“Conducting Public Health Research in Community Contexts”

This presentation will discuss benefits and challenges of conducting complex, rigorous public health research in community settings. Two case examples will be presented. The first is a multi-level, mixed methods collaborative study to implement and evaluate female condom promotion for HIV and STI prevention among women in Southern China engaged in the sex industry. The second is a participatory study conducted in Hartford, CT to develop, validate, and apply a system dynamics model of the HIV care continuum and use of a simulation tool designed to aid in strategic decision making to improve care continuum outcomes.