

THE HEALTH ECONOMICS AND HIV AND AIDS RESEARCH DIVISION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL INVITES YOU TO A WEBINAR

TOPIC →

EXPLORING THE INFLUENCE OF INTERSECTIONAL STIGMA ON UPTAKE AND RETENTION IN ART PROGRAMMES FOR SELECTED YOUNG KEY POPULATIONS IN MALAWI, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE



DATE
TUESDAY, 15 AUGUST 2023

TIME
10H00-11H00 (CAT)

PLATFORM
ZOOM

MEETING ID: 9519105 8690
PASSCODE: 558944

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SPEAKER



MR RUSSELL ARMSTRONG

SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER: HEALTH ECONOMICS AND HIV/AIDS RESEARCH DIVISION

Russell Armstrong is a senior research officer at HEARD. Since joining HEARD in 2017, he has led multi-country research projects in the African region on a range of topics, including access to HIV treatment, human rights, young key populations, and organisational development for advocacy for global health. He is also a senior technical consultant with a 20-year track record of supporting human rights and key population programming for governmental and non-governmental stakeholders across the African continent.

SPEAKER

DR PATRICK NYAMARUZE

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW: HEALTH ECONOMICS AND HIV/AIDS RESEARCH DIVISION

Patrick Nyamaruze recently earned his PhD from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is currently completing a post-doctoral fellowship at HEARD. His areas of specialisation include adolescent sexual and reproductive health, gender and sexual diversity, mental health and health promotion research



ABOUT THE WEBINAR

Across the southern African region, individuals from key populations, particularly young men who have sex with men (MSM) and young transgender women, have become priorities for HIV programming, including those already living with HIV. These efforts unfold in a context where the risks of stigma, discrimination and violence remain acute, however, based on sexual orientation, gender identity and health status, and where little is known about the influence of these stigmas on uptake and retention on anti-retroviral treatment (ART) and other health outcomes. This mixed-methods research project explored the influence of stigma on uptake and retention on ART for young HIV-positive MSM and transgender women in three settings (Malawi, Zambia and Zambia) drawing on the emerging concepts in stigma research of intersectionality and intersectional stigma, among others. The results show that intersectional stigma remains a potent influence in the lives of these young people as they seek to live out their diverse identities and to embrace themselves as people living with HIV in harsh and marginalising socio-political contexts. The risks to ART adherence remain high for many in this group as the burden of intersectional stigma exerts a strongly negative influence on their mental, spiritual and emotional health. There is an absence of robust programming in the region to address this burden, although many young participants had managed to build up their coping and resilience strategies to protect themselves and to sustain their commitment to ART.

The research project is a joint initiative of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the University of Zambia, the University of Zimbabwe and the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (Blantyre, Malawi). The project is funded through the HIV Special Fund Round III administered by the Southern African Development Community.