

From: [Hudes, Estie](#)
Subject: Methods Core seminar in April WED 11-12:30 4/18/2012 - Drs. Camlin, Lippman, Kang Dufour and Shade
Date: Thursday, April 05, 2012 11:36:55 AM

If you are coming from outside CAPS, please make sure you read the information at the end of this message. Please make sure you RSVP to Estie Hudes ahead of time.

Dear Methods Core seminar participants,

Our April seminar will take place in less than two weeks. **Please note the special day and time!**

Topic: "Strengthening Causal Inference in HIV Prevention Studies:

Introduction and Practical Examples"

Presenters: Carol Camlin, PhD

Sheri Lippman, PhD

Mi-Suk Kang Dufour, PhD

Starley Shade, PhD

UCSF / CAPS

Time & Place: **Wednesday, April 18, 11-12:30**

McKusick Conference room

50 Beale Street, 13th floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

Abstract:

- "Did our clinic-based HIV prevention intervention result in reduced risk behavior among HIV-positive individuals?"
- Are decreases in HIV acquisition rates a result of behavior change, or other factors?
- Does providing home-based HIV counseling and testing reduce people's risk behavior?
- What services are needed to support people's retention in care?
- Given the characteristics of my population, how much can I realistically expect an intervention to change health?
- If I have limited resources, which risk factor should I focus on in my population?"

Simple cause-and-effect questions such as these are the motivation for much research in HIV prevention and care, but there are numerous challenges to establishing whether the criteria for causality have been met. This seminar provides an overview of the causal inference approach applied to questions in HIV research, for researchers who are unfamiliar with this approach. We will review the criteria for causality, and discuss common roadblocks to meeting these criteria: for example, biases that emerge in sampling, systematic differences between study arms, loss to follow up, incomplete implementation of interventions, and incomplete participation. We review how some of the methods most frequently

used in causal inference approaches can be used to address these issues, and then provide two concrete examples of their use: methods used to adjust for differences in baseline characteristics and loss to follow up in the "Prevention with Positives" study in San Francisco, and population intervention models used to interpret the effects of the "SHAZ!" Economic livelihoods project for adolescent orphan girls in Zimbabwe.

Short combined bio: Carol Camlin, Sheri Lippman, Mi-Suk Kang Dufour and Starley Shade are all researchers affiliated with the Center for AIDS Prevention studies. While their research covers a range of areas within the field of HIV prevention, each of them has worked to implement causal inference based methods their work in both domestic and international settings including South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania..

Hope to see many of you at this presentation,

--Estie

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CAPS address is 50 Beale Street, Suite 1300. The building is between Market and Mission.

Directions to 50 Beale Street can be found at

<http://caps.ucsf.edu/about/directions-parking/>

Please also note that our building has very tight security; in order to be provided with visitor passes, you will need to RSVP to me, preferably at least 2 days before the seminar. If you are even considering attending the seminar, please do RSVP, so your name will be left with the security stuff at the main building entrance.

RSVP to [Dr. Estie Hudes](#)

The CAPS Methods Core activity can now be checked directly on the website:

<http://caps.ucsf.edu/about/structure-cores/methods-core/>

Materials from recent seminars are put on the website. You can go directly to

<http://caps.ucsf.edu/about/structure-cores/methods-core/methods-core-seminars/>

for seminar announcements and past seminars materials. The information is being updated regularly.

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