

## **HIV/AIDS & Reproductive Health Signature Research Area Group Brown Bag on Social Science Training and Research (STAR) Partnership**

Sociomedical Sciences is home to the **Social Science Training and Research (STAR) Partnership** – an NICHD-funded social science research capacity-building project which represents a five-year collaboration between faculty at Mailman (primarily though not exclusively in SMS) and researchers at some of Vietnam’s leading research institutions.

The overall objective of the STAR partnership is to create a national center of excellence in social science approaches to the study of HIV prevention, treatment, and care in Vietnam. HOWEVER, even if you are not an HIV-research person there are many ways in which the STAR partnership could potentially serve as a platform through which to develop research collaborations. A very densely populated country with one of the world’s highest abortion rates, as well as intense rural-urban migration and economic changes which have the country on track to leave behind ‘developing country’ status as early as 2020, Vietnam provides exciting contexts for population research—and we are committed to providing infrastructural support to help develop collaborations between Columbia faculty and our Vietnamese colleagues.

At this CPRC-sponsored brown bag, Jennifer Hirsch (STAR PI) will present an overview of the STAR partnership, and Theo Sandfort will present an overview of the data set from Vietnam’s recently completed first-ever population-based survey on sexuality (for which he provided some input on the instrument development). Drs. Khat Thu Hong and Le Bach Duong, our colleagues at Institute for Social Development Studies in Vietnam who led the survey project, will be in New York visiting SMS in October, and they will be available to meet with faculty interested in collaborating with them on writing grants to do secondary analysis on this data set—or to discuss other potential projects.

Our Vietnamese co-PI, Dr. Le Minh Giang, is an extraordinarily talented young medical anthropologist-physician working in the area of masculinity, sexuality and economic change. In the time we have been working with Giang we have begun to develop a strong network of potential collaborators, including investigators in the area of adolescent health, migration, drug use and HIV, and many other areas.

April 21, 2009  
1:00-2:00pm  
Room 923, Allan Rosenfield Building  
722 West 168th Street