

Carol R. Underwood

Senior Research Associate, Center for Communication Programs

Departmental Affiliation(s):

[Health, Behavior and Society](#) (Primary)

Contact Information

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Education

PhD, Johns Hopkins University, 1993
MA, Columbia University, 1987
MA, University of Kansas, 1983

Overview

My overarching research goal is to understand more fully the role of communication in enhancing health actions—preventive and curative—and health outcomes in communities around the world. In particular, I strive to incorporate phenomenology, cultural studies, and critical theory into research designs to gain a deeper understanding of how social norms, social ties, and social structures affect health. A key aspect of my work is to translate theory and research findings into workable programmatic recommendations, with particularly attention to achieving gender equity.

Research Interests

gender and culture, health communication, health literacy, Muslim world & Islamic thought, family planning and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention; adolescent health, qualitative and participatory research methods, Persian (Farsi, Dari, Tajiki) speaker

Publications

Selected publications from the past three years.

- Schwandt, H. M., & Underwood, C. 2013. Making a difference in adult-child relationships: Evidence from an adult-child communication intervention in Botswana, Malawi, and Mozambique. *Journal of Adolescence*, 36(6), 1177-1186.

- Underwood, Carol & Kamhawi, Sarah, Noufal, Ahmad. 2013. Religious Leaders Gain Ground in the Jordanian Family Planning Movement. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 123, e33-e37. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijgo.2013.07.006>
- Underwood, C., Boulay, M., Snetro-Plewman, G., Macwan'gi, M., Vijayaraghavan, J., Namfukwe, M., & Marsh, D. 2012. Community Capacity as Means to Improved Health Practices and an End in Itself: Evidence from a Multi-Stage Study. *International quarterly of community health education*, 33(2), 105-127.
- Underwood, C., Skinner, J., Osman, N. & Schwandt, H. 2011. "Structural Determinants of Adolescent Girls' Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS: Views from community members in Botswana, Malawi, and Mozambique." *Social Science and Medicine*, 73(2): 343-350.
- Underwood, C., Brown, J., Sherard, D., Tushabe, B. & Abdur-Rahman, A. 2011. "Ritual Communication and Changing Gender Norms in Uganda: A Study of African Transformation." *Journal of Communication*, 61: 197-218.