



Kyoto University School of Public Health (KUSPH) invites you to the 2020 special short course on “*Implementation Research (IR) - Understanding and undertaking research towards enhancing the implementation and scale up of health interventions in communities*”. For this course, we welcome speakers from **United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)**.

Speakers:

Mike Penkunas, Research Fellow
Claudia Abreu Lopes, Research Fellow
Shiang Cheng Lim, Post-doctoral Fellow

Class aims:

The course aims to introduce fundamental terms, concepts, and principles of IR and their application. The course explains the basic components of IR frameworks, as well as key constraints to implementation. Additionally, the course provides knowledge on common methods and conduct of IR, ethics and quality assurance in IR, and key research communication skills required for disseminating implementation research findings and scale up of intervention.

Content:

The course will cover five modules:

- Module 1: Introduction to implementation research
- Module 2: Researching context toward effective implementation
- Module 3: Research methods and rigour in implementation research
- Module 4: Developing indicators and measuring implementation outcomes
- Module 5: Translation and dissemination of IR findings towards scale-up of interventions

The content will be delivered through a mixture of lecture, large-group exercises, and small-group work that will take participants through the process of developing an IR project.

Expected outcomes:

Following the course, participants should be able to:

- Formulate an implementation research question
- Design your own implementation research projects
- Critically evaluate and use the evidence produced by other implementation research projects
- Assess the appropriateness of existing implementation strategies
- Define implementation research outcomes
- Commission robustly designed implementation research projects
- Understand the conceptual focus of implementation research and the distinctions between implementation, evaluation, operations, action and health systems research.




Since we want to ensure appropriate size of the participants for in-depth discussions and groupworks, this course is by registration only. Limited to 15 participants, who can fully attend all sessions on all dates, on a first come first serve basis. **Register here** → <https://forms.gle/tnLrm8u2QMp5X1Ko6>



Date	Time	Classroom	Topic of discussion
March 3 (Tue)	9:00-12:00		<p>Introduction to IR: We will unpack the conceptual framework of implementation research, the difference between implementation and intervention research, and why implementation research is a critical step in delivering large-scale interventions for health. Groups of participants will begin to explore an implementation challenge to be used as a case study throughout the course.</p>
	13:30-14:30		<p>Needs Assessment in IR: Needs assessment in IR requires understanding of the intervention and the context in which it takes place. We will explore ways of thinking about the intervention and the context as a single system to better understand what needs must be met for the intervention to succeed.</p>
	14:30-17:00		<p>IR Question Formulation: In groups, participants will describe an intervention-context system and identify potential implementation obstacles. We will end with a large-group reflection on the IR questions that come out of this exploration.</p>
March 4 (Wed)	9:00-10:30	Seminar Room A,	<p>Developing IR Strategies: IR does not start when the intervention is carried out. It begins when needs assessments are initially carried out and continues into the design of the implementation strategy. We will examine ways to create implementation strategies in response to findings from needs assessments and recap participant understanding of the IR process.</p>
	10:30-12:00	Second floor,	<p>IR Strategy Formulation: In groups, participants will brainstorm possible strategies for each of the implementation obstacles previously identified, considering resource constraints, stakeholder buy-in, etc.</p>
	13:30-14:30	G building,	<p>Measuring Outcomes in IR: It is important to make sure we measure implementation outcomes, which are the most-proximal outcomes of the implementation strategy. We will look at different types of implementation outcomes, tools, and experimental designs for mapping them.</p>
	14:30-17:00	Medicine Campus	<p>Formulating IR Measurements: In groups, participants will identify implementation outcomes that need to be measured for each of their implementation strategies, as well as methods for measuring these outcomes. Participants will explore if data collection create obstacles to or can be used to help the implementation process.</p>
March 5 (Thu)	9:00-10:00		<p>Ethics in IR: IR tends to produce new types of ethical challenges due to the shift in focus from individual protection and consent to community-level impacts and real-world outcomes. We will explore frameworks for responding to these challenges.</p>
	10:00-11:00		<p>Formulating Responses to IR Ethics Challenges: In groups, participants will review their intervention, implementation strategy, and data collection methods for possible ethical challenges. Participants will identify how their strategies and study design might need to change in response.</p>
	11:00-12:00		<p>Disseminating IR Results: The purpose of IR is to affect real-world practice. We will consider how to plan IR with dissemination in mind from the beginning.</p>
	1:30-17:00		<p>Finalising IR Case Studies In groups, participants will review their IR projects in light of ethics and dissemination. We will end with a large-group reflection on IR questions and insights that emerged from exploring the IR case studies.</p>



More information on the speakers

<p>Mike Penkunas</p> <p>Research Fellow</p>	<p>Dr. Mike Penkunas is a Research Fellow at the UNU-IIGH. Mike has 13 years of experience conducting social science research internationally, most recently working in East Africa and South East Asia as an implementation researcher.</p> <p>Prior to joining UNU, he served as the Senior Evaluation Manager for the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in Rwanda, leading health evaluations and capacity building efforts in collaboration with the Rwandan government. Mike was also a Research Fellow at the Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore where he evaluated integrated care models for older adults. He also served as a Health Services Planner/Evaluator within the California public health system, specifically working to improve the quality of mental health services.</p> <p>Mike's interests include implementation research and understanding how the characteristics of an intervention, implementation process, and contextual factors influence intervention effectiveness. He is a mixed methods researcher with a particular focus on integrating findings from diverse data sources. Mike has led implementation research projects on the treatment of infectious diseases (malaria, viral hepatitis), delivery of mental health services, and integrated health and social service delivery models.</p>	
<p>Shiang Cheng Lim</p> <p>Post-doctoral Fellow</p>	<p>Shiang Cheng Lim is a post-doctoral fellow from the UNU-IIGH. She has vast programme and research experience in the field global health, especially in the areas related to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), abortion, HIV, gender-based violence (GBV), ageing, cognitive function and impairment and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Her research largely focuses on how complex contextual factors influence people's health-related behaviour and decisions and how people's health can be improved through a multidimensional approach to create an enabling environment and effective health system that provides universal health coverage.</p>	
<p>Claudia Abreu Lopes</p> <p>Research Fellow</p>	<p>Dr Claudia Abreu Lopes is a Research Fellow at the UNU-IIGH. She has spent 20 years in academia with positions at the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Coimbra (Portugal), Institute of Social Psychology at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge (POLIS).</p> <p>Prior to joining UNU, she was an Affiliated Lecturer in Statistics and Methods at POLIS and a Lead Consultant in Big Data and Gender at UN Women. Claudia has also worked on the charity sector with Girl Effect (Data Scientist), and Africa's Voices Foundation (Head of Research and Innovation), leading projects that used digital data to accelerate and evaluate the impact of public health interventions. She was also involved in evaluations for the World Bank, BBC Media Action and GPSDD.</p> <p>Her research interests focus on methodologies that use big data as a complement to official statistics to monitor and advance sustainable development goals related to gender equality and health. She has been applied them to projects related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and violence against women and girls. She is also interested in the structural determinants of gender inequities and their impact on health outcomes.</p>	

Furthermore, the course also welcomes international participants from Fiji, India, Mongolia, and the Philippines.

This course is sponsored by

- **Kyoto University School of Public Health – Super Global University project. “Japan Gateway : Kyoto University Top Global Program”**
- **The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)**