|  |
| --- |
| **Social and cultural determinants of sexual health in Papua New Guinea: A critical poetic inquiry** |
| **Background/Objectives**  Social and cultural determinants of health are established factors that impact the promotion of sexual health and wellbeing for peoples of the Pacific. How to effectively communicate about these determinants and to promote relevant responses to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is currently being expanded. Arts-based research enables a deeper insight into people’s sexual health and wellbeing experiences and can increase an empathic understanding of the social and cultural determinants of health. Poetic inquiry is one such approach.  **Methods**  Using critical poetic inquiry, an arts-based methodological practice, poems were written using found (transcription), narrative and auto-ethnographic forms. These forms were used to critique and communicate social and cultural determinants affecting the sexual health of research participants from Papua New Guinea. Observational and qualitative data were incorporated into poems, or used to inform poems.  **Results**  This presentation will include performance of poems by a sexual health researcher to engage health promotion practitioners, policy makers and researchers as active witnesses to participant experiences. Social and cultural determinants of sexual health including violence, poverty and stigma are highlighted. Religious and cultural responses to sexually transmitted infections are re-presented throughout the poetry. Women and girls are the focus. The role of the health-promoting researcher in this sensitive field of work will then be explored.  **Discussion**  Social and cultural determinants impact the sexual health and wellbeing of peoples in the Pacific. Critical poetic inquiry re-narrates, synthesises and concentrates data to communicate participant and researcher experiences of these determinants. Critical poetic inquiry offers innovative analysis and amplifies qualitative evidence for health promoting action to improve sexual health in the Pacific.  **Keywords**  Health promotion, poetry, arts-based research, sexual health, Pacific, operational research |