

This poster forms part of a wider project entitled



'Constructions of Sexuality, Risk and Choice: A Comparative Analysis – Ireland/South Africa'

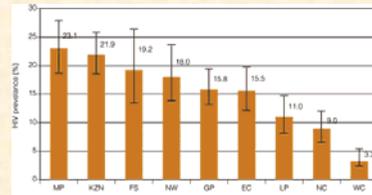
which seeks to understand

- Constructions of sexuality amongst young, middle class, urban men and women in Ireland (Dublin) and South Africa (Western Cape) and
- The extent to which those constructions of sexuality impact on the assessment of risk, thus informing and shaping sexual behaviour.

Throughout Southern Africa studies suggest that teachers are becoming HIV positive at rates comparable to those in perceived 'high risk' groups*.

The participants of this study are **student teachers** from the University of the Western cape (UWC) in South Africa. Their counterparts in Ireland are from NUI Maynooth and St. Patrick's Teachers Training College in Drumcondra, Dublin.

HIV Prevalence among young adults aged 15-49 years, by province. South Africa



Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
South African Prevalence, HIV Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey 2005

The application of Peirce's model of a sign to the metaphor 'AIDS Walks in High Heels' would suggest that it is symbolic. This is evidenced by the fact that the relationship or 'grounding' between the representamen (High Heels) and the object (AIDS) is entirely arbitrary (rather than contiguous). There is no obvious physical link between the two elements, although there may be in the imagination of some people.

References:

- *Badcock-Walters, P., Desmond, C., Heard, W., (2003) Educator Mortality in-service in KwaZulu Natal – A Consolidated study of HIV/AIDS impact and trends. Demographic and Socio-Economic Conference, Tropicana Hotel, Durban, March 2003
- Hoopes, J. (Ed.) (1991) *Peirce on Signs: Writings on Semiotic*, Chapel Hill and London, University of North Carolina Press.

