



WOMEN'S HEALTH IN WOMEN'S HANDS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

RESEARCH PROJECT OVERVIEW

Title:	RHETORIC OR REALITY? BIOMEDICAL PREVENTION TOOLS AS A CATALYST FOR WOMEN'S SEXUAL EMPOWERMENT
Principal Investigator(s):	San Patten , Saint Allison University and San Patten and Associates; Wangari Tharao , WHIWH; James Wilton , CATIE
Co-Investigator(s):	Yasmin Halima , Global Campaign for Microbicides Canadian Federation for Sexual Health
Project Duration/ Funding:	CIHR HIV CBR program; AIDS Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Duration: 2007 - 2011

Project Summary:

An often touted promise of NPTs is that they will act as biomedical tools not only for prevention of HIV transmission, but will also act as tools for women to take control over their own sexual health (and in some cases reproductive health) decisions.

Critical reviews however, suggest that female-controlled prevention products may not be the panacea for women's equality and empowerment that they are purported to be. However, they may be a catalyst for longer-term, broader structural change to the extent that female-controlled interventions stimulate and are introduced within multi-level interventions that address women's vulnerabilities, such as gender inequality, poverty, and other forms of discrimination.

This formulation project will lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive research project to explore the implications of new prevention technologies (NPTs) on women's sexual autonomy and empowerment