The Pachaysana Institute
Research Project Description
Summer 2018

Site: The capital city of Quito, with a focus on the areas of the city where hip-hop art is most prevalent, namely the marginalized areas of the Historical Center (Central Quito) and South Quito.

The Pachaysana Institute: a collective of Ecuadorian and international scholars, artists, community organizers and development specialists who develop educational models to bridge the divide between international and local development. We are a non-profit organization partnered with numerous institutions in Ecuador and abroad to carry out our mission. In practice, we work with marginalized Ecuadorian communities that face intense challenges due to the pressures of globalization. We employ innovative educational programming to assist with conflict transformation and inspire grassroots community development. The Research Project Coordinator for this proposal is Chelsea Viteri.

The Fair Trade Model: International students have the privilege to travel the world and be part of research projects like the one proposed. We believe this privilege implies a social responsibility to seek equity. In essence, for each international participant, we create an equal opportunity for a local participant. In practice, the international student’s participation funds the participation of at least one community counterpart, with whom the student will conduct the research jointly.

Description of our Community Partner: The Association Nina Shunku (ANS) is a collective of multidisciplinary educators/artists/community organizers who seek to strengthen identity and solidarity in underprivileged sectors of the city of Quito. They work in four areas: Communication for Education, Art for Education, Identity & Ancestral Collectivism, and Socio-Economic & Cultural Impact. In practice, they are a group of mostly youth (average age is mid 20’s) who use art, activism and education in ongoing projects and workshops with places like marginalized neighborhoods, low-income schools, special needs centers, prisons, homeless shelters, etc. While not exclusively, the majority of their art is directly linked to hip-hop. From rap to graffiti to breakdancing, hip hop is a primary tool for social change and a principal method to adapt to and recreate a communal cultural identity. The primary contacts at ANS for this project will be Camila Egas, Erika Cordova and Isaac Peñaherrera.

Project Associate: We will work closely with the Medical Education office of the School of Health Sciences at the Universidad de las Americas (UDLA). UDLA will be responsible for advising our project methodology, creating research tools with Pachaysana and ANS, participating in focus groups and eventually publishing results from the research and applying them to curricular instruction in their public health program. The director of the Medical Education office and our direct contact is Dr. Xavier Caicedo.

The Project: The proposed summer research project will be part of a larger project to raise awareness and stimulate change within the hip-hop community of Quito. The larger project’s objectives include identifying attitudes and actions of gender and sexual violence, mostly symbolic and systemic, within the hip-hop community, with the ultimate goal of raising awareness and building a culture of diversity and inclusion in the neighborhood.

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community. More specifically, the project will link to other efforts in examining machismo as a public health concern, seeking to understand how the hip-hop community perceives and expresses machismo, and then how those perceptions and expressions may result in violence against and exclusion of women and the LGBTQI community.

The proposed Research Project is an encapsulated “mini-project” that will ask researchers (international and local) to extend upon initial findings produced in Pachaysana’s spring 2018 semester of its program Rehearsing Change. In our course, Theatre for Social Change, Pachaysana and ANS will explore the relationship between gender violence/exclusion and hip-hop, identifying several over-arching themes and conflicts. Those themes and conflicts will be documented for use in the summer project. CBR fellows will join with local ANS counterparts to compare and contrast these findings with existing research in the field of machismo as a public health issue. Then, the multicultural group will engage in participatory action research, using participant observation, surveys, interviews and focus groups to collect data. This data will be organized and documented with preliminary conclusions, which will then be turned over to ANS and UDLA, who will then begin applying them to on-going work at their institutions.

**Timeline:** 1 week of orientation and training, including reviewing all materials from the spring semester coursework. 2 weeks working on bibliographical research and conducting interviews with public health specialists, interrelating the spring semester findings with existing research on machismo as a public health issue. 3 weeks conducting interviews, participant observation and focus groups with members of Quito’s hip-hop community, assisted by UDLA’s Medical Education office. 1 week organizing and analyzing raw data. (Note: our goal is not an exhaustive analysis of the raw data; rather, we seek to create a basic organizational structure that can be easily accessed by ANS and UDLA, as well as to facilitate the production of preliminary over-arching conclusions). 1 week to create final document with preliminary conclusions.

**Training:** The Pachaysana Research Project Coordinator and UDLA’s Director of Medical Education will train international students and counterparts for approximately one week. During the training, they will be provided reading material and be required to write short essays to assure they understand the context in which they will be doing research. The CBR fellow will also be required to read several pre-arrival documents.

**Methodology:** Participant Action Research, carried out via bibliographical research, semi-structured interviews, surveys, participant observation and focus groups.

**Importance and Application:** This small research project will contribute directly to the larger project that is estimated to eventually benefit between 3,000 and 5,000 inhabitants in Quito. First, there are the immediate beneficiaries (approximately 50 people), which are the members of ANS and those in the hip-hop community that are working closely with ANS on the project, as well as the faculty, staff and students at UDLA who will develop knowledge and skills in the first phases of the project. The bulk of the beneficiaries will be the indirect participants, namely those in the hip-hop community who are exposed to projects and presentations that ANS carries out as part of the larger scale project. In this case, the hip-hop community (which we conservatively estimate at approximately 3,000) also includes those who attend concerts and other hip-hop events promoted by ANS and its partners. Other indirect participants will be the approximately 1,200 health science students at UDLA who will be exposed to the health impacts of machismo in popular culture, after the findings are adapted into curriculum design.

**Student profile:** The students should have an advanced level of Spanish, especially in speaking and listening comprehension. Additionally we seek students with at least a basic background in research methodologies and significant interest in the arts for social change. Finally, students should demonstrate high levels of cultural sensitivity and have some experience and/or studies in intercultural development.