

About the Researcher

Hi. Thank-you for taking a few minutes to read this information sheet. I hope you will consider becoming involved in this research.

My name is Sharon McLennan, and I am a PhD candidate in Development Studies at Massey University in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

I am a Registered Nurse, with experience in Internal Medicine and Occupational Health, and as a Clinical Trial Coordinator and Primary Health Care Nurse. I have also been a crewmember on Mercy Ships, on the Island Mercy and on the Caribbean Mercy.

This experience sparked my interest in International Development, which eventually led to a Masters degree- and now a PhD in Development Studies. As part of the Masters degree I completed a thesis on the role of Medical Missions in health care in Honduras. This research will form the basis of a thesis for my PhD.

I am married to Luis, a Honduran; and we have a 3-year old daughter, Maya.



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<http://www.urlhere>

<http://www.projecthonduras.com>

<http://www.pep.massey.ac.nz>

Discovering an unconventional movement for change:



RESEARCH INFORMATION SHEET



About the Research

Background

Reading the projecthonduras.com website, the phrases “*unconventional movement*” and “*alternative model*” stand out. These phrases caught my attention as they indicate that this network may have something different to offer at a time when conventional models are being questioned and alternatives sought. This research has therefore been designed to explore the possibilities and alternatives that projecthonduras.com has to offer for development.

Research Aim

To explore the projecthonduras.com network in order to discover what makes it an unconventional movement and alternative model; how it works, what it does, and what it has to contribute to development in Honduras and to development theory.

Timeline

Oct 08: Honduras, participation at Conference, introductions

Nov 08- Jan 09: NZ, completion of full proposal and registration procedures

Feb 09- End 09: Honduras, Data collection

2010: NZ/ Honduras, Data analysis, writing

Jan 2011: Submission of thesis, feedback

Study Methods

This study has been designed as an ethnography, a methodology that provides a holistic description of a culture or group, in this case the projecthonduras.com network. This approach will be complemented by methods based in Appreciative Inquiry (AI), a methodology which concentrates on exploring ideas about what is valuable in what a group or organisation is doing, and working out ways this can be built upon.

Specific study methods planned include:

- Interviews
- Observation and analysis of forums and website
- Participation at conferences
- Visiting, observation, potentially participating in projects, communities & offices of projecthonduras.com - linked organizations

Other possible methods are-

- Online or email questionnaires
- Focus groups, and on- or off-line feedback and discussion of findings.

Use of the Information

Information gathered in the course of this research will primarily be used in the completion of a PhD thesis/ dissertation, although some material may be used in future conference presentations and academic papers.

A summary of the study and some relevant and non-identifiable data may be made available to projecthonduras.com at the completion of the study. Please contact the researcher if you have any questions about this.

Participants Rights

You are under no obligation to accept this invitation. If you decide to participate, you have the right to:

- decline to answer any particular question;
- withdraw from the study at any time;
- ask any questions about the study at any time during participation;
- provide information on the understanding that your name will not be used unless you give permission;
- be given access to a summary of the project findings when it is concluded.
- ask for the audio/video tape to be turned off at any time.

This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk. Consequently, it has not been reviewed by one of the University’s Human Ethics Committees. The researcher named above is responsible for the ethical conduct of this research. If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research that you wish to raise with someone other than the researcher, please contact Professor Sylvia Rumball, Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor (Ethics & Equity), telephone +64 6 350 5249, or email humanethics@massey.ac.nz.

