Stephen O’Brien

Brief report on AFSAAP – Monash Postgraduate Prize for 2012

This opportunity to present my research on Africa in Africa was the most exciting aspect of being awarded the AFSAAP – Monash Postgraduate Prize for 2012. The Johannesburg Campus of Monash hosted my presentation on September 26 in which I outlined some of the main findings of my study on HIV in Harare, Zimbabwe. Professor Geoffrey Setswe, a public health specialists, and Professor Peter Nyasulu, an epidemiologist, as well as a number of students in the public health programme, raised various interesting points during the exchange of ideas which followed my presentation. We discussed issues such as qualitative methodologies, ethics and the relationship between gender and HIV. The opportunity to visit South Africa also allowed me to see some of the sights of Johannesburg, in particular the Apartheid Museum, as well as catch up with professional colleagues who have assisted my work over the years. With a few days left over after my engagement at Monash I also visited Zimbabwe. The highlights there were renewing acquaintance with Wilfred Mhanda to discuss his recent autobiography *Dzino: Memories of a Freedom Fighter,* as well as giving a report back to a group of participants who participated in my PhD research in 2010.