



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

**SCHOOL OF  
PSYCHOLOGY**

**SEMINAR**

*(Open to the public)*

**Date:**

**Friday, 21 May**

**Time:**

**1.00–2.00pm**

**Room:**

**JG.17**

***Title of Presentation:***

**Action Research within  
community health psychology,  
from Kurt Lewin to Cambodia.**

Since 2000, an international research team and the local NGO SiRCHESI have been confronting the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Siem Reap, Cambodia, using a "Participatory Action Research" (PAR) framework for their multi-sectorial, multi-disciplinary community health promotion program. One of the first "action research" studies may have come out of an inter-disciplinary "Committee on Food Habits" co-chaired (1941-1945) by social psychologist Kurt Lewin and anthropologist Margaret Mead, and which grappled with ways to get Americans, as part of the war effort, to eat more "organ meats" including liver. An updated version of Participatory Action Research was employed in a series of research-guided health interventions in Cambodia, including peer educator outreach for HIV/AIDS risk groups, and workshops to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission, alcoholism and liver damage. Data are used for research-driven advocacy, targeting the international beer industry to improve health and safety of their women beer-sellers in Cambodia, currently working in "toxic" situations.

**Professor Ian Lubek  
University of Guelph  
(Canada)**



Research interests have included theory, meta-theory and epistemology; gender issues in scientific mentoring and career productivity; the social psychology of science; violence and media; the history of social psychology; and, most recently, problems of participatory action research, community health issues concerning the HIV/AIDS epidemic in northern Cambodia, and multi-sectorial health intervention programs.