In Investigating the role of social capital and social cohesion in the creation of identity among young women who sell sex in rural KwaZulu-Natal

1. Background

- 121,000-167,000 (0.8-1%) adult women are estimated to be engaged in sex work 30,000 in KZN
- No sex work program until 2016 –still with limited extension into rural settings
- Resources, social structure and social networks impact on decisions to transition into and out of sex work (Desmond, 2009)
- Identity theory self-discovery of who one is (Styler, 2016)
- Social identity refers to how the society perceives one Goffman’s idea of front and backstage
- This project is embedded within the AMETHIST consortium in South Africa

### Sex Work

"An occupation in which participating individuals engage in sexual intercourse in designated places such as brothels, hotels, the street, inside vehicles, and so on"

"Noncommercial, nonmarital sexual relationships motivated by an implicit assumption that sex will be exchanged for material support at other benefits"

(Benoit & Shumuka, 2015; Masawure, 2010; Tade & Adekoya, 2012)

Clients (truck drivers, mine workers, tourists, men from the community, etc.)

Blessers, sugar daddies, friends with benefits, employers, service providers

**Table 1: Types of Sex Work & Transactional Sex**

2. Methods

- An Ethnography using qualitative data methods which includes a scoping review
- Ethnographic data collection methods to be used include.

### Methodology

- **Data Collection**
  - Field Notes
  - Study sites mapping n=4
  - Participant observations n=16 (following study participants)

- **Interviews**
  - In-depth interviews with sex workers n=20 initial interviews, n=3 follow up interviews of the same participants, n=8 follow up interviews
  - In-depth interviews with relevant stake holders n=10

- **Data Analysis**
  - NVivo Software
  - Inductive Theory
  - Secondary data analysis of 10 life narrative grids from the AMETHIST study

3. Conclusion

### Contribution

- To the body of the existing limited literature on the role of social capital and social cohesion in creating identities especially in young women involved in sexual transactions
- Understanding on FSW accessing and utilizing sex worker, HIV and SRH interventions
- Identifying areas to focus on when developing interventions for sex workers

### Expected Results

- Understanding the social contributors and the impact of identity dynamics in facilitating decisions to transition into and out of sex work
- Identifying social behaviours to be promoted, that will improve the accessibility and uptake of HIV and SRH interventions for sex workers
- Inform the development of future interventions aimed at promoting safe transitions into and mostly out of sex work

### Progress to date

- Application to LSTM Boards submitted, awaiting response
- To submit amendment application to BREC
- Working on a scoping review