



WELCOME NOTE FROM CENTER:

Welcome to the 11th Newsletter from the Center for Social Science Research on AIDS (CeSSRA), a collaborative training and research center, with collaborators from Case Western Reserve University, Makerere University, the Joint Clinical Research Centre, and Mbarara University of Science and Technology, SABRES/IDI/SPH, among others. The CeSSRA office is always open Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm. It is located in Seminar Room 7 in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University main campus.

The center's aim is to train social scientists to carry out social science research on HIV/AIDS Collaboratively and also conduct a longitudinal study on the social context of HIV/AIDS treatment. Under the fellowship component, the Fellows are reviewing their individual mentoring plans and are concretizing their areas of research interest. They are currently participating in an ongoing research design course. Fellows continuously receive free-critique as they present their research work. This will enable them publish papers in scientific journals and prepare grantable proposals.

RECENT EVENTS:

CeSSRA held a short course on Social Science Research Methods on June 22-26, and was taught by Professors **William Dressler and Kathlyn Oths, from the University of Alabama**. The course was to primarily introduce the uses of social survey techniques in ethnographic research and look at how to process the data and basic statistical analysis.

The workshop that ran for five days was well attended with over 90 participants from different organizations and institutions, among which were; SABRES, IDI, Medical Research Council, Case Western Reserve University – Mulago, Makerere University Lecturers, Students, CeSSRA Fellows and Staff.



Professor Kathlyn Oths

Kathryn Oths (PhD Case Western Reserve, 1991) is a medical anthropologist with an area specialization in Latin America. Her interests include: comparative medical systems and treatment decision making; traditional and alternative healers, health beliefs, and health behaviors; reproductive health; gender, ethnicity, and health; and, public health. Her work has been conducted using a combination of traditional anthropological methods and quantitative research designs. Oths has carried out research on practitioner-patient interactions in a chiropractic clinic, health seeking behavior in highland Peru, the social value of food in Brazil, psychosocial factors in low birth weight in the southern United States, and domestic violence. She also recently co-taught an NSF Short Course in Research Methods on the topic of Survey Research. In 2005, Professor Oths won two awards from the University of Alabama. First, she won the Morris Lehman Meyer Award that is annually given to a faculty member who exhibits the highest standards of integrity and commitment to service to University and community life. Prof. Oths also received the 2005 College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board Outstanding Commitment to Students Award, bestowed on professors for their excellence in teaching.



Professor William Dressler

William W. Dressler (PhD Connecticut, 1978) is a biocultural anthropologist with interests in culture theory, community studies, research methods, and especially the relationship between culture and human biology. His recent work emphasizes concepts and methods for examining the health effects of individual efforts to achieve culturally-defined goals and aspirations. Dressler and colleagues have examined these factors in settings as diverse as urban Great Britain, the Southeast U.S., the West Indies, Mexico, and Brazil. Dressler has been recognized in various ways for his research, including: the Stirling Award of the Society for Psychological Anthropology in 1979; he was named a University Research Fellow of The University of Alabama (1984-1986); in 2000 Prof. Dressler was the John P. Kirscht Distinguished Lecturer, School of Public Health, University of Michigan; in 2002 he received the University of Alabama's Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award; and, in 2005 he was named a College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Board Faculty Fellow. His research has been funded by both the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

The aim of this short course was to introduce researchers to the uses of social survey techniques in ethnographic research. Among the topics discussed was:

- survey research design
- sampling strategies
- linking ethnographic and survey data
- construction of interview schedules
- interviewing techniques in survey research
- training interviewers
- data quality control
- coding and entering data
- data analytic strategies for survey data.

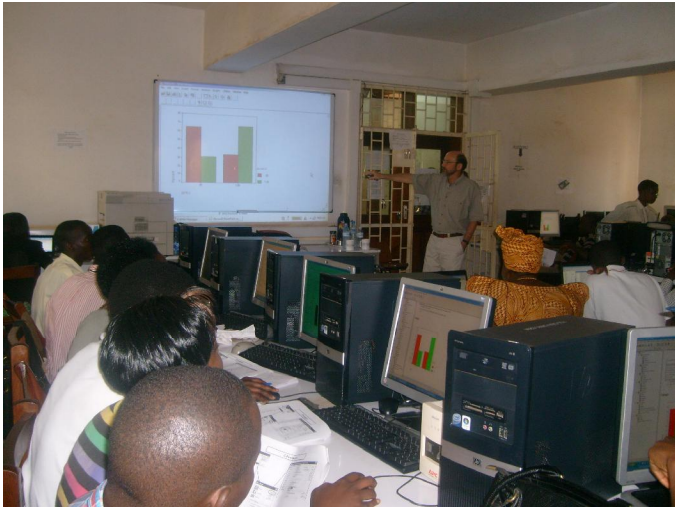
The training was divided into theory and practical sessions.

On the first day, the participants were taken through hypotheses and overview of research design; while integrating qualitative and quantitative data in research design was done on the second day.



participants during one of the sessions

Day 3 & 4 were practical with Questionnaire construction and; Data management and basic statistical analysis.



Professor William Dressler during the practical session held in the computer lab at the faculty of social sciences

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

An annual conference was held by USHS between 10th and 12th June 2009 at the Golf course Hotel, Kampala.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. CeSSRA shall hold a conference call on 10 July 2009 and discuss the agenda, format and other details entailing the proposed CAB-IRB workshop which is tentatively set for November 2009.
2. The harmony call for SABRES and CeSSRA will be held on 16th July 2009.
3. A dissemination workshop will be held by SABRES on 17th July 2009.
4. The Annual African Regional Course in Research Methods in Reproductive Health & HIV/AIDS is to be held between 3rd and 28th August 2009. For more details visit their website on: <http://www.rhru.co.za>
5. CeSSRA is to hold public lectures in September 2009 and these will be facilitated by Dr. Stella Alamo of Mbuya

outreach and Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze. Other details will to be communicated later.

6. Manuscript writing workshop will be held in September 2009, organized by USHS. Dates are to be communicated later.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://www.case.edu/artsci/anth/CeSSRA.html>