Berkeley. Outside of academia, she was a business consultant and trainer at a leading women's microenterprise program in the San Francisco Bay Area from 1994-1998. She then worked at MDRC, a social policy evaluation

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firm, from 1998 to 2002. She participated in a large team studying the implementation of 1996 welfare reform policies, and both helped to set-up and then evaluate pilot community-based employment programs. Her dissertation research, conducted in the 1990s in Seoul, South Korea on cultural changes associated with rapid economic development, is published as *Measured Excess: Status, Gender, and Consumer Nationalism in South Korea* (Columbia University Press, 2000). Her current research projects include the long-term follow-up of microenterprise program participants, and a project in South Korea looking at several recent, dramatic demographic changes and their effects on South Korean culture.

Jennifer Ruger, Ph.D.

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Dr. Ruger is an assistant professor at Yale University at the School of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Adjunct faculty at the Law School. She is Co-Director of the Yale-WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion, Policy and Research and faculty associate of Yale's Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS, and the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity. She received master's degrees from Oxford University and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a doctoral degree from Harvard University. Following a post-doctoral fellowship (Bell Fellowship) at Harvard's Center for Population and Development Studies, she served on the health and development satellite secretariat of WHO Director-General Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland's Transition Team. She then worked as a health economist at the World Bank and later served as Speechwriter to President James D. Wolfensohn. Previously she worked as one of two non-partisan Health Policy Analysts for Massachusetts Governor William Weld's Task Force on the Health Care Industry, Governor's Council on Economic Growth and Technology. She co-authored the Task Force Report with policy recommendations for health financing and insurance reform in Massachusetts. Her research interests focus in health economics and ethics on the political economy of health and include health financing and insurance; health, health systems, and economic development; the economic evaluation of addiction programs and emergency and humanitarian services; health and social justice; global health justice; and global health governance. These contributions are unified by an overarching interest in equity and disparities in health and health care, focusing on vulnerable and impoverished populations at the national and global level. She has published both theoretical and empirical work on equity and efficiency of health system access, financing, resource allocation, policy reform and the social determinants of health.

Dr. Ruger's work has been published in *Lancet*; *British Medical Journal*; *American Journal of Public Health*; *Quarterly Journal of Medicine*; *Academic Emergency Medicine*; *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities*; *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*; *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*; *Health Affairs*, *Value Health*, and *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*.

Cynthia Sanders, PhD, MSW

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Cynthia Sanders is Associate Professor of Social Work at Boise State University's School of Social Work and a Faculty Associate at the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis. She holds a doctorate in social work from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Utah. Her research interests focus on social policy and poverty and social and economic development with low-income women. Much of her research and writing has focused on microenterprise development in the United States. Her current research examines the role of economic and financial issues in intimate partner violence and includes evaluation of a community initiative that provides economic education, Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and economic advocacy services designed with the specific needs of women experiencing intimate partner violence in mind.

Dr. Sanders has a practice background in domestic violence, crisis intervention and adolescent substance abuse. She teaches in the areas of community practice, social welfare policy and research methods.

Paromita Sanyal, Ph.D. candidate

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PH.D. Candidate, Sociology, Harvard University

Paromita Sanyal is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University and has conducted extensive research in South Asia, using this region as a venue for examining her substantive interests in the sociology of development, gender, the intersections of culture and economic development, and non-profit organizations. Currently she is working with the Development Research Group at the World Bank on a project examining the nature of deliberative democracy in Southern India.

Susan Sherman, PhD

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Susan Sherman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology. She is a behavioral scientist and social epidemiologist. Dr. Sherman has published numerous articles on socioeconomic and individual-level risk behaviors of drug users. She has developed and evaluated social network, peer-outreach behavioral interventions with drug users both domestically and internationally. She has studied IDU dyads, social networks, gender differences in illicit drug utilization patterns and disease acquisition, and factors related to transition to injection drug use. She has also examined the effects of being involved in licit microenterprise on HIV risk behavior among women drug users. She utilizes both quantitative and qualitative methods in conducting research in the U.S., Thailand, Russia, and Pakistan.

Amy Smoyer, MSW, MPA

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Amy Smoyer has worked at CIRA since April 2003. She provides research and administrative support to the Law, Policy & Ethics Core and is the Project Coordinator for "Structures, Health and Risk among Parolees and Probationers" (SHARPP). She earned her MSW and MPA at Florida State University in 2001. While taking graduate classes at FSU, Amy worked as an intern for the staff of the Florida House of Representatives' Health and Human Services Council. Her final project for graduate school was an analysis of the public policy process around the development of harm reduction programs in Spain. Before going to graduate school, Amy lived in Miami Beach, FL, where she worked for the People With AIDS Coalition and Shelbourne House, Dade County's first supportive housing facility for people living with AIDS. In fall 2007, Amy will begin a PhD in Social Welfare program at CUNY/Hunter School of Social Work.

Dale Stratford, PhD
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Dale Stratford, PhD in Anthropology from the University of Florida in 1989; post-doctoral research on indigenous health care practices in Bolivia, Peru, Chile. Research on social organization of risk behavior for HIV infection in rural south Florida (1993-97) as a research adjunct at the University of Florida. Joined CDC in 1999, providing social science and evaluation expertise to community based organizations, health departments, and CDC staff; focus on qualitative research and evaluation methods, mixed methods research, and HIV prevention. Particular research interest & experience in rural US, incarcerated populations, women in poverty, microfinance, prevention with HIV positive persons, and improving evaluation of local HIV prevention programs.

Robb Travers, PhD
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Dr. Robb Travers is a Scientist and Director of Community-Based Research (CBR) at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN), a not-for-profit agency funded by the AIDS Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, whose mission is to optimize the quality of life of people living with HIV in Ontario and to promote excellence and innovation in treatment, research, education and prevention. Dr. Travers is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive program of CBR initiatives, as well as facilitating capacity-building for community-academic-policy partnerships in HIV research.

In addition, Dr. Travers is an Associate Research Scientist at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, and an instructor at the University of Toronto, where he completed his PhD, and currently teaches 'HIV/AIDS: Social Policies and Programs.'

In recent years, Dr. Travers has been a consistent contributor to the field of CBR through workshops, conference presentations, peer-reviewed papers, and an active research program. Dr.

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Travers developed and taught Canada's first undergraduate course in CBR in the Health Studies Program at the University of Toronto, and he maintains an active CBR research program addressing HIV vulnerability among gay men, youth, women, and transgender individuals; ethical issues in CBR; and research addressing greater and more meaningful involvement of people living with HIV (GIPA).

Brooke West, MA

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Brooke West is currently a Research Associate for Project Parivartan at CIRA. With Parivartan, she works primarily with cross-sectional survey data collected from sex workers in southern India. In 2006, she earned an MA in Sociology from Cornell University and her research focused on the relationship between women's work experiences and various dimensions of empowerment for women in India. In the fall of 2005, she worked with Women for Women International, an NGO in Washington, DC, conducting an evaluation of a program for men in the Democratic Republic of Congo aimed at reducing gender-based violence. During the summer of 2004, she worked as a visiting researcher at the Center for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) in India developing tools for future research on barriers to women's participation in local governance. In the fall of 2007, she will begin a PhD program in Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.