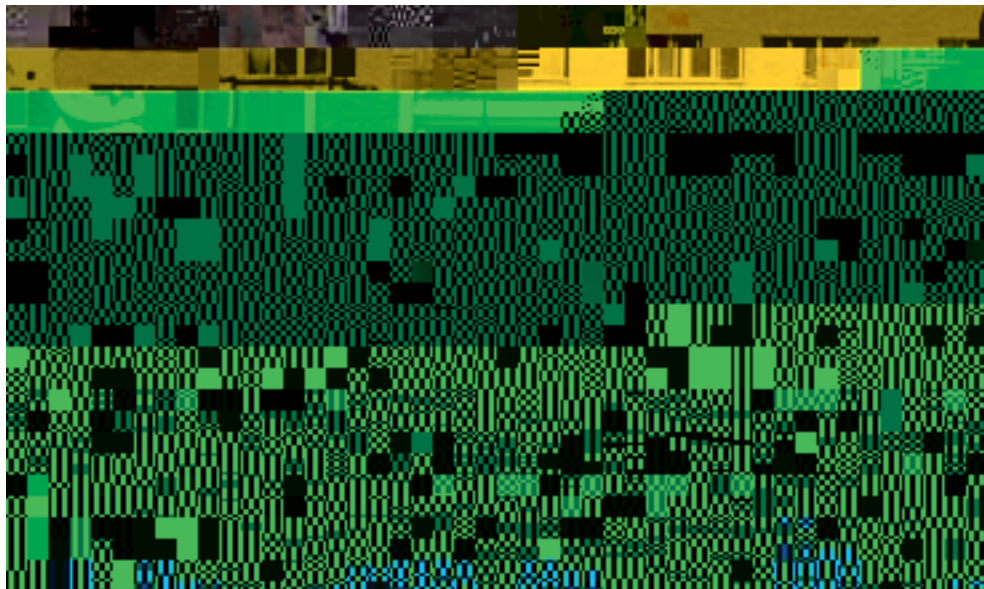




## features

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**Course participants and facilitators in Nepal**

The *Third International Course on Trauma and Global Health* was held from March 3 to 9, 2009, as part of the capacity building objective of the Trauma & Global Health Program in Nepal. The course sought to develop a broader understanding of psychological trauma, social and cultural psychiatry, and met an important need in Nepal, where decades of armed conflict and natural disasters have caused considerable social and psychic suffering, but where mental health remains the least prioritized sector of health care. The course was attended by thirty-two participants, primarily psychiatrists and senior faculty members in psychology.

The program was the result of a collaborative effort between the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT), the Institute of Medicine at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (IOM-TUTH), and the Douglas Hospital Research Centre (DHRC)/McGill University. Professors Duncan Pedersen, Laurence Kirmayer and Jaswant Guzder from McGill University and Professor VD Sharma, Dr. Bhogendra Sharma and Mark Jordans from Nepal facilitated the course.



## in brief

As part of the capacity building and knowledge transfer objectives of the Trauma & Global Health Program, the People's Rural Development Association (PRDA) held a workshop on Wellbeing, Mental Health & Community Care at the National Institute of Mental Health in Angola, March 24 – 25, 2009. The workshop aimed at disseminating the results of research carried out in Sri Lankan communities profoundly affected by conflict and disaster. It also provided a forum for discussion about community-based mental health services that are considered culturally appropriate and socially acceptable to rural Sri Lankan communities. Mental health professionals and community workers involved in mental health and psychosocial care activities were in attendance.

McGill University is in the process of choosing a new web collaboration tool. Marratech was purchased by Google and will be phased out by the end of the year. A new web tool is expected to be launched in September. This and other communications issues will be discussed at the

Trauma & Global Health Program meeting in Montreal at the end of April.

An upcoming book by Trauma & Global Health Program team members Chamindra Weerackody and Suman Fernando presents a unique study of mental health and wellbeing as defined by two Sri Lankan communities with distinct experiences of either conflict (Puttalam District, home to a significant population of internally displaced Muslims) or natural disaster (Hambantota District, devastated by the 2004 tsunami). In addition to sharing insights that will be of special interest to policymakers, the authors propose a training program for relief workers in areas affected by conflict and natural disasters and further suggest a model for developing community-based mental health services in rural areas of countries such as Sri Lanka. The book's editors are Gameela Samarasinghe, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Colombo University in Sri Lanka and Hanna Kienzler, PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at McGill University in Canada.

An interview with Trauma & Global Health Program team members Duncan Pedersen, Victor Lopez, and Marina Piazza is now available on the International Development Research Centre website. To read the article entitled "New Prescription for Traumatic Times," please visit [http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-134667-201-1-DO\\_TOPIC.html](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-134667-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html).

### Team's Study

For recent reports on the Trauma and Global Health Program's work in Sri Lanka, please visit <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatwedo/emergencies/feldstudies/news-publications/one-researcher-method-asks-the-people-who-know-best> and <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatwedo/emergencies/feldstudies/news-publications/with-goods-replaced-tsunami-survivors-search-for-well-being>.





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

february 2009

## events

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**March 18-21, 2009**

*Taller: Investigación cualitativa: uso de métodos cualitativos y técnicas para el análisis de datos (International Course on Qualitative Research Methods)* **Guatemala City, Guatemala**

A course consisting of training in the use of qualitative methods for research and data analysis.

**April 2-3, 2009**

*Conference on Wellbeing and Development in Sri Lanka* **Colombo, Sri Lanka**

For further details contact Mihiri Ferdinando, SPARC, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.

**April 2-4, 2009**

*Curso Internacional sobre Violencia y su Impacto en la Salud (International Course on Violence and its Impact on Health)* **Lima, Peru**

For more information, please visit <http://www.acadnacmedicina.org.pe> or email [academia.nac@speedy.com.pe](mailto:academia.nac@speedy.com.pe).

**April 22-27, 2009**

*Trauma & Global Health Program Third Manag*