



TRAUMA & GLOBAL HEALTH BULLETIN

june 2008

<http://www.mcgill.ca/trauma-globalhealth/>

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features

→ second management committee meeting brings together three continents



Clockwise from left: Duncan Pedersen, Jacques Tremblay, Victor Lopez, RP Sapkota, Tamsyn Farr, Laurence Kirmayer, Suman Fernando, Chamindra Weerackody, Consuelo Errazuriz, Marina Piazza, Olga Naiberguer & Bhogendra Sharma

From April 27-28, 2008, members of the Trauma and Global Health Program's management committee from Canada, Guatemala, Peru, Nepal, and Sri Lanka came together for their annual meeting in Montreal. Over the course of the two-day meeting, team

leaders from each country presented progress reports on the past year's activities, as well as their workplans and budgets for the upcoming year. Ibrahim Daibes, IDRC program manager, was in attendance for the first day of the meeting. The Committee also received Dr. Stan Kutcher from the International Psychiatry Section and WHO Collaborating Centre at Dalhousie University, who spoke on mental health training models in low and middle-income countries. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Thomas Brown from the Douglas Hospital Research Centre on advances in brief intervention protocols.

→ advanced study institute takes on peace, conflict & reconciliation

Every year, the Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry brings together some of the world's top minds for a weeklong study of current issues in cultural psychiatry. This year's Institute, titled *Peace, Conflict & Reconciliation: Contributions of Cultural Psychiatry*, was no exception. From April 29 - May 2, 2008, participants met at the Institute of Family and Community Psychiatry to address the relevance of cultural psychiatry for understanding conflict resolution, reconciliation, and the rebuilding of communities that have endured prolonged conflict and political violence. Workshops were held for a group limited to 25 participants for the first two days, followed by a two-day public conference. For more information on this year's program, please visit: <http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/advanced/>



Trauma & Global Health team members at the ASI
From left: Suman Fernando, Laurence Kirmayer, Consuelo Errazuriz, Duncan Pedersen, Bhogendra Sharma, Chamindra Weerackody, Jaswant Guzder, Victor Lopez.



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Fellows' Notes: Montreal

Montreal is a stimulating, active city. When I wasn't studying, participating in classes, meetings, discussions or parties, I was sightseeing. McGill University had a powerful presence, with its old, grey buildings in the heart of the city. Montreal's ethnic and social diversity was particularly fascinating – it reminded me of Sri Lanka, which also has a strong social class structure primarily based on economy. The architecture of the city with old buildings and famous circular staircases, the tulips, lilacs and apple flowers, the bus driver who rhythmically shouted the names of each stop on Sherbrooke street, the bike ride in La Fontaine park that left me with a scar under my chin, Mount-Royal park and the old man who laughed at me, panting as I climbed the steps, how silly I felt when I said something in surprise seeing the short skirts of some women on Saint Catherine street in the middle of a freezing cold night, and the islands on the west side with greens and blues that stood in contrast to the rusty, grey bridge: all of these things added such different flavors to my experience of Montreal.

- Udeni Appuhamilage, TGH Fellow, Sri Lanka

features

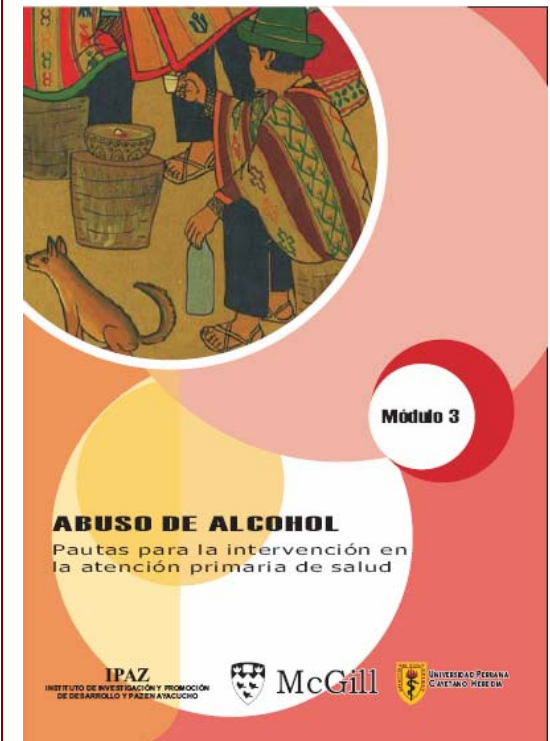
→ making room for mental health in the highlands



Trauma & Global Health team members Marina Piazza (left) and Duncan Pedersen (right) with Congresswoman Hilaria Supa Huamán (centre)

congresswoman requested copies of the six-module series focused on community mental health among Andean populations. According to Trauma & Global Health team member Dr. Duncan Pedersen, this represents an invaluable opportunity to “open a strategic space to work in mental health among Quechua-speaking populations in the Andean region, as well as to contribute to a bill aimed at curbing excessive alcohol consumption in Peru.” Congresswoman Hilaria Supa Huamán is the first parliamentarian in Peruvian history to take the oath in an indigenous language and is a prominent human rights activist.

Mental health training for physicians in the Peruvian highlands may be just around the corner, thanks to Quechua Congresswoman Hilaria Supa Huamán and training materials produced by a joint initiative between the Douglas Hospital Research Centre and UPCH-FASPA. In February, the



Module 3: Alcohol Abuse is part of the training series requested by Congresswoman Hilaria Supa



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Fellows' Notes: Montreal

My journey to Canada started on 24th of April from Nepal. I arrived in Montreal a little anxious and tired, but the fresh air of Montreal and the warm welcome from the Program Manager of the TGH program made me feel as fresh as the morning dew. Participating in the workshop and the conference on Peace Building, Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation was an outstanding experience. I got the opportunity to see the distinguished people in the field present their work and to learn from them. Following that, I participated in the summer course at the Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry. The workshop, the conference and the summer course, all, have helped broaden my way of seeing things and issues. While I am also confused about how am I going to put this knowledge into practice, I am happy because this confusion will help me explore further.

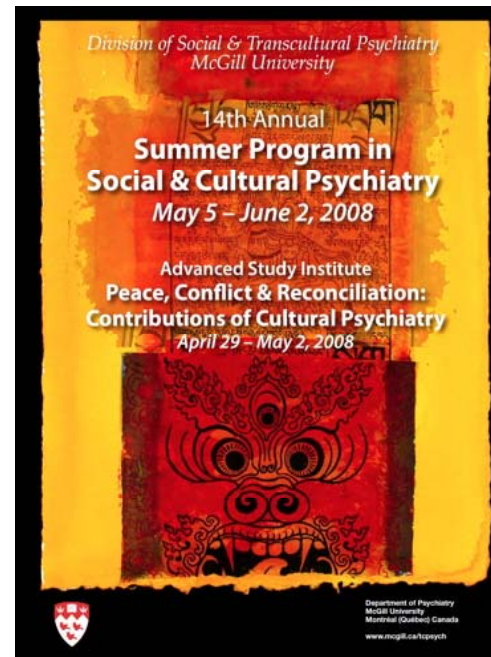
- R.P. Sapkota, TGH Fellow,
Nepal

in brief

→ rethinking trauma at McGill

In May 2008, McGill team members Dr. Duncan Pedersen and Dr. Laurence Kirmayer presented a critical introduction to current issues in psychological trauma to a class of 24 students. Aimed at rethinking basic research, clinical, and public health issues in international mental health, the course was part of the 14th Annual Summer Program in Social and Cultural Psychiatry. For more information on the McGill Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry's summer program, please visit:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/summer/>.



→ TGH team members publish in *Social Science & Medicine*

Trauma and Global Health Program team members Duncan Pedersen, Jacques Tremblay, Consuelo Errazuriz, along with Jeffrey Gamarra, are publishing their article, "The sequelae of political violence: Assessing trauma, suffering and dislocation in the Peruvian highlands" in a forthcoming issue of *Social Science & Medicine* (Volume 67, Issue 2). The article discusses the results of a study conducted between 2001 and 2003 that used a mixed qualitative and quantitative approach to investigating psychological trauma in Peru.



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what's new?

Have something to share with the rest of the team? Send your news and feedback to Ms. Consuelo Errazuriz:

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calendar

→ October 2008

New International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights

Pune, India

We are pleased to announce the first one year International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights. Developed by WHO MIND in collaboration with the ILS Law College, the course will be launched in October in Pune, India. Based on WHO materials and tools, the Diploma provides students with the opportunity to develop essential knowledge and expertise in the area of mental health, human rights and law in order to effectively advocate for improved conditions for people with mental disabilities. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.mentalhealthlaw.in/index.html>

