

ES Seminar

Tebo Kgosiemang, MA Proposal presentation



"Sexual Reproductive Health Education: First Line of Defence for Adolescent Girls in Gaborone"

Abstract – In a country where HIV/AIDS poses a threat to young women, high rates of teenage pregnancy in Botswana are constructed as a social ill to be treated with proper government policies designed to prevent it. Most academic research examining underage teenage pregnancy also pathologizes this phenomenon, not accounting for the socio-cultural factors that affect the girls they portray as voiceless. Looking at the issue from the girls' perspective will help reveal the underlying social and cultural factors that are needed to

understand the phenomenon. This study will use feminist ethnographic research methods which focus on the narratives of the girls to give them a platform to express how they define themselves within this phenomenon. Taking on the role of participant observer will help establish a relationship that will enable access to the lives of the girls, and how they navigate their circumstances, along with how they are perceived in the public eye. In this way, new theoretical insights, comparative significance and policy relevance will be uncovered which may better aid future prevention programs.

Annette Penny, MA Proposal presentation

Abstract – This research proposes using Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE) as a tool to analyze the performance of several buildings on the Ben Gurion University main campus. Around the world, the building sector accounts for over one-third of total energy consumption globally, providing a great potential for minimizing resource consumption and pollution with improved building practices. The idea of Green Building (GB) has increased in popularity in recent years due to its demonstrated ability to reduce energy and water consumption, provide improved working and living spaces, and its potential for mitigating and reducing carbon emissions worldwide. GB strategies vary greatly according to climate, culture, available resources, building function, and project budget, yet the idea behind GB is to reduce one's negative impact on the surrounding environment while improving the lives of the users in an economically feasible manner. Considering the wide variety of GB standards around the world (over 600 different standards exist today), architects and planners utilize a wide variety of strategies to design healthy buildings and useful spaces. However, due to design malfunctions, human error, budget constraints, and other issues, poorly functioning buildings are still being built on a regular basis. This study aims to use POE to explore the user experience within older and more recently built buildings on the BGU main campus in Beer Sheva.