

Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

SEMINAR SERIES 2014–15

Partnerships for Health: Universal Health Care in Tanzania The Hartley and Margaret Fredeen Scholarship in Co-operative Studies Seminar

Cara Spence Gress
PhD Candidate, Co-op Concentration, Interdisciplinary Studies



Universal health care is a global priority. Recognizing the negative impact of user fees on social, economic, and health outcomes, various strategies have been initiated in low- and middle-income countries to provide accessible and affordable health services to communities. However, the limited resources within many countries require partnerships and collaboration among diverse stakeholders if the goal of universal health care is to be achieved. This presentation will explore the design of a multistakeholder co-operative to provide access to primary health care services for vulnerable women, children, and families in Tanzania, Africa.

In partnership with a local nongovernmental organization, Mama Kwanza (Mother First) clinics are popping up in the Arusha region of Tanzania as a networked system for maternal health care on a reduced fee-for-service basis. The interdependence among the government, community, health-care providers, and nongovernment organizations involved in health care in Tanzania provides an opportunity to generate a multistakeholder co-operative structure for the Mama Kwanza clinics. The governance structure of the multistakeholder model is key to ensuring the full participation of clinic members, primarily women, with respect to divergent gender roles, cultural norms, and varied invested interests.

Cara's research includes community-university research partnerships, vulnerable populations, social determinants of health, HIV/AIDS, health systems, and knowledge translation. It is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. Cara has been involved in co-op work since her undergraduate degree in international studies, and mostly recently, in the development of an Aging-in-Place co-operative in Saskatoon.

Thursday, 11 December 2014, 3:30–4:30 pm
Canada Room, Diefenbaker Building, U of S Campus
Reception to follow

www.usaskstudies.coop

