

## Hudes, Estie

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**From:** Hudes, Estie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 1:21 PM  
**Cc:** Hudes, Estie  
**Subject:** CAPS Methods Core seminar with Dr. Lance Pollack, April 17, 2015  
**Attachments:** Searching for Sex - NYTimes reduced.pdf

*If you are coming from outside Mission Hall, please make sure you read the information at the end of this message. If you haven't already done so, please make sure you RSVP to [Estie Hudes](#) prior to the seminar date.*

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Dear Methods Core seminar participants,

Our next CAPS Methods Core seminar will take place in April, on 4/17/15.

Please note that we have moved to the UCSF Mission Bay campus, the Mission Hall building, so we have a new address and new security arrangements. If you are coming from any place other than MH building, you will need to check in. The safest way for you to be able to do so is by sending me your RSVP ahead of time. Also please note that the security desk is located near the entrance on 4th street, so don't go by the mailing address!

Title: "Issues in Surveys of Sexual Behavior: Problems with the Samples, the Questions, the Answers, and Whether Frisky Really Means Risky"

Presenter: [Lance Pollack, PhD](#)  
Principal statistician  
Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, UCSF

Time & Place: Friday April 17, 2015; 10-11:30  
(new) McKusick Conference room #3700  
Mission Hall, 3rd floor  
4th Street at 550 16th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94158

**Abstract:** [A recent op-ed piece in the New York Times](#) (attached) suggested that respondents to surveys of sexual behavior are not telling the truth and that the resulting data cannot be trusted. In this presentation I

will discuss the reasons why this characterization is both true and false, and the issues an informed reader of scientific periodicals must pay attention to in order to evaluate how much stock to place in the data being presented. I will touch on evaluation of sample selection/population definition, instrumentation, and data inconsistency. Data issues will be illustrated with examples from prior and current studies. I will also present further data on our pursuit of the ever elusive (perhaps mythical) MSM research participant who is truly at risk for transmission of HIV, and the implications of that for evaluation of HIV interventions..

Short bio: Lance Pollack, Ph.D. holds a doctorate in Human Development and Aging from UCSF. He has been at CAPS since the inception of the center 25 years ago, currently holds the title of Principal Statistician, and has over 100 publications in peer reviewed journals. Lance is currently doing data management and data analytic work for Marguerita Lightfoot on both the Zimbabwe project and the texting intervention study, Susan Kegeles and Greg Rebchook on both the Mpowerment and TRIP projects, for Emily Arnold on both the Bruthas and Ballroom projects, and for Diane Binson and Bill Woods on their research into bathhouse patron populations and methodological issues in survey research. He is a member of the CAPS Methods Core specializing in survey research methodology, sampling issues, survey instrument development, and quantitative analysis, and a consultant offering Clinical Research Support Services in the Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCSF.

Hope to see many of you at the presentation,  
--Estie

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For building entrance at Mission Hall., please RSVP to Estie Hudes ahead of time.

The CAPS Methods Core activity now be checked directly on the website:  
<http://caps.ucsf.edu/about/structure-cores/methods-core/>

Materials from past Methods Core seminars can be found at  
<http://caps.ucsf.edu/about/structure-cores/methods-core/methods-core-seminars/>

Directions to Mission Bay:  
[http://campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/transportation/services/alternative\\_transportation/mission\\_bay\\_transit\\_options](http://campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/transportation/services/alternative_transportation/mission_bay_transit_options)

Please note that you can only use the Red shuttle at 16th Street BART if you have a current UCSF ID badge,

Parking at Mission Bay:  
[http://campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/transportation/services/parking/public\\_parking](http://campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/transportation/services/parking/public_parking)

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--Estie

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