



**5th Annual UWC HIV-in-Context Research Symposium:
URBANISATION, INEQUALITY AND HIV
Cape Town, March 13-15, 2013**

Overview of programme:

Briefing for presenters, facilitators and key participants

The programme opens by outlining key concepts which will be used during the two days, laying out some of the debates in the relevant fields and proposing a shared set of working definitions to facilitate productive interaction among participants. This is followed by locating the issues of urbanisation, inequality and HIV within a context of globalisation, identifying the impacts this has on the wellbeing of people in South Africa and the region.

Using Cape Town as a starting point for raising more general issues and informing discussion, the city is introduced on the first evening through a panel presentation on “Persistent patterns of the past: The challenges of health, social and economic inequalities in urban Cape Town”. Open to the public, this event will review the history of urbanisation and inequality in Cape Town, the roles disease and health have played in this, as well as the current challenges faced by the city in providing decent spaces, and conditions for all. This is deepened the next morning with more detailed accounts of the nature and extent of urbanisation, inequality and HIV in Cape Town. After this, five focussed commissions will offer participants opportunities to engage with issues that are, by their nature, inter-sectoral and cross-cutting. After introductory presentations, participants will be invited to offer their expertise while building the richer understanding that these kind of inter-sectoral exchanges can produce. Framed by the concepts of urbanisation, inequality and HIV, the commissions’ themes are as follows:

- **People on the move: Ensuring continuity of care** – what it would take for the South African health system to enable continuity of care across services and spaces - for various mobile populations.

- **Falling between the cracks. The challenges of inter-sectoral action for health** - what promotes and undermines inter-sectoral action for health – and what are the mechanisms for preventing people falling through the cracks between sectors and services.
- **Urban contexts: Spaces of vulnerability and opportunity** – what it would take for the urban areas in which the poor in South Africa live to become health promoting spaces for all the people who live in, and move through, them.
- **Politics of participation and representation** - what it would take for the political and social provisions intended to eradicate inequality to achieve this, with particular reference to what can be done at local level.
- **What is a dignified urban settlement, and how do we get there – in the absence of a national vision?**

On the second day there will also be interactive presentations of posters by emerging researchers and practitioners – which are on the related themes of

- urban inequality and the burden of HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases;
- service delivery and quality of care within the context of urban poverty;
- access to health services for migrant and mobile populations; and
- vulnerability and HIV prevention and care in urban settings.

On the last day, we will collectively summarise the challenges that have been identified, review the utility of the initial shared understanding of key concepts, and begin to develop strategies for taking the commissions' deliberations further in each of our areas of work.

Developing researchers and agendas

The symposium will be flanked by two workshops for researchers. On the day before the symposium, emerging researchers and others presenting posters are offered the opportunity to hone their presentation skills with the assistance of experienced scholars. On the afternoon after the midday end of the symposium, those wishing to develop research, policy and intervention agendas related to and /or arising from the deliberations will be invited to meet.

Target audiences

The primary audience for this symposium is **experts from academia, government and civil society who are interested in working inter-sectorally** in the broadly defined fields of urbanisation, inequality and HIV. Facilitators will ensure that this quite high-level engagement is accessible to **all participants**, however.

Emerging researchers, practitioners are the secondary audience and will be profiled in the poster programme.

Presentations

While presenters will speak on their areas of expertise (and sometimes present papers already written), they will be asked to consider their data and ideas in the light of urbanisation, inequality and HIV.

Commissions

The five 'commissions' are intended to engage participants in key issues within the framing theme of the symposium –in ways that are not simply high level politics or detailed technicist responses, but rather which grapple with the ways in which inter-sectoral actions can improve and can contribute to addressing the pervasive inequalities and divisions undergirding the social, health and HIV crises in South Africa.

Each will start with a **sub-plenary** which will provide ideas for a subsequent discussion. As with general presentations, each presenter will be asked to consider their data and ideas in the light of urbanisation, inequality and HIV.

Although each commission will be pitched at a particular social dimension or level of these interconnected issues (e.g systems, people, or politics) within each we hope to address

- systems (local, inter-sectoral, macro); and
- services (delivery by government and civil society); and
- spaces (including social determinants as these are manifest in the physical and social environment); and
- stories (case studies, experiences, people).

Our emphasis on urbanisation – rather than “urban health” – signals our desire to problematise fixed divides (such as between “urban” and “rural”, “migrants” and “locals”) and examine processes and dynamics, in particular the movement of people within, between, to and from “urban” spaces, and the relationships engendered between people and places by these processes. Hence, we will address various kinds of mobile populations, including people who move across borders and who move internally.

The commissions are as follows.

Commission #1: People on the move: Ensuring continuity of care

The main question asks ***what it would take for the South African health system to enable continuity of care across services, spaces and its own organisational divisions - for various people and populations on the move.***

This commission will start by summarising why continuity of care is an issue in the context of HIV and what the current challenges are with respect to systems, services and patients. It will include a description of systems (both local and abroad) which attempt to address continuity of care and what the mechanisms and ingredients for success may be (including patient-held records, budgeting and referral across districts and provinces, information systems, quality of care etc).

Working with a realistic frame of what is possible, the commission will then address the main questions of what it would take for the South African health system to enable continuity of care across services and spaces - for various kinds of mobile populations.

Commission #2: Falling between the cracks. The challenges of inter-sectoral action for health

The main question here is ***what promotes and undermines inter-sectoral action for health – and what are the mechanisms for preventing people falling through the cracks between sectors and services.*** This commission will look at these issues through the case of children – ***with the more focused questions being what would it take for children living in poor, high density urban areas and in the context of HIV to have a proper chance of being healthy and realising their potential.*** What are the major obstacles to this and how are the various provisions and institutions in South Africa, intended to secure the fullest wellbeing of economically and socially vulnerable children, held accountable for their mandates?

The emphasis here is on how systems, services, spaces and people collude to support or neglect children from early childhood development through to the social and health challenges of adolescence.

Commission #3: Urban contexts: Spaces of vulnerability and opportunity

The main question asks ***what it would take for the urban, urbanising, or “rural slum” areas in which the poor in South Africa live to be health promoting spaces for all people who live in, and move through, them.***

We will examine the social determinants which make many settlements particularly unhealthy places, while simultaneously being seen as places of opportunity. The reasons for the high HIV prevalence in informal settlements - double the average urban levels - will also be considered. A focus on three informal and formal high density areas will facilitate reflections on successful and unsuccessful efforts at inter-sectoral action for health.

Commission #4: Politics of participation and representation

The main question asks ***what it would take for the political and social provisions intended to eradicate inequality to achieve this, with particular reference to what can be done at local level.*** The commission will look at the interplay of social actors, noting the ways in which national, provincial and local politics affect local processes as well as the roles of those who provide the services, and focussing particularly on the ways in which civil society and local communities participate and are represented in the local issues that affect them.

This commission pays particular attention to the complex interfaces between the various social actors involved; at how various levels of politics are enacted and how local communities engage in initial and ongoing development processes, particularly with those providing the services in the area. In so doing it will review the complexities of community participation, as well as community mobilization within the post-1994 democratic era.

Commission #5: What is a dignified urban settlement, and how do we get there – in the absence of a national vision?

This commission addresses the same main question as in commission #4 – namely ***what it would take for the political and social provisions intended to eradicate inequality to achieve this, with particular reference to what can be done at local level*** – but approaches it from a planning point of view. It will review planning processes and interests to ascertain how these might and do, or do not, promote healthy people and communities – from the point of view of urban planners and from residents who are taking on issues in their own area.

As the title suggests it will investigate what the norms of a dignified urban settlement might be and, crucially, how do we get there – in the absence of a national vision? Taking integrated planning and budgeting as a starting point, it will review the challenges of inter-sectoral collaboration, as well as enquire about ways in which planning might comprehensively address the integrated nature of health and wellbeing. What are the assumptions regarding the kinds of spaces and systems which might best promote this, and how might these be prioritised, both during the process of design as well as in the resulting infrastructure and systems that are developed? Why are these concerns not paramount – and when they are, do they work? Among others, it will look at the ways in which budgets and services are organised and how spaces have been allocated. In commenting on the ways in which inequality and poorly developed urban areas affect health and wellbeing, then, it will look at the tensions between poor “local” and poor “migrant” people and populations; as well as at strategies of resilience, including the dependency on interpersonal relationships.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Tuesday 12 March

	POSTER PROGRAMME : DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORING
12h00 – 13h00	Registration and light lunch
13h00 – 17h00	Workshop: Emerging researchers: Capacity development

DAY ONE (Wednesday 13 March)

12h00 – 13h00	Registration and light lunch
13h00 – 13h30	Introduction
13h30 – 14h45	Opening panel (plenary) Urbanisation, Inequality and HIV - key concepts
14h45 – 16h00	Panel (plenary) Urbanisation, Inequality and HIV - in the context of globalisation
16h00 – 16h30	Tea
16h30 – 18h00	Public lecture: panel Persistent patterns of the past: The challenges of health, social and economic inequalities in urban Cape Town
18h00 -	Cocktail / finger supper

DAY TWO (Thursday 14 March)

8h30 – 9h00	Registration
9h00 – 10h30	Panel (plenary) Cape Town – a lens
10h30 – 11h00	Tea
11h00 – 12h30	Poster presentations
12h30 – 13h30	Lunch
13h30 – 15h00	Commissions: Sub-plenaries Commission #1: People on the move: Ensuring continuity of care Commission #2: Falling between the cracks. The challenges of inter-sectoral action for health Commission #3: Urban contexts: Spaces of vulnerability and opportunity Commission #4: Politics of participation and representation Commission #5: What is a dignified urban settlement, and how do we get there – in the absence of a national vision?
15h00 - 15h30	Tea
15h30 – 17h30	Commissions: Group work

DAY THREE (Friday 15 March)

9h30 – 11h30	Plenary: Reportbacks from commissions
11h30 – 1200	Tea
11h30 – 13h15	Plenary: Synthesis and Wrapping up
13h15 -	LUNCH and departure
	Optional: DEVELOPING RESEARCH AGENDAS.
14h30 - 17h00	Meetings to develop ways forward