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## [Sex and disability seminar: another great success!](#)

June 14, 2008 by mnkboulos



Yesterday's seminar was a huge success! Very many thanks to our guest speaker [Cory Silverberg \(SL:SeeLee Markstein\)](#) and to all our audience for the very lively discussion that lasted more than two hours. More than 40 avatars visited the UOP Sexual Health SIM yesterday, including three Lindens ([Pathfinder Linden](#), Phoenix Linden and [Malbers Linden](#)), and members of the [GimpGirl Community](#) and [Virtual Ability](#). They spent more than 3040 visitor-minutes or >50 visitor-hours on the parcel (mostly during the seminar), as shown in the official Second Life traffic figure for the SIM today, 13 June 2008, which reflects yesterday's usage (12 June 2008—second snapshot below).

Click the image below to launch the event's video in HD (High Definition). This is [a short 2-minute clip created by Maged](#) (<http://www.vimeo.com/1166607>).



Click above image to launch the HD video clip (<http://www.vimeo.com/1166607>).



Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Machinima Videos](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Scientific discourse 2.0. Will your next poster session be in Second Life®?](#)

June 2, 2008 by mnkboulos

*EMBO reports* **9**, 6, 496–499 (2008)  
doi:10.1038/embor.2008.86

### Scientific discourse 2.0. Will your next poster session be in Second Life®?

Stephen T Huang<sup>1</sup>, Maged N Kamel Boulos<sup>2</sup> & Robert P Dellavalle<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Stephen T. Huang is at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois, USA

<sup>2</sup> Maged N. Kamel Boulos is at the University of Plymouth, UK

<sup>3</sup> Robert P. Dellavalle is at the Denver Veteran's Affairs Medical Center and the University of Colorado Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA.

Full-text PDF **FREE**:

<http://www.nature.com/embor/journal/v9/n6/pdf/embor200886.pdf>

Full-text HTML **FREE**:

<http://www.nature.com/embor/journal/v9/n6/full/embor200886.html>

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Publications](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Sex and disability seminar - 12 Jun 08](#)

June 1, 2008 by mnkboulos



This will be an open Q&A and discussion about 'sex and disability', featuring [Cory Silverberg](#), co-author of *The Ultimate Guide to Sex and Disability—For All of Us Who Live with Disabilities, Chronic Pain and Illness* (Cleis Press, 2007).

#### When:

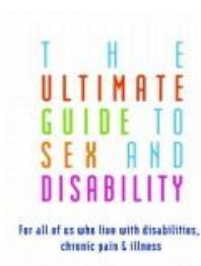
Thursday 12 June 2008 at noon SLT (= 8 PM BST)

#### Where/organized by:

University of Plymouth Sexual Health SIM in Second Life  
<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Education%20UK/33/63/22>

#### About our guest speaker:

Cory Silverberg (SL:SeeLee Markstein) is an [AASECT](#) certified sexuality educator and one of the worker owners of [Come As You Are](#), the world's only democratically run, worker co-op sex store. For the past ten years Cory has worked as a sex educator, creating and facilitating workshops for organizations and groups on subjects including male sexuality, sexuality and disability, sexual communication, sex toys, and most recently sex and technology. He also works as a media consultant for US and Canadian television production companies (he was the long standing sex toy wrangler for Sue Johanson). Along with Dr. Miriam Kaufman and Fran Odette, Cory is the co-author of *The Ultimate Guide to Sex and Disability*. He writes about sexual health and pleasure for About.com (<http://sexuality.about.com/>), where he has been the Sexuality Guide since 2005 (About.com is part of The New York Times Company).



*The Ultimate Guide to Sex and Disability* is a complete sex guide for people who live with disabilities, pain, illness, or chronic conditions. Useful for absolutely everyone, regardless of age, gender, or sexual orientation, the book addresses a wide range of disabilities — from chronic fatigue, back pain, and asthma to spinal cord injury, hearing and visual impairment, multiple sclerosis, and more. Written by a medical doctor, a sex educator, and a disability activist, The Ultimate Guide provides readers with encouragement, support, and all the information they need to create a sex life that works for them. The authors cover all aspects of sex and disability, including building a positive sexual self-image; positions to minimize stress and maximize

pleasure; dealing with fatigue or pain during sex; finding partners and talking with partners about sex and disability; adapting sex toys; and more.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [The Sojourner is offline](#)

May 26, 2008 by mnkboulos

It is with much sorrow and many tears that I share with you the death of one of our best friends, [The Sojourner](#), who offered us a [free booth at DREAMS 3rd Annual Fair, 4-25 Apr 08](#).

Soj died on Sunday 25 May 2008 of heart failure after an extended struggle with her health.

I am sure we all send thoughts and prayers to her RL husband and son, and especially her beloved SL Dreams Community.

The Dreams group will be having a [memorial](#), and I will keep our group informed, as we will want to support their group as much as we can.

Soj will be deeply missed. (Posted by SL:Gentle Heron.)

Related blog posts:

<http://gwynethllewelyn.net/2008/05/26/the-sojourners-last-voyage/>

<http://lifetimestwo.blogspot.com/2008/05/sojourner-is-offline.html>

Posted in [Second Life](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Latest vistors' stats \(13 Mar 08 - 12 May 08\)](#)

May 12, 2008 by mnkboulos



Our **in-world public Group** launched on 10 August 2007 now has [130](#) Members as at 11 May 2008, including two admin members (the core project team).

As at 12 May 2008 (1:00 AM SLT time), our SIM received more than 3350 **unique visitors / avatars (all time)** since our initial launch on 12 July 2007, up from about 2650 unique vistors on 12 March 2008 (12 Jul 07 – 12 Mar 08) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher. The **highest peak concurrency figure** was 24 avatars / visitors on [17 February 2008](#), followed by 16 visitors on [1 May 2008](#) (all figures not counting owner).

[February 2008](#), followed by 16 visitors on [1 May 2008](#) (all figures not counting owner).

The **total visitor-minutes** spent on our land during the past 275 days (12 Aug 07 – 11 May 08, owner minutes excluded) was >33350 minutes — that is >555 hours, of them >130 hours were spent in the past two months (12 Mar 08 – 11 May 08), including >28 hours spent on [1 May 2008](#) alone.

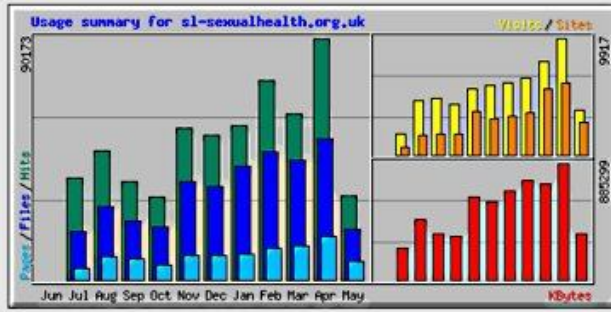
More than 200 avatars have so far taken our **in-world survey** as at 12 May 2008 (all instances / responses counted, including incomplete ones).

Some of our **blog** stats follow below (10 Jul 07 - 11 May 08). Visitors from more than 70 countries have accessed this blog.

### Usage Statistics for sl -sexualhealth.org.uk

Summary Period: Last 12 Months  
Generated 12-May-2008 05:35 CDT

10 Jul 07 - 11 May 08

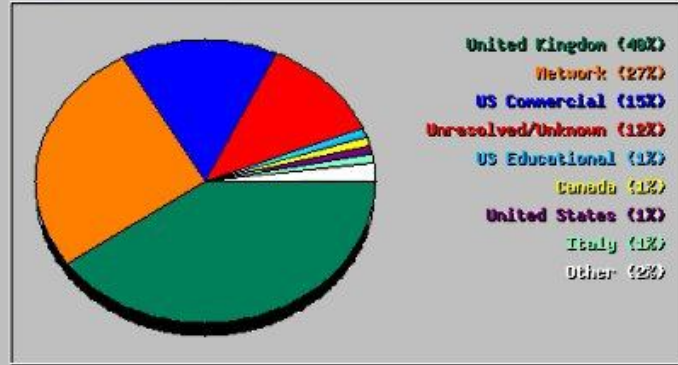


#### Summary by Month

Month	Daily Avg					Monthly Totals				
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
May 2008	2609	1568	558	318	2809	344508	3817	6696	18825	31319
Apr 2008	3005	1752	533	330	6161	885299	9917	16000	52568	90173
Mar 2008	2002	1440	407	255	5584	725543	7924	12647	44657	62065
Feb 2008	2572	1642	403	225	3562	754160	6553	11702	47644	74593
Jan 2008	1854	1367	302	197	3273	668643	6123	9372	42388	57486
Dec 2007	1741	1127	297	191	3046	592659	5927	9213	34938	53987
Nov 2007	1887	1224	304	186	3679	626639	5584	9139	36734	56632
Oct 2007	995	633	184	138	1752	329268	4296	5713	19641	30869
Sep 2007	1226	734	252	161	1722	348562	4832	7562	22043	36789
Aug 2007	1554	885	282	148	1680	452675	4590	8755	27437	48179
Jul 2007	1653	783	186	76	669	238495	1763	4286	18009	38034
<b>Totals</b>						<b>5966452</b>	<b>61326</b>	<b>101085</b>	<b>364884</b>	<b>580126</b>

Generated by [Webalizer Version 2.01](#)

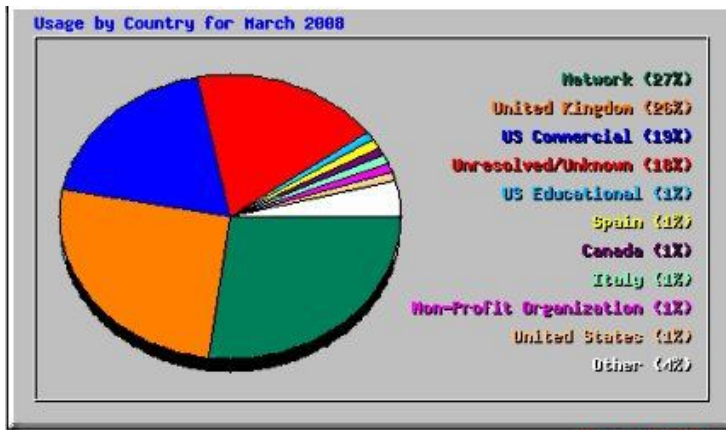
#### Usage by Country for April 2008



April 2008

#### Top 30 of 73 Total Countries

#	Hits	Files	KBytes	Country
1	35978	8521	134707	United Kingdom
2	23917	19541	314792	Network
3	13473	10836	177064	US Commercial
4	10860	8720	151590	Unresolved/Unknown
5	766	691	12592	US Educational
6	517	465	7983	Canada
7	510	465	7690	United States
8	484	406	15819	Italy
9	401	343	6474	Germany
10	294	267	5399	Australia
11	275	224	4768	Poland
12	230	216	3635	Mexico
13	172	141	3550	Taiwan
14	170	143	3591	Brazil



March 2008

Top 30 of 74 Total Countries

#	Hits	Files	KBytes	Country
1	16605	14587	232977	Network
2	16081	5314	73200	United Kingdom
3	11848	9882	156070	US Commercial
4	11328	9442	166902	Unresolved/Unknown
5	719	682	12520	US Educational
6	550	541	5087	Spain
7	520	495	8253	Canada
8	401	333	10753	Italy
9	373	334	5153	Non-Profit Organization
10	343	305	4915	United States
11	218	183	2928	Germany
12	217	204	3464	Australia
13	214	188	2467	Poland
14	175	159	3505	Netherlands

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [McKinsey \(and Forrester\): ignore Second Life at your peril!](#)

May 9, 2008 by mnkboulos

A senior consultant at the company ([McKinsey](#)), which generally shies away from making public statements because its clients include major high street brands, said that any consumer-facing business “absolutely” had to be “experimenting in virtual worlds” if it wanted to get the attention of under 30s.

(...)

“What’s happening with Second Life right now is exactly what happened with the web in the early days,” Mr Rosedale (Linden Lab) said at an event in London this week. “People would say ‘the internet is a horrible place for brands, there’s all this stealing of property, and pornography’, and now what you find is that the web is used relentlessly for information-sharing purposes. We’re seeing exactly the same thing in Second Life.”

(...)

About \$1.5 billion has been invested in companies developing technologies for virtual worlds in the past year and a half, according to a report published this week by [Forrester](#), the analyst firm. Driven by the near complete penetration of broadband, an increasingly technology-friendly workforce, and cheap computing tools, the 3D web would be “the next major wave of the internet’s evolution,” the report said.



Read the full news article online at [http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech\\_and\\_web/article3803056.ece](http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/article3803056.ece)

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Snapshots from 1st May 08 seminar](#)

May 5, 2008 by mnkboulos



Machinima video date: 1-May-08 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHxQBVU8ro>

### **Related posts:**

<http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/?p=142>

<http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/?p=141>

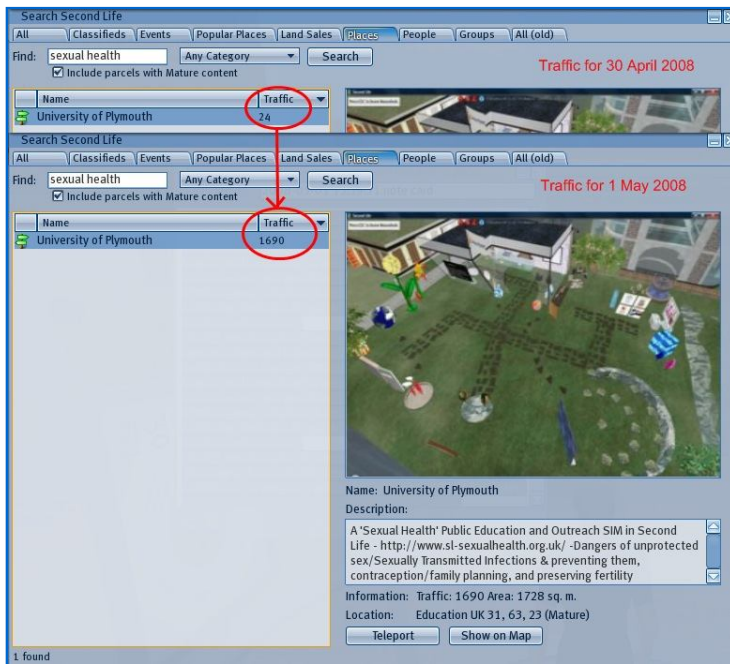
*From the blogosphere:* [Christianity gets a Second Life stage to discuss Sexual Purity - itsReal](#)

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Machinima Videos](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [‘Sexual Purity and Healthy Relationships’ seminar: a big success!](#)

May 2, 2008 by mnkboulos

Yesterday’s seminar was a big success! Very many thanks to our guest speakers, [Fr Johann](#), [Fr Joshua](#) and [Prebytera Anna](#), who have made this event possible, to [GOARCH](#) for the great ‘Sexual Purity and and Healthy Relationships’ video clip, which we were able to show part of in-world at the beginning of the seminar, and of course to all our audience yesterday, for their stimulating questions and thoughts, and the very lively discussion that lasted more than two hours. Special thanks also go to [SL:Gentle Heron](#), who is a sex educator for people with disabilities, for bringing unique insight to the discussion yesterday. More than 25 avatars attended all or part of the seminar—the total number of unique avatars who have visited our SIM yesterday was >30. The total visitor-minutes on our parcel yesterday was 1690 or >28 hours, as shown in the official Second Life parcel traffic figure this afternoon, reflecting all day yesterday (1 May 08)—the official visitor-minutes figure for the day before yesterday, i.e., 30 Apr 08, was 24 (see screenshot below). The 1st of May 08 figure of 1690 visitor-minutes is the **highest figure our SIM has ever achieved in any single day** since project launch in July 2007! More details and colour snapshots of the event will be posted in a [follow-on post](#) on this blog. Meanwhile, if you haven’t already done so, you can [visit our SIM now and grab your free copy of the event’s goodies bag](#), which was offered to all participants yesterday; just touch the big pistachio ball located beside our “PowerPoint”/Video Viewer in-world to receive your copy.



Click to enlarge.

We will also be posting in due course access statistics of this blog you are reading now. So far visitors from more than 75 countries around the world have accessed content on this blog! Thank you all of you who are following us in-world and/or out-world for your continuing support and interest!

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

## [Seminar on ‘Sexual Purity and Healthy Relationships: A Christian Orthodox Perspective for the 21st Century’](#)

May 1, 2008 by mnkboulos



**Fathers Johann Barak and Joshua Tuchs** (these are SL avatar names), who in RL are two [Eastern Orthodox](#) priests in USA, together with [Presbytera Anna Hirschel](#) (again, SL name—she is also in RL Eastern Orthodox and based in USA) will be holding a 60-90 minute seminar at our SIM in Second Life this Thursday, 1 May 2008, at 1:00 PM PDT/SLT = 9 PM BST (GMT+1) about ‘Sexual Purity and Healthy Relationships: A Christian Orthodox Perspective for the 21st Century’.

Our three speakers will hold an open discussion along the lines of this video: [http://realserver.goarch.org/ram/en/sexual\\_puram](http://realserver.goarch.org/ram/en/sexual_puram) - we will be showing a short segment of it in-world at the start of the seminar. **They will be responding live (in text and voice) to your questions in-world.** Fr Johann Barak, Fr Joshua Tuchs, and Presbytera Anna Hirschel believe that Orthodox Christianity has a strong and very important and practical message for the whole world, especially these days with the very recent announcement of the US CDC that 1 in every 4 American teenage girls has a sexually-transmitted infection ([HPV](#)) that can

lead later in life to cervical cancer (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7290088.stm>).

**Join us on Thursday, 1 May 2008, at 1:00 PM PDT/SLT = 9 PM BST (GMT+1) at <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Education%20UK/18/36/22>**

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

## [Please join the debate!](#)

April 24, 2008 by mnkboulos



I have posted two new personal thoughts / opinion snippets at <http://healthcybermap.org/sl.htm> under 'Thoughts / opinion'. Please read them and **post your comments** [here](#). ([Read previous comments](#).)

April 2008:

**Why 3D?**

**Web conferencing: 2D vs. 3D (or both), or 'Why conduct events and meetings in Second Life?'**

Previous snippet–July 2007:

**Comparing the 2D Web to 3D multi-user, immersive virtual worlds**

**N.B. Non-gaming 3D worlds are not just SL** (better drop the 'virtual' between '3D' and 'worlds', as [Twinity](#) has done)–the following videos are about **Sun's MPK20** platform (for the first three, right-click > Save Target As...):

#### Videos

##### [MPK20 Demo](#)



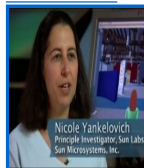
Quicktime, 4:58

##### [Wonderland Phone](#)



Quicktime, 2:16

##### [Interview](#)



MP4, 10:34

##### [Tutorial](#)



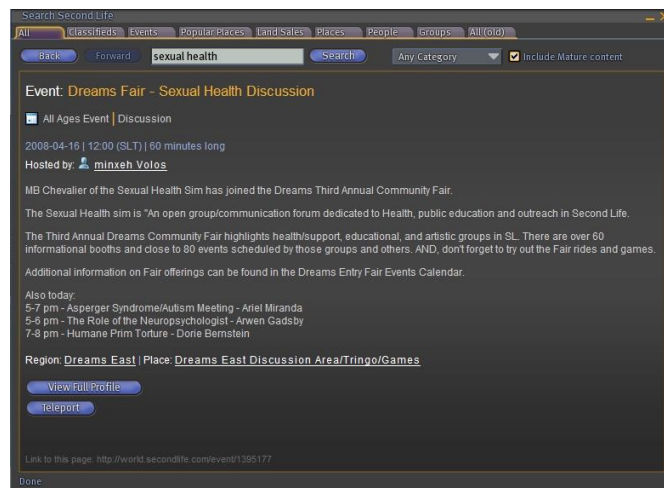
Streaming video

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Second Life](#) | [14 Comments](#) »

## [Dreams Fair - Sexual Health Discussion \(16/4/08\)](#)

April 17, 2008 by mnboulos

Yesterday, 16 Apr 08 at 12:00 noon PDT, MB facilitated an open [Sexual Health Discussion held at the Dreams Third Annual Community Fair](#).



Click to enlarge.

**Other news:** We are featured on p.16 of the latest March 2008 issue of SLang Life magazine - [http://www.slanglife.com/files/No3\\_table\\_of\\_contents.pdf](http://www.slanglife.com/files/No3_table_of_contents.pdf)

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Search healia in-world](#)

April 9, 2008 by mnboulos

Now available at UOP Sexual Health SIM:

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Education%20UK/8/50/23>

and in [our booth at DREAMS Fair](#). A very simple script written by MB, using lListen and lSay. Makes good use of the built-in (internal) Mozilla Web browser. Can be further refined, e.g., ~~to prevent it from listening to objects—no longer the case~~, to parse/filter avatar messages in various ways (for example, to replace spaces between search keywords with %20), and/or to ~~use lLoadURL instead of lSay—done~~, etc. ~~Currently set to listen on the public text chat channel, but can be easily modified to listen to a specified channel (avatars will then need to type /<channel#> before the search keyword)—done.~~



Click to enlarge.

**Other news:** MB will be talking about Sexual Health at the [DREAMS Community Fair 2008](#) on Wed 16 Apr 08 @ 12:00 pm PDT/SLT.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Intute in SL: guess what are the most popular terms and their source?!](#)

April 5, 2008 by mnkboulos

Quoting <http://www.intute.ac.uk/blog/2008/03/28/dispatches-from-the-virtual-frontier/>

“Intute’s search terminals continue to be popular. (...) There are 80+ distinct search terms captured in the database, **the most popular of the user entered terms (ie, not just the default terms initially loaded into the terminal) are ‘STD’ and ‘sexual health’ which come from the Plymouth University Sexual Health project in SL.**“



Read more at <http://www.intute.ac.uk/blog/2008/03/28/dispatches-from-the-virtual-frontier/>

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Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Visit our booth at DREAMS 3rd Annual Fair, 4-25 Apr 08](#)

April 4, 2008 by mnkboulos

Thanks to SL:The Sojourner and her community/SIM for assisting people with stroke, Asperger Syndrome/autism, social phobias, and other neurological/mental difficulties, we have been offered a free space at DREAMS 3rd Annual Fair, 11-25 April 2008. Visit us at <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Dreams/219/85/25> (follow the red arrow to the red beam)



Our booth at DREAMS 3rd Annual Fair, 4-25 Apr 08 (click to enlarge).

There will be lots of entertainment opportunities; a like-real, fully interactive amusement park; great games, visuals and music; other interesting health-related projects to learn about in the exhibition; and an excellent scientific programme (see below – as at 3 Apr 08).

### **Dreams Community Fair 2008 Schedule**

April 4-11, 2008 - Booth Set-up

April 11-25, 2008 - Fair Presentations and Events

April 26, 2008 - Booth Take-down

April

- F11 - 3:30-4:00 pm PST - Opening Remarks  
 4:00-5:00 pm PST - Ideaman Concert  
 5:00-8:00 pm PST - Dance for Life and Health with DJ Ricken Flow
- Sa12 - 12:00 - 1:00 pm PST - Intro to Sculpted Prims - Vlad Bjornson  
 2:30-3:30 pm PST - Gemini Glitter - Ouchies  
 4:00-5:00 pm PST - Overview of Free Sculpty Tools - Vlad Bjornson  
 5:00-6:00 pm PST - Survivorship - Marymac Dougall
- Su13 - 12:00-1:00 pm PST - Spaceman Opus Concert  
 1:00-2:00 pm PST - Grace McDunnough Concert  
 4:00-5:00 pm PST - Alphabet Soup of the Arteries - Ren Stonecutter  
 5:00-6:00 pm PST - Mental Health - Avalon Birke
- M14 - 12:00-1:00 pm PST - Disabled SL-Peoples Association Discussion - Arcadian Meili  
 3:00-5:00 pm PST - T1 Radio Rock Block  
 6:00-7:00 pm PST - Speed Build with Golda
- T15 - 1:00-2:00 pm PST - Tringo with Soj  
 2:00-3:00 pm PST - Understanding Depression and its Link to Suicide - Amaya Summers  
 6:00-7:30 pm PST - TongRen Therapy w/Tong Ren Writer/Support for Healing  
 7:30-8:30 pm PST - Improving Memory as we Age - Arwen Gadsby
- W16 - 12:00 pm PDT/SLT - Sexual Health - MB Chevalier  
 5:00-7:00 pm PST - AS Meeting with Ariel Miranda  
 (5:00-6:00 pm PST) - The Role of a Neuropsychologist - Arwen Gadsby
- Th17 - 1:00-2:00 pm PST - Art and Museums in SL - Arria Perreault- Confederation of Democratic Simulators  
 3:00-4:00 pm PST - Coming of Age in SL Discussion with Tom Bukowski  
 5:00-7:30 pm PST - T1 Radio Mady's Music Marathon
- F18 - 1:00-3:00 pm PST - Brainacs - Basic Scripting - Deevyde Maelstrom  
 3:00-4:00 pm PST - Women and HIV - Lizzette Zenovka  
 4:00-5:30 pm PST - Warbot Construction - Deevyde Maelstrom  
 5:30-7:00 pm PST - Brainiacs - Warbots Competition
- Sa19 - 12:00-1:00 pm PST - Blue Angel - Poetry Reading - Persephone Phoenix  
 1:00-2:00 pm PST - GimpGurl Community Info Session - Aleja Asturias  
 1:00-2:00 pm PST - The Show Must Go On - Osprey Therian /Enjah Mysterio

2:00-4:00 pm PST - Motorability Dance - DJ Amanda Shinji  
 4:00-5:30 pm PST - Crohns & Colitis - KirstenAnn Beck

Su20 - 8:00-9:30 am PST - TongRen Therapy w/Tong Ren Writer/Support for Healing  
 12:00-1:00 pm PST - Fighting Spirit Discussion - Poppy Zabelin ACS/Relay  
 3:00-4:00 pm PST - ACS Caregivers Discussion - Marissa Goodliffe  
 4:00-5:00 pm PST - Stroke Prevention and Early Recognition - Ren Stonecutter  
 5:00-7:30 pm PST - T1 Radio Play Something

M21 - 6:00-7:00 pm PST - Speed Build with Golda

T22 - 1:00-2:00 pm PST - Tringo with Soj  
 5:00-7:30 pm PST - T1 Radio Play Something  
 6:00-7:30 pm PST - TongRen Therapy w/Tong Ren Writer/Support for Healing

W23 - 5:00-7:00 pm PST - AS Meeting with Ariel Miranda

Th24 - 6:00-7:00 pm PST - Micala Lumiere Concert

F25 - 12:00-1:00 pm PST - Medical Ethics - Avalon Birke  
 1:00-4:00 pm PST - Linden Dunk - Mia Linden  
 7:00-8:00 pm PST - Understanding Depression and its Link to Suicide - Amaya Summer

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Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments »](#)

## [HTML-on-a-prim Sexual Health Web Content browser test](#)

March 19, 2008 by mnkboulos

**How to use it:** While standing close to the new UOP logo panel at <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Education%20UK/18/37/23>, click the Movie/ Web Content Play (>) button to start. The panel will then cycle through a number of Web pages, displaying them one after the other (the pages are retrieved and rendered in real time; these are not stored Web page images). If you find a page of interest to you, click on it to further open it in an in-world Mozilla Web browser instance. (These instructions will also display in-world the first time your avatar comes close to the HTML-on-a-prim panel.)



HTML-on-a-prim experiment. [Click to enlarge.](#)

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments »](#)

## [SIM promotion at SFEU event](#)

March 18, 2008 by mnkboulos

On Monday **17 March 2008**, the UOP Sexual Health SIM was featured at an in-world event organised by the [Scottish](#)

**Further Education Unit (SFEU)** in Second Life. You can watch the intro clip by Annamarie Kelly (SL:Edugirl Okelly), E-learning Advisor, SFEU, by clicking her image below. (It's an excellent introduction, apart from her wrong pronunciation of Maged's name — the 'g' should be pronounced like the 'g' in 'get' :-)




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### Schedule for SFEU Second Life Event: Monday March 17th 2008

10.45 – 11.00 Welcome and 'Meet and Greet' opportunity to network in world

11.00 – 11.05 Introduction to Second Life and focus of event from Annamarie Kelly

11.05 – 11.15 Presentation from Pauline Randal from Elmwood college – using Second Life within Scottish Colleges with Q&A opportunities

11.15 – 11.25 A YouTube presentation from Maged N Kamel Boulos from Plymouth University, on how they are using Second Life as part of their sexual health teaching with Q&A opportunities

11.25 – 11.35 Networking opportunities and exploration of spot-lighted resources (Blended, SOLAR, TESEP, Subject Mentors)

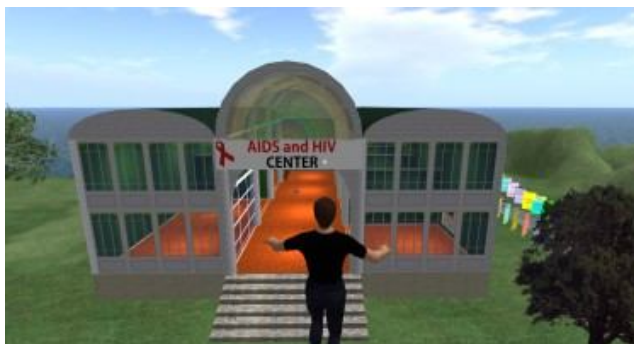
11.35 – 11.55 Tour of Second Life teleporting to 2 locations of interest

11.55 – 12.10 Questions and Answers – "How can SL be used to support learning?"

12.15 Close

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Many thanks, Annamarie, for organising and hosting this excellent event and offering us the opportunity to promote our work!



Also yesterday evening, Maged was invited to contribute to the initial closed discussions about populating (with suitable content) a new 'AIDS and HIV CENTER' that will soon open at Healthinfo Island.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

### [Latest visitors' stats \(13 Feb 08 - 12 Mar 08\)](#)

March 12, 2008 by mnkboulos



Our **blog** is still the first hit in Google for the keywords “[sexual health](#)” + “[Second Life](#)”. Our **in-world public Group** launched on 10 August 2007 now has [128](#) Members as at 12 March 2008, up from 92 Members on 12 February 2008, 84 Members on 12 January 2008, and 80 Members on 14 December 2007 — figures include two admin members (the core project team).

Also as at 12 March 2008 (1:00 AM SLT time), our SIM received more than 2650 **unique visitors/avatars (all time)** since our initial launch on 12 July 2007, up from about 2170 unique visitors on 12 February 2008 (12 Jul 07 – 12 Feb 08), 1890 **unique** visitors on 12 January 2008 (12 Jul 07 – 12 Jan 08), and 1650 **unique** visitors on 13 December 2007 (12 Jul 07 – 13 Dec 07) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher. The **highest peak concurrency figure** was 24 avatars/visitors on [17 February 2008](#), followed by 14 visitors on both 12 September 2007 and 13 December 2007 (all figures not counting owner).

The **total visitor-minutes** spent on our land during the past 214 days (12 Aug 07 – 11 Mar 08, owner minutes excluded) was >25500 minutes — that is >425 hours, of them >95 hours were spent in the past month (12 Feb 08 – 11 Mar 08), (including >26 hours spent on [17 February 2008](#) alone), and >65 hours between 13 January 2008 and 11 February 2008.

More than 170 avatars have so far taken our **in-world survey** as at 11 March 2008 (all instances/responses counted, including incomplete ones).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [At last: flat Web browsing now “fully” integrated into/inside Second Life!](#)

March 9, 2008 by mnkboulos

**Introduced in the latest Second Life RC viewer 1.19.1.0.** This is excellent news for our SIM and all other Second Life places pointing visitors to flat Web content or offering them large collections of flat Web URLs to browse! Click the snapshot below to enlarge.



See also:

[http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/Media\\_on\\_a\\_parcel](http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/Media_on_a_parcel) (more is in the pipe; this is just the start) and <http://ddmcollective.blogspot.com/2008/03/html-on-prim-sort-of.html> and <http://www.sluniverse.com/pics/Default.aspx?Search=html%20on%20a%20prim> and <http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/?p=131>

[Update - 2 Apr 08] Now also supported in the latest *official viewer: [Second Life Release 1.19.1 \(4\)](#)*.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [Project to be featured in next issue of the printed SLang Life magazine](#)

March 5, 2008 by mnkboulos



On Saturday, 9 February 2008, Maged delivered an [invited session about the UOP Sexual Health SIM](#) at an event hosted by SL'ang Life island ([Web - in-world](#)). Today, he received the following note in-world from the event organiser (posted here with permission):

We'd like to thank you once again for your participation in the Health Care Conference at SlangLife Library. We are happy to inform that the event will be featured in **March issue** of the SL'ang Life magazine. In order to get free copy, please fill in the subscription form at <http://www.slanglife.com>

We will be very pleased if you consider joining us on the last weekend of March at the conference on mental health support. Please note that your presentation will be considered as a eventual article for April issue of our magazine. More info soon.

Please contact Uzi Boa or Morigan Polanski with any suggestions or questions.

Best Regards,  
Uzi Boa

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Publications](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Another project dissemination opportunity \(8 May 2008\)](#)

March 4, 2008 by mnkboulos



Maged has accepted an invitation to speak about the UOP Sexual Health SIM at the [Changes in the Higher Education Market Conference](#) to be held on 8 May 2008 at the London School of Economics (LSE) on the South Bank in London. More details will be posted on the conference Web site in due course.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Publications](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [UOP Sexual Health SIM featured in UK universities SL picture set](#)

March 4, 2008 by mnkboulos



Check out:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/silversprite/2304824921/in/set-72157603982005324/>

This is part of a larger effort, study and Flickr picture set. The latest Eduserv Foundation-funded study into UK universities, colleges and academics developing “stuff” in Second Life, and using this for teaching and learning, is underway. Fuller details are blogged here: [www.silversprite.com/?p=460](http://www.silversprite.com/?p=460)

### **Other recent online mentionings of our project:**

- > <http://midwiferyeducation.blogspot.com/2008/02/birthing-centres-in-second-life.html>
- > <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/335/7630/1122>

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Featured comment on ‘Free \(virtual\) male condoms for every visitor!’](#)

February 23, 2008 by mnkboulos



Comment by [Kix Kayamanu](#) on 23 February 2008:

<http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/?p=14#comment-3426>

Well, our [virtual condoms](#) remain 100% **free**, and also come with a comprehensive information pack! Thanks, Kix, for stopping by our blog and joining our in-world group!

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [A century of Members!](#)

February 19, 2008 by mnkboulos

Our in-world public Group now has more than 110 Members as at 19 February 2008, up from [92 Members on 12 February 2008](#). A big ‘thank you’ to all our audience/community and supporters in Second Life! Seems our [latest seminar](#) has resulted in some very strong ‘after-effects’! How amazing are the social dynamics of 3-D blended realities!



However, our audience is not fully represented by/in this Group. We don’t put much emphasis/attention on the number of its Members (but still take it as a positive sign/metric), since the largest majority of our daily and seminar visitors (>95%) are **not** Members of this Group and, in many cases, cannot be, as Linden imposes a limit on the number of Groups an avatar can join (25). Groups are needed for building and for other land permissions, and for many other in-world transactions that cannot be done without joining a corresponding Group. So with the limited quota of 25, people have difficult choices and priorities to make in this respect.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

## [‘Opening Up - A Guide for Women’ seminar: a huge success!](#)

February 18, 2008 by mnkboulos

**18 February 2008:** Yesterday’s seminar entitled ‘Opening Up - A Guide for Women’, the [third in our bimonthly sexual health seminar series](#), was a big success! Many thanks to our guest speaker [SL:Jenn Twin](#) from Canada, and to all those who have attended and contributed to the long chat with Jenn after the seminar.

Snapshots of the event are available at

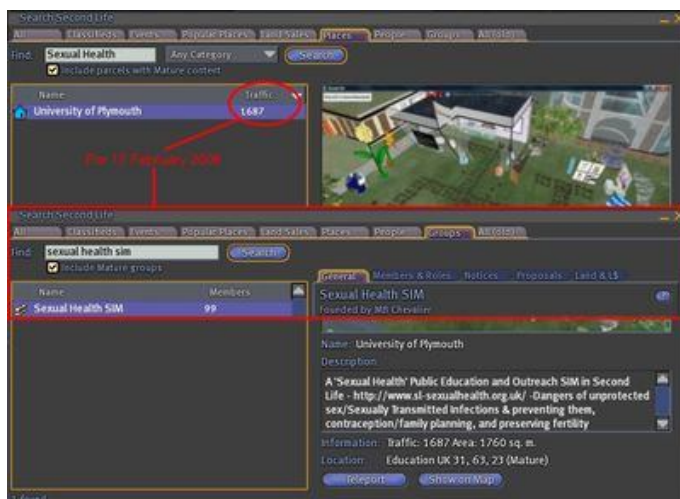
<http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/gallery/thumbnails.php?album=3>



We chose a starting time that would suit both people in North America and those in Europe (7pm GMT). The seminar went very well. It lasted about an hour and half (one hour for the formal seminar, followed by half an hour of informal audience chatting with Jenn), and involved lots of audience-speaker and audience-audience interactivity/chatting.

About 41 unique avatars visited our SIM on the day of the seminar (17 February 2008). They spent in total more than 1600 minutes on our parcel (that’s >26 hours). Peak concurrency was 24 avatars during the time of the event, excluding the project’s team. This is our highest ever peak concurrency since project launch in July 2007. The event had a solid attendance, with most of the peak concurrency maintained (>20 avatars present) *throughout almost the whole formal seminar duration (7-8pm GMT)*.





Our Second Life **official parcel Traffic figure** on 18 February 2008 at 15:30 GMT, reflecting actual traffic/total visitors' minutes on 17 February 2008, the day we had the 'Opening Up - A Guide for Women' event: **1687** visitor-minutes, the highest figure our SIM has ever achieved in any single day since project launch in July 2007! Also as at 17 February 2008, our in-world public Group now has 99 Members, up from [92 Members on 12 February 2008](#).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

## [Why 'in SL and not in "any" website'?](#)

February 13, 2008 by mnkboulos



A user on the SLHEALTH list recently wrote: > *"One of the aspects that would interest me is what are the benefits of using a serious game in SL and not in "any" website"*.

MNK Boulos replied: This is indeed one of the most important and challenging questions/tasks. Question: Why 'in SL and not in "any" website'. Task: To identify the *unique* affordances/'raison(s) d'être' of Second Life (and direct compatibles)\*\*\* in medical/health education, what it can do *better* or *best* (there are many things), and what it can't do at all or well. Many simulations can still be designed and run more efficiently and effectively in Macromedia Flash, e.g., Edheads' interactive

Virtual Hip Replacement <http://www.edheads.org/activities/hip/index.htm> and Knee Surgery <http://www.edheads.org/activities/knee/index.htm>. Flash also allows multi-user interactive applications/chat (in fact Metaplace <http://www.metaplace.com/> is based on Flash). Other more powerful platforms also exist, e.g., <http://www.trusim.com/>

[MNK Boulos](#) - 13 Feb 08

\*\*\* Like the new OpenLife Grid <http://openlifegrid.com/> and the other OpenSim-based public grids, e.g., <http://virtualworldgrid.com/> - <http://deepgrid.com/> - <http://centralgrid.com/> and <http://osgrid.org/> (see [this message](#))

[Update] [Another reply](#): *"The most interesting thing about SL is the communication with many different cultures, ages, and nationalities, people with different interests and goals. Having activities in a more sterile environment is less interesting, even though the game quality could be better. Support groups are here also, a key aspect of learning."*

[MNK Boulos](#)' reply: I agree, but many social networking and communication sites are already doing exactly this, e.g., Sermo <http://sermo.com/>, Facebook, Paltalk <http://www.paltalk.com/>, YouTube, etc. and also feature embedded games and videos (not just links to them), both synchronous and asynchronous discussion/chat tools, as well as vibrant 'support groups' for all sorts of topics/themes and communities.

More replies: [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Second Life](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [3D tour of the testis in Second Life](#)

February 13, 2008 by mnkboulos

Information and landmark are currently available at the Sexual Health SIM (inside the glass building).



Access point for the new 3D virtual tour of the testis (touch in-world for info and landmark—thanks to SL:DrDoug Pennell from The Ohio State University for sharing his 3D tour with us).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Latest visitors' stats \(13 Jan 08 - 12 Feb 08\)](#)

February 12, 2008 by mnkboulos



Our **blog** is still the first hit in Google for the keywords “[sexual health](#)” + “[Second Life](#)”, and was also featured as a ‘recommended resource’ in an article by Elisabeth Marrapodi (SL:Brielle Coronet) entitled ‘[Get a Second Life](#)’ that was [published in the latest issue of National Network vol. 32 \(3\) January 2008 pp. 12-13.](#)

Our **in-world public Group** launched on 10 August 2007 now has 92 Members as at 12 February 2008, up from 84 Members on 12 January 2008, 80 Members on 14 December 2007, and 66 Members on 13 November 2007 — figures include three admin members (the core project team).

Also as at 12 February 2008 (1:00 AM SLT time), our SIM received more than 2170 **unique visitors/avatars** (*all time*) since our initial launch on 12 July 2007, up from about 1890 *unique* visitors on 12 January 2008 (12 Jul 07 – 12 Jan 08), 1650 *unique* visitors on 13 December 2007 (12 Jul 07 – 13 Dec 07), and 1300 *unique* visitors on 13 November 2007 (12 Jul 07 – 13 Nov 07) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher. The **highest peak concurrency figure** was 14 visitors on both 12 September 2007 and 13 December 2007 (all figures not counting owner).

The **total visitor-minutes** spent on our land during the past 184 days (12 Aug 07 – 11 Feb 08, owner minutes excluded) was >19940 minutes — that is >330 hours, of them >65 hours were spent in the past month (13 Jan 08 – 11 Feb 08), and >50 hours between 14 December 2007 and 12 January 2008.

More than 150 avatars have so far taken our **in-world survey** as at 11 February 2008.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments »](#)

## [Project promotion at SL'ang Life Health Care Event](#)

February 9, 2008 by mnkboulos



On Saturday, 9 February 2008, SL'ang Life island ([Web - in-world](#)) hosted a large Health Care Event from 9 am - 5:30 pm SLT. They invited Maged to talk about the University of Plymouth Sexual Health SIM. The session about our SIM was very well attended and received by an audience of more than 30 avatars, and was a good opportunity to promote our work, as well as [next week's seminar](#).

### Event snapshots:

<http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/gallery/thumbnails.php?album=2>

See also:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/slml/2251734386/> and <http://bloghud.com/id/18528/>

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [Our next seminar: ‘Opening Up - A Guide for Women \(and their lovers\)’](#)

February 8, 2008 by mnkoulos



**This brief presentation** will give women of all ages a starting point in which to speak to their partners about their own sexuality, their preferences, and their boundaries. Men interested in improving their own sexual health are also welcome to attend. This will be a fun and practical session where audience participation is encouraged. :)

**About the Presenter:** Jenn Twin is an experienced Sexual Health Educator based in Canada in RL, with nearly 10 years experience in the field. She has written a literature review on condom distribution programmes in schools, has worked to develop programming for Planned Parenthood, and is currently working on developing services for sexual assault victims.

**When/where:** Sunday, **17 February 2008 @ 11:00 AM SLT/7:00 PM UK/GMT** at <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Education%20UK/33/63/22>

**Have you tried the new [WindLight viewer](#)?** The snapshot below shows our new sky and sea as rendered in WindLight (*click to enlarge*).



Warning: Requires beefy graphics card to cope with ‘Ultra’ quality settings (in SL ‘Preferences’)!

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

## [Featured comment on Second Life impact measurement and metrics](#)

January 23, 2008 by mnkboulos



By Simon Bignell (SL: [Milton Broome](#)):  
<http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/?p=77#comments>

See also:  
<http://artfossett.blogspot.com/2008/01/thinking-about-learning-impact-of.html>  
 and <http://dis.shef.ac.uk/sheila/evaluating-notecard.pdf>

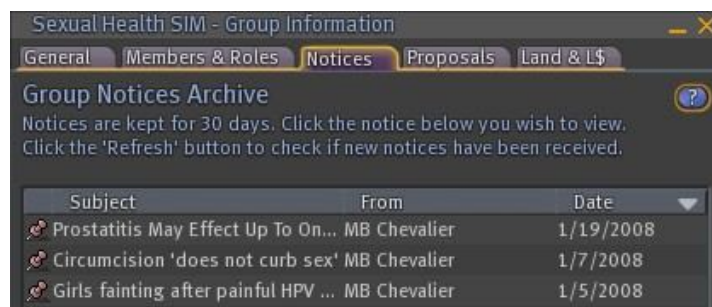
Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Second Life](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Join our in-world group today](#)

January 19, 2008 by mnkboulos

### Direct link:

[secondlife:///app/group/55909603-c4a1-ff83-a0e7-53f114f6398b/about](http://secondlife:///app/group/55909603-c4a1-ff83-a0e7-53f114f6398b/about)



Our in-world public Group launched on 10 August 2007 now has 87 Members as at 21 January 2008. We regularly send information Notices and updates to our members (some of our latest Notices are shown above - Notices are archived for 30 days).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Interactive exhibit design in Second Life](#)

January 19, 2008 by mnkboulos

*“What makes a great interactive exhibit? How can you turn your wild ideas into experiences that excite and inspire visitors? How can you create virtual exhibits that translate well to the real world?”*

*These galleries explore these questions and provide some starting points for you as you design your own exhibits:”*  
<http://slurl.com/secondlife/The%20Tech/128/128/30>



*"Give people facts and you feed their minds for an hour. Awaken curiosity and they feed their own minds for a lifetime."* –Ian Russell

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Second Life](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Latest visitors' stats \(14 Dec 07 - 13 Jan 08\)](#)

January 13, 2008 by mnkboulos



Our blog is now the first hit in Google for the keywords ["sexual health"](#) + ["Second Life"](#). Our in-world public Group launched on 10 August 2007 now has 84 Members as at 12 January 2008, up from 80 Members on 14 December 2007, 66 Members on 13 November 2007 and 25 Members on 12 August 2007 — figures include three admin members (the core project team). Also as at 12 January 2008 (end of the day, SLT time), our SIM received more than 1890 *unique* visitors/avatars (*all time*) since our initial launch on 12 July 2007, up from about 1650 *unique* visitors on 13 December 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Dec 07), 1300 *unique* visitors on 13 November 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Nov 07), 940 *unique* visitors on 13 October 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Oct 07), 590 *unique* visitors on 13 September 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Sep 07), and 210 *unique* visitors on 11 August 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 11 Aug 07) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher. The highest peak concurrency figure was 14 visitors on both 12 September 2007 and 13 December 2007 (all figures not counting owner). The total visitor-minutes spent on our land during the past 154 days (12 Aug 07 - 12 Jan 08, owner minutes excluded) was >15900 minutes — that is >265 hours, of them >50 hours were spent in the past 30 days (14 Dec 07 - 12 Jan 08), and >95 hours between 14 November 2007 and 13 December 2007 (including >20 hours on 13 Dec 07 alone)! More than 140 avatars have so far taken our in-world survey as at 12 January 2008. (P.S. We had a nice [Christmas tree and snow emitter in our SIM](#) over the Christmas and New Year period.)

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Healthcare on Web 2.0 \(including Second Life\)](#)

January 8, 2008 by mnkboulos

Expert View, HIMSS EMEA Web site (8 Jan 08):

[http://emea.himss.org/enewsletters/expert\\_archive/2008/expertviews\\_01-1.html](http://emea.himss.org/enewsletters/expert_archive/2008/expertviews_01-1.html)

A PDF copy is also available [here](#).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Publications](#), [Second Life](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [A Second Life for education?](#)

December 18, 2007 by mnkboulos

Article by Chris Stephens (Intute.ac.uk) mentioning the UOP Sexual Health SIM and much more:  
<http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/blog/2007/12/15/advent-calendar-a-second-life-for-education>

Posted in [Second Life](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Latest visitors' stats \(monthly update\)](#)

December 14, 2007 by mnkboulos



[Our Technorati blog authority](#) is now 26 (up from 21 on 14 November 2007, 16 on 14 September 2007 and 5 at the beginning of August 2007). Our in-world public Group launched on 10 August 2007 now has 80 Members as at 14 December 2007, up from 66 Members on 13 November 2007 and 25 Members on 12 August 2007 — figures include three admin members (the core project team). Also as at 13 December 2007 (end of the day, SLT time), our SIM received more than 1650 *unique* visitors/avatars (*all time*) since our initial launch on 12 July 2007, up from about 1300 *unique* visitors on 13 November 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Nov 07), 940 *unique* visitors on 13 October 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Oct 07), 590 *unique* visitors on 13 September 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Sep 07), and 210 *unique* visitors on 11 August 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 11 Aug 07) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher. The highest peak concurrency figure was 14 visitors (not counting owner) on 12 September 2007 and 13 December 2007, followed by 12 visitors on 6 December 2007, 11 visitors on 29 November 2007, and 7 visitors on 2 November 2007 (again, all figures not counting owner). The total visitor-minutes spent on our land during the past 124 days (12 Aug 07 - 13 Dec 07, owner minutes excluded) was >12900 minutes — that is >215 hours, of them >95 hours were spent in the past 30 days (14 Nov 07 - 13 Dec 07, including >20 hours on 13 Dec 07 alone)! More than 130 avatars have so far taken our in-world survey as at 13 December 2007. Our project has been presented at various in-world and out-world/local and international events and conferences, and even briefly featured in the [SBMJ issue of Dec 07](#).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Family planning and contraceptives seminar: a big success!](#)

December 14, 2007 by mnkboulos

**14 December 2007:** Yesterday's seminar about family planning and contraceptives, the [second](#) in our [bimonthly sexual health seminar series](#), was a real success! Many thanks to our guest speaker [SL:Babette Hoobinoo](#), and to all those who have attended and contributed to the discussions during and after the seminar.

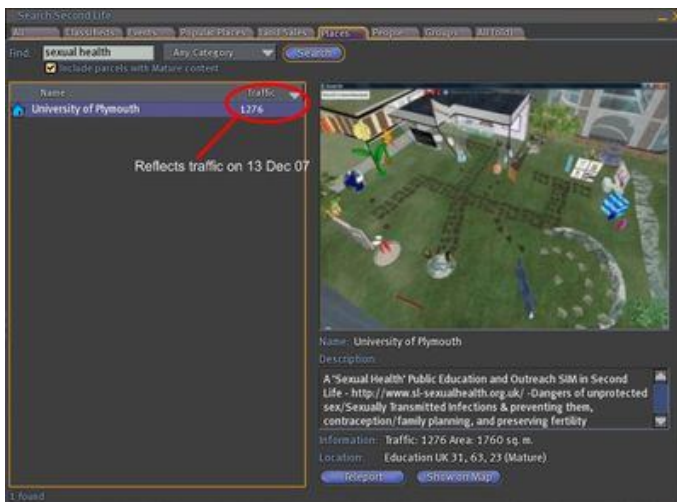


*Click to enlarge.*

Snapshots taken during the 'Family planning and contraceptives' seminar on 13 December 2007, 8-10pm GMT.

We tried a time that would suit both people in North America and those in Europe (8-10pm GMT). The seminar went well. It lasted about two hours and involved lots of audience-speaker and audience-audience interactivity: discussions, questions/answers, and even an avatar from the audience relating their personal experience with one of the contraceptive methods! We also had a quiz (a copy of the questions and answers is now available via the Notecard giver ball beside our PowerPoint display unit by the ocean).

About 33 unique avatars visted our SIM on the day of the seminar (13 December 2007). They spent in total more than 1200 minutes on our parcel (that's >20 hours). Peak concurrency was 14 avatars during the time of the event.

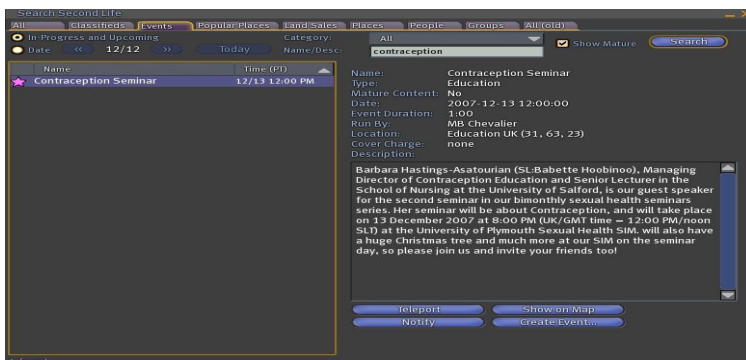


Our Second Life official parcel Traffic figure on 14 December 2007, reflecting actual traffic/total visitors' minutes on 13 December 2007, the day we had the 'Family planning and contraceptives' event: **1276** up from 304 the day before.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Join us this Thursday 13 Dec 07 at 20:00 GMT / noon SLT](#)

December 12, 2007 by mnkboulos



Click to enlarge.

One of our visitors sent us a message saying “Isn't it an oxymoron to have a Christmas tree (the celebration of a birth) during the Contraception Seminar...? Not judging... just find this humorous...”.

Our reply was “Not at all. Our position is neutral; please read this: <http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/?p=49> Plus there are natural methods and very valid reasons for family planning approved by the Eastern Orthodox Church <http://orthodoxwiki.org/Contraception>”.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [At CELDA 2007](#)

December 11, 2007 by mnkboulos



Kamel Boulos MN, Wheeler S, Toth-cohen S. Designing for learning in 3-D virtual worlds: the University of Plymouth Sexual Health SIM experience in Second Life. In *Proceedings of IADIS International Conference on Cognition and Exploratory Learning in Digital Age (CELD A 2007)*, 7-9 December 2007, Algarve, Portugal. Edited by Kinshuk, Sampson DG, Spector JM, Isaías P. IADIS Press, 2007, pp. 401-406 (ISBN: 978-972-8924-48-5) - [Full text \(PDF\)](#) ; [slides \(PDF\)](#)

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Publications](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No](#)

[Comments »](#)

## [Project promotion at key in-world event](#)

December 2, 2007 by mnkboulos

Yesterday (1 December 2007), [Healthinfo Island](#) celebrated the [World AIDS Day 2007](#), and invited Maged to talk about the University of Plymouth Sexual Health SIM. The session about our SIM was very well attended and received by the audience (see snapshots below).



World AIDS Day 2007 at Healthinfo Island (1 December 2007) - snapshot by Namro Orman



World AIDS Day 2007 at Healthinfo Island (1 December 2007)



World AIDS Day 2007 at Healthinfo Island (1 December 2007)

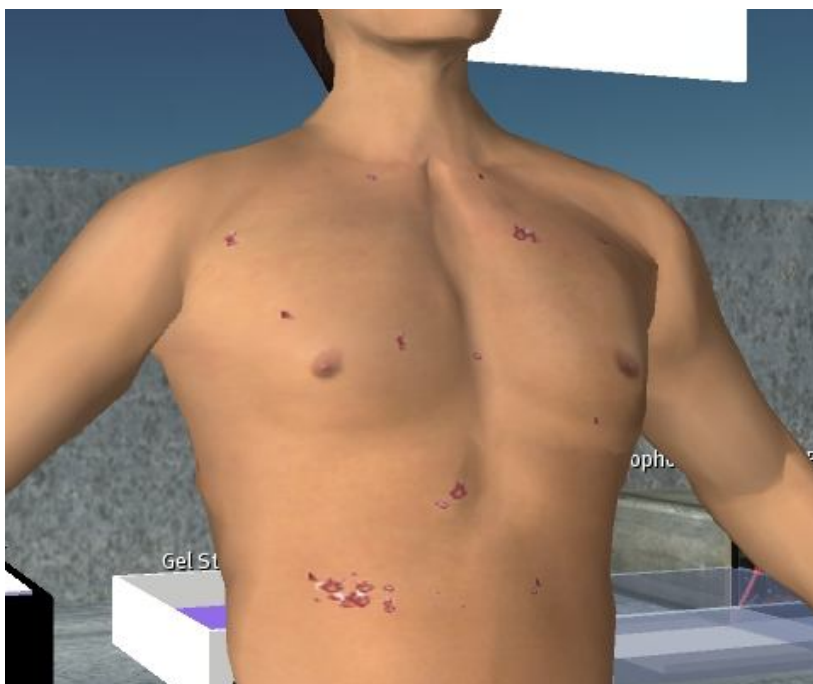
Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Wear a skin disease!](#)

December 1, 2007 by mnkboulos

[Try it out in-world now at our SIM!](#) (look for [our new 'AIDS-related Kaposi Sarcoma Experience' dispenser](#) inside the glass building)

Below is a snapshot of a very 'quick-and-dirty' AIDS-related [Kaposi Sarcoma](#) "skin" for use in-world (it's actually a transparent undershirt with the lesions). People wearing it are able to see and experience on their own avatar how Kaposi Sarcoma looks/feels in AIDS patients. Of course the same principle can be expanded, refined and used to role-play patients with various skin conditions/presentations and at various stages of their disease (to show progress, worsening or healing). Such "patients" (driven by real humans behind the PCs, who should also have full patient knowledge about the conditions they are role-playing) can be used to train clinicians in-world (esp. on rare conditions and for undergraduate teaching). A kind of a **virtual clinical round**, you may call it, where trainee clinicians can also ask these virtual patients questions (history taking) and get intelligent answers by the patients in real time (using voice or text or both), conduct clinical examination in the usual way (avatars can take off clothes :-), ask for investigations, receive feedback, and have additional sensorial inputs in-world like streaming audio/videos (live or on-demand), photos and text, as well as links to flat Web pages and resources.



One can easily zoom into the lesions, and high-resolution is possible. One can wear a skin and take it off/wear another







New [rotating Earth globe](#) providing access to two [Worldmapper](#)'s maps of HIV prevalence and HIV/AIDS deaths.

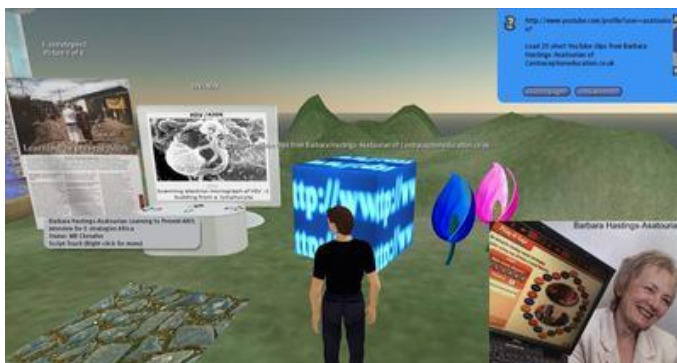
[1 December 2007](#) is [World AIDS Day](#).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [Seminar and sex education material by Barbara Hastings-Asatourian](#)

November 19, 2007 by mnkboulos

Barbara Hastings-Asatourian (SL:Babette Hoobino), [Managing Director of Contraception Education](#) and [Senior Lecturer in the School of Nursing at the University of Salford](#), has kindly agreed to deliver an in-world seminar about *Contraception* on **13 December 2007 at 8:00 PM (UK/GMT time = 12:00 PM/noon SLT)** at the [University of Plymouth Sexual Health SIM in Second Life](#). Barbara also contributed some excellent material ([20 video links](#), in-world slides/[quiz](#) and [articles](#)) to the UOP Sexual Health SIM (see snapshot below).



Click to enlarge. 'Learning to prevent AIDS' interview/article display and link to 20 YouTube videos (blue HTTP cube) contributed to the UOP Sexual Health SIM by Barbara Hastings-Asatourian (inset bottom right).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [Second Life impact measurement and metrics](#)

November 18, 2007 by mnkboulos



**I recently received the following query via e-mail:**

*How can (if it can) the "impact" of using SL for educational purposes such as an in-world seminar or tutorial, over not using SL, be "measured" or quantified?*

**Following is my quick reply (copied from two separate e-mail replies of mine):**

**e-mail 1:** SL has its parcel traffic metrics/user tracking tools like any other more conventional Web-based system. You would measure the impact (depending on specific contexts/subject matters) like you would do for any more conventional Web-based or digital (e.g., CD/DVD-ROM) system; surveys, focus groups and interviews are among the tools + the more quantitative automatic usage metrics (see my second e-mail below).

**e-mail 2:** “Measuring” the “impact” is very tied to the subject you are using SL for, AND the way you are using SL to serve this subject, plus other factors like audience profiles, etc. Hence I would avoid saying that one would be measuring the impact of SL in education in general, or comparing SL with the flat Web. A bad production or movie should not be taken as an evidence that the motion picture/cinema has no impact or is all bad, just because some producer doesn’t know how to use it properly. Also in addition to the points mentioned in my first reply to you concerning this question, I would also include analysis of chat logs/session recordings, course outcomes/exam results and effect on drop-out rates (esp. in distance learning courses) among the evaluation tools/metrics. But everything should be interpreted with a grain of salt (you might be measuring ‘production quality’ or ‘fitness for purpose’ of the *specific instance* at hand, rather than SL (or the flat Web) as a tool). And quantitative metrics alone are not a very useful measure; a popular site is not necessarily one that users have found (later, after visiting) useful, or one that has resulted (again, later after the visits have been counted) in a positive change in their knowledge, attitude and behaviour! (Behaviour is the most difficult of the three, (knowledge, attitude and behaviour—in this order), to change/measure.) For some SL metrics tools, check out:

<http://www.second-labs.com/>  
<http://www.mayarealities.com/>  
<http://www.code4software.com/VTracker.aspx>  
<http://www.slmetrics.com/>

[N.B.: In SL, users can frequently zoom into some object and even fully interact with it at a distance (Client menu > untick 'Limit Select Distance' and tick 'Disable Camera Constraints'). In such cases a parcel's visitor counter/sensor would be useless, as it would fail to count this type of usage/interaction with content on the parcel. But individual objects on the parcel can be designed to have their own scripts for logging such interactions that involve touching or clicking the object at a distance (but still not simple 'zooms into' the object).]

–[M.N.K. Boulos](#) - 13, 18 Nov 07

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Second Life](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

## [When mirror and virtual worlds converge...](#)

November 17, 2007 by [mnkboulos](#)

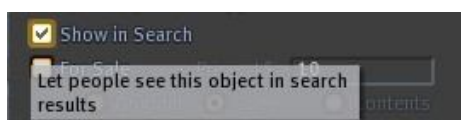
First let me thank all those who sent me words of praise and encouragement in private e-mails or on the [Second Life Healthcare Support and Education list](#) and [elsewhere online concerning the Health Information and Libraries Journal](#) paper. Maged’s next, soon-to-be-published Second Life paper is co-authored with Eur Ing David Burden of [Daden Limited](#), and is about the convergence of mirror worlds and virtual worlds, which together with lifelogging and augmented reality, will create the full 3-D Internet/Metaverse in a decade or so from now. The paper also covers and reflects on original health-related work we have done in this area, so watch this space!

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Publications](#), [Second Life](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [New improved Second Life search makes the Sexual Health SIM more findable](#)

November 17, 2007 by [mnkboulos](#)

The UOP Sexual Health SIM can now be found using a much wider range of keywords, including keywords that don’t appear in the SIM’s parcel description like ‘[herpes](#)’. Maged did the necessary changes last week to enable this new SL functionality for the UOP Sexual Health SIM. The main parcel description string now supports longer, multiline text, plus individual objects can be made “searchable” by ticking the new ‘Show in Search’ option in the object Edit dialog box. This “[adds” object descriptions to the main parcel description](#)”, thus increasing the range of keywords that can be used to search for our SIM.



Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Just published](#)

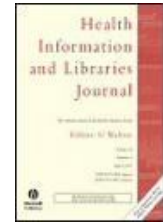
November 15, 2007 by mnkboulos

Article title: **Second Life: an overview of the potential of 3-D virtual worlds in medical and health education**

Authors: [Maged N. Kamel Boulos](#), Lee Hetherington & Steve Wheeler

Volume 24, Issue 4, Pages 233-245, Cover Date December 2007

Journal Name: *Health Information and Libraries Journal*



Click here to go to the abstract of this article in Blackwell Synergy:

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1471-1842.2007.00733.x> [PubMed/MEDLINE]

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Publications](#), [Second Life](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Latest visitors' stats](#)

November 14, 2007 by mnkboulos



[Our Technorati blog authority](#) is now 21 (up from 16 on 14 September 2007 and 5 at the beginning of August 2007). Our in-world public Group launched on 10 August 2007 now has 66 Members as at 13 November 2007, up from 25 Members on 12 August 2007 — figures include three admin members (the core project team). Also as at 13 November 2007 (end of the day, SLT time), our SIM received more than 1300 *unique* visitors/avatars (*all time*) since our initial launch on 12 July 2007, up from about 940 *unique* visitors on 13 October 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Oct 07), 590 *unique* visitors on 13 September 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Sep 07), and 210 *unique* visitors on 11 August 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 11 Aug 07) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher. The highest peak concurrency figure was 14 visitors (not counting owner) on 12 September 2007, followed by 7 visitors on 2 November 2007 (again, not counting owner). The total visitor-minutes spent on our land during the past 94 days (12 Aug 07 - 13 Nov 07, owner minutes excluded) was >7300 minutes (that is >120 hours!). More than 110 avatars have so far taken our in-world survey as at 13 November 2007.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [UOP Sexual Health SIM on CNN SL I-Reports](#)

November 10, 2007 by mnkboulos

Get the [CNN HUD](#) at <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Future/214/203/27>



UOP Sexual Health SIM on CNN SL I-Reports (click to enlarge).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment »](#)

## [Women's health expo and conference](#)

November 7, 2007 by mnkboulos

On 7 November 2007, starting at 8 AM SLT, on Oleander island there will be an island-wide women's health expo and conference. [SL:PCOSGurl Infinity](#) was very kind to offer us an exhibit space for the UOP Sexual Health SIM.



Click thumbnails to enlarge.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment »](#)

## [Plymouth 2.0!](#)

October 31, 2007 by mnkboulos

We had a RL visit on 30 October 2007 by Andy Pulman (SL:Andy Ginsberg) from Bournemouth University. Andy wrote about his visit in his blog:

<http://andyp.edublogs.org/2007/10/31/plymouth-20-trip/>

and

<http://andyp.edublogs.org/2007/10/31/nhs-in-second-life-second-health/>

Maged also delivered a short presentation and LIVE tour of the Sexual Health SIM in Second Life on 31 October 2007, 11am-12pm, to a mixed audience of staff and students from various faculties, schools and departments across the University of Plymouth. The session took place in room 011 in the recently-opened [Roland Lewinsky Building](#) at the main Plymouth campus, and was very well attended and received by the audience.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [New 'AIDS Group' display](#)

October 19, 2007 by mnkboulos



Please touch the display [in-world](#). (Click above image to enlarge.)

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment »](#)

## [Latest visitors' stats and dissemination activities](#)

October 15, 2007 by mnkboulos

Our in-world public Group launched on 10 August 2007 now has 64 Members as at 13 October 2007, up from 25 Members on 12 August 2007 — figures include three admin members (the core project team). Also as at 13 October 2007 (end of the day, SLT time), our SIM received more than 940 *unique* visitors/avatars (*all time*) since our initial launch on 12 July 2007, up from about 590 *unique* visitors on 13 September 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 13 Sep 07), and from 210 *unique* visitors on 11 August 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 11 Aug 07) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher. The total visitor-minutes spent on our land during the past 63 days (12 Aug 07 - 13 Oct 07, owner minutes excluded) was >5200 minutes (that is >85 hours!), including >850 minutes on 12 September 2007 alone (the day we had the ‘Broken Wing’ Event). More than 100 avatars have so far taken our in-world survey as at 13 October 2007.

We also carried out several dissemination activities over the past weeks, including presenting ‘A quick tour of the University of Plymouth’s Sexual Health Project in Second Life’ at the [Rethinking Interprofessional Education and Development Conference](#), Plymouth, UK, on 8 October 2007 — Maged did a short PowerPoint about the [3-D Internet](#), plus a 15-minute LIVE tour of our SIM in Second Life, which was extremely well received by the audience (from all over the UK and also Canada). More dissemination activities are planned in the near future, so stay tuned.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Publications](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »



## [New interactive 3-D Earth globe \(STIs in Europe\) and Silent Witness display](#)

October 1, 2007 by mnkboulos

**1 October 2007:** Maged set-up a new scripted 3-D Earth globe for accessing [STIs/HIV/AIDS](#) statistics and information from 53 European region countries (compiled by the [WHO’s Regional Office for Europe](#)).



Our new interactive 3-D globe for accessing STIs/HIV/AIDS statistics and information for Europe.

Where: Look for the 3-D globe beside the giant yellow-red flowers outside the glass building.

Use is very simple: In the public chat box, type:

`/8 where is country-name`

to find *country-name* in a list of 53 European region countries and plot it on the globe as red marker. Once plotted, touch the marker to access the latest STIs/HIV/AIDS statistics and information for that country.

The underlying technology from [Daden.co.uk](#) can also be used to geographically map and access live news stories in-world, as well as all sorts of real-time [Google Earth \(KML\) feeds](#) and [Geo/RSS](#) data by plotting points on the globe (in-world), and further linking those points to images and Web URLs. One can have more than one function/target info item associated all at the same time with a plotted location (Landmarks, Notecards, other Inventory items, and/or Web URLs). Users can also do the reverse: put pins on a map in-world, and then view the data points on the Web in [Google Maps](#) or [Google Earth](#).

**Related:** See ‘Second Life GIS’ section at <http://healthcybermap.org/sl.htm> (regularly updated).



Thanks to [SL:Ziolla Maggie](#), we now also have a new interactive ‘[Silent Witness](#)’ display about [domestic violence](#) and its victims, just beside our CDC podcast player by the sea.

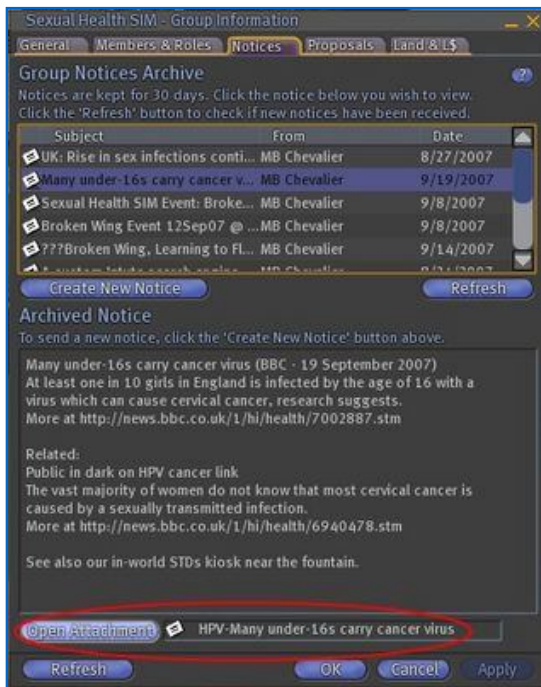


Aerial view of the [University of Plymouth Sexual Health SIM in Second Life](#). The land is 1760 m<sup>2</sup>, with a 402 prim quota, of which 344 prims were used as at 1 October 2007 when this screenshot was made.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment »](#)

## [One in 10 young women in England infected with HPV!](#)

September 20, 2007 by mnkboulos



In-world message about human papillomavirus (HPV) sent to our [public group](#) members on 19 September 2007. Members can view past Notices and Attachments as shown above.

For multimedia information about HPV, please visit our [interactive STDs info kiosk/atlas in-world](#) (located near the fountain).

P.S. We have updated the video stream in our SIM, so that the AIDS programme loads faster and plays smoothly (it now points to an .mp4 file specifically hinted for streaming).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [‘Broken Wing, Learning to Fly’: a big success!](#)

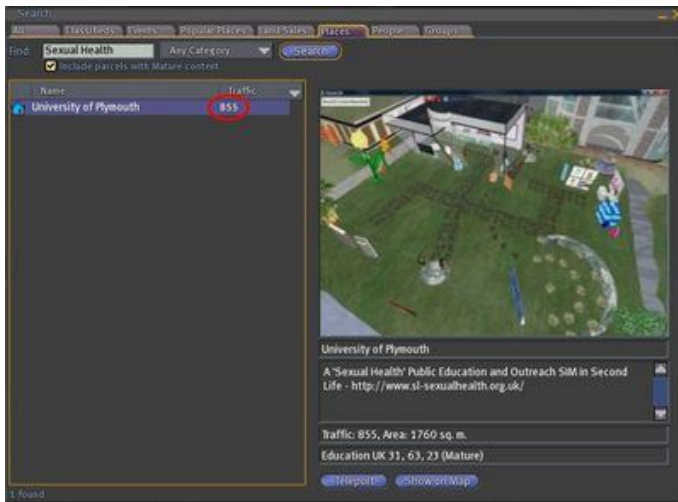
September 14, 2007 by mnkboulos

Machinima video date: 12-Sep-07 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKIIB1WTA4w>

The [‘Broken Wing’ Event on 12 September 2007](#) was a real success! Many thanks to our guest speaker [SL:Beacon Becloud](#), and to all those who have attended and contributed to the discussions during and after the seminar (about 20 avatars — peak was 14, and more than 10 stayed from start to end: 8-9 pm BST). (On the day of the event, 12 September 2007, our SIM received more than 40 *unique* visitors/avatars (peak unique visitors was 14), who spent >850 minutes on our land.)

To view clearer snapshots of the ‘Broken Wing’ Event held at the UOP Sexual Health SIM on 12 September 07 at 12:00 noon SLT/PDT (08:00 PM UK Time), please visit our [Image Gallery Search page](#) <http://www.sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/gallery/search.php> and search for: **BrokenWing** (type it as one word). Maged uploaded 20 full-screen snapshots he took during the event.





Our Second Life official parcel Traffic on 13 September 2007 (reflecting actual traffic on 12 September 2007, the day we had the 'Broken Wing' event): **855**, up from 95 on the day before!



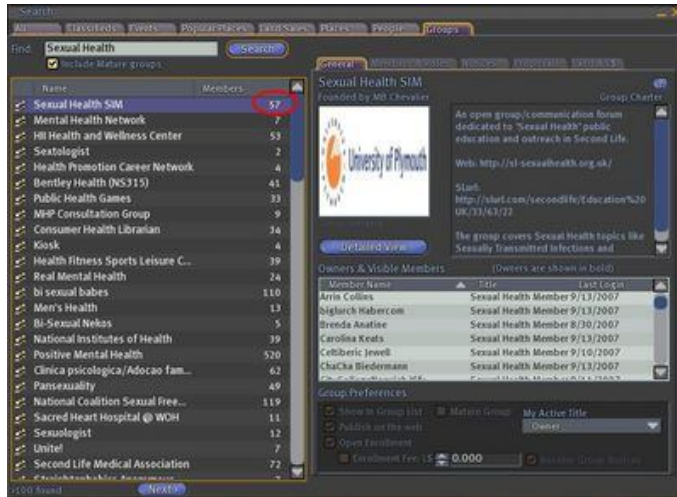
Our PR Newswire press release of 12 September 2007 (see: <http://www.sluniverse.com/aw/Story.aspx?StoryID=96>) was also displayed on all in-world PR Newswire kiosks around the Second Life Grid, including kiosks at the central plaza in Midnight City, Aqua, Kula 1, Hawthorne, Lukanida, Slackstreet, Isles of Intrigue2, Fusion Bay, Text 100 Island, Ruby-Ivanova, and many other locations.



Promoting our SIM: A copy of our historical STDs posters kiosk and SIM landmark/URL giver is now on permanent display at [Healthinfo Island \(95, 152, 21\)](#). Many thanks to SL:Carolina Keats.

**Latest stats:** [Our Technorati blog authority](#) is now 16 (up from 5 at the beginning of August 2007). Our in-world

public Group launched on 10 August 2007 now has 57 Members as at 13 September 2007, up from 25 Members on 12 August 2007 — figures include three admin members (the core project team), and, as at 13 September 2007 (end of the day, SLT time), our SIM received more than 590 *unique* visitors/avatars (*all time*) since our initial launch on 12 July 2007, up from about 210 *unique* visitors on 11 August 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 11 Aug 07) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher. The total visitor-minutes spent on our land during the past 33 days (12 Aug 07 - 13 Sep 07, owner minutes excluded) was >3000 minutes (that is >50 hours!), including >850 minutes on 12 September 2007 alone (the day we had the ‘Broken Wing’ Event).



Our public Group in Second Life: 57 Members as at 13 September 2007.

For the latest news and resources about **Second Life in Medicine and Health**, please visit <http://healthcybermap.org/sl.htm>

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Machinima Videos](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

## [Additional touches...](#)

September 10, 2007 by mnkboulos

**10 September 2007:** Added new rock paths, some assorted pansies in a planter (near the plumeria tree beside the glass building), a potted plant (inside the glass building), and a few new links (to the blue http cube) and interactive slides (to the STDs kiosk beside the http cube).

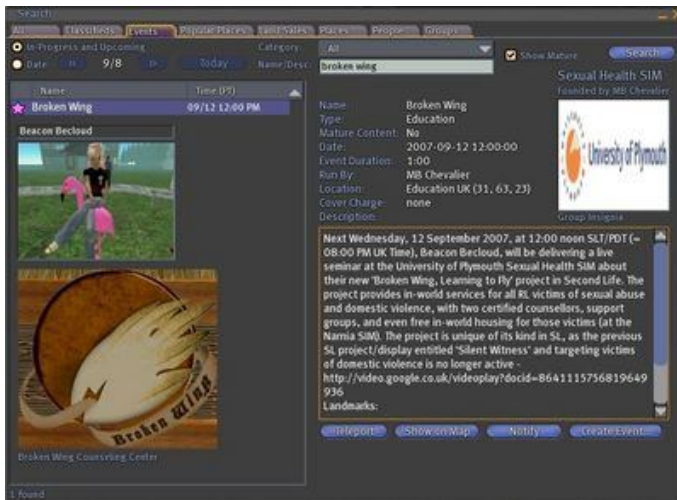


Aerial view of the University of Plymouth Sexual Health SIM in Second Life. The land is 1760 m2, with a 402 prim quota, of which 341 prims were used as at 10 September 2007 when this screenshot was made.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [Broken Wing: live seminar at UOP Sexual Health SIM in Second Life](#)

September 8, 2007 by mnkboulos



In-world listing of the Broken Wing Event - 12 September 2007 @ 8:00 PM UK Time. Out-world Broken Wing event info:

[https://secure-web1.secondlife.com/events/event.php?](https://secure-web1.secondlife.com/events/event.php?id=839049&date=1189580400)

[id=839049&date=1189580400](http://www.sluniverse.com/aw/Story.aspx?StoryID=96) – <http://www.sluniverse.com/aw/Story.aspx?StoryID=96>

Next Wednesday, 12 September 2007, at 12:00 noon SLT/PDT (= 08:00 PM UK Time), SL:Beacon Becloud, will be delivering a live seminar at the University of Plymouth Sexual Health SIM about their new '*Broken Wing, Learning to Fly*' project in Second Life. The project provides in-world services for all RL victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence, with two certified counsellors, support groups, and even free in-world housing for those victims (housing is offered at the Narnia SIM).

The project is unique of its kind in SL, as the previous SL project/ display entitled '*Silent Witness/Broken Silence*' and targeting victims of domestic violence is no longer active -

<http://video.google.co.uk/videoplay?docid=8641115756819649936>

#### Landmarks:

*University of Plymouth Sexual Health SIM*

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Education%20UK/33/63/22>

(the event will take place in our open-air seminar area)

*Broken Wing - Narnia*

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Narnia/160/220/23>

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [In-world Seminars](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [Knowledge is the enemy of \(sexually transmitted\) disease](#)

September 7, 2007 by mnkboulos

The goal of our SIM is to help young adults make *well informed* choices of *their own*. We provide strong messages and education about sexually transmitted infections and the dangers of unprotected sex. Our in-world objects provide information about both condoms and abstinence, so our presentation is not biased towards one camp or the other, nor imposing any particular direction/method on our visitors.

[Watch two related videos...](#)

More Sexual Health/Sex Education videos from teachers.tv:



Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

## [Condom Tac Toe, pamphlets, new quality links, map, historical posters](#)

## and flowers!

August 26, 2007 by mnkboulos



**26 August 2007:** We have a new two-player board game, Condom Tac Toe (pictured below). Come with your friend(s) and play by the ocean, while listening to soothing music streamed over our SIM's audio channel! The game's key message is *'Safe Sex Always!'*



Condom Tac Toe!

**Other additions:** There are free sexual health pamphlets below the laptop in the glass building. Please help yourself! We have also added new links, including 'DIPEX Sexual Health of Young People Module' and more, to the blue http cube, which is now also animated. The [voice-enabled STDs info kiosk/atlas](#) beside the cube also has an additional slide/link to an 'Interactive Map of STDs in London PCTs, 1997-2003'.\* And lastly, we have some new giant flowers beside the fountain. Enjoy!



Pamphlets, new links, map and flowers! (Inset: The new pamphlets rack; touch to get a pamphlet.)



Historical STDs posters stand.

\*The map is described in [Boulos et al. Int J Health Geogr. 2005 Jan 18;4:4.](#)

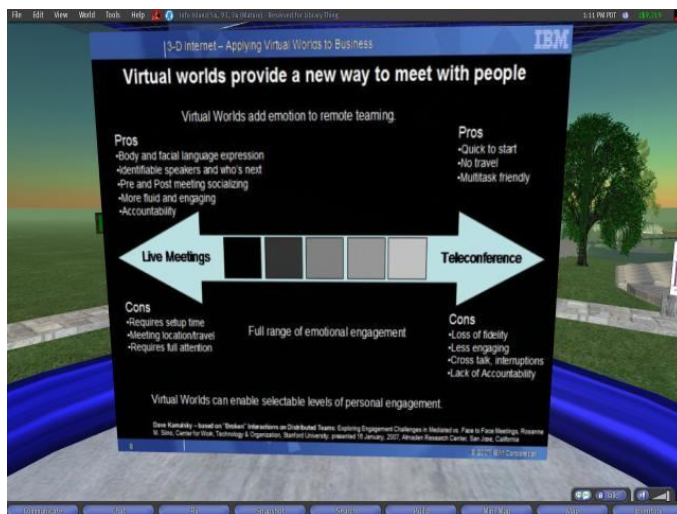
P.S. A Notice entitled 'UK: Rise in sex infections continues' (with a Notecard attachment about the latest UK STIs stats from [HPA](#) has been sent today to members of our [in-world public group](#).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Live meetings in 3-D virtual worlds vs. conventional interactive webcasting / Web videoconferencing](#)

August 24, 2007 by mnkboulos

For those attending in-world, 3-D virtual worlds like Second Life add **emotion / pseudo-body language communication** (thanks to sophisticated avatars — closer to face-to-face contacts, but less “threatening” / with more “protection” for those needing this) and a **shared pseudo-physical 3-D space**. These features are *lost* when watching a live Second Life broadcast on [SLCN–Second Life Cable Network](#) or via [Mogulus](#) (if you don't already know this, Mogulus can be used to broadcast / stream in-world events live to the Web, when combined with tools like [ManyCam](#), which can be set to directly stream a user's Windows Desktop/Second Life client instead of a webcam–Windows Vista users having difficulty capturing / streaming sound can additionally use [SoundTap](#)). (To do the reverse, e.g., stream a RL surgical operation live in Second Life, you will need a service that outputs in QuickTime like [Veedia](#).)



[M.N.K. Boulos' comment on above slide from IBM](#) (click to enlarge): A 3-D virtual world offers a shared virtual space, enabling students and tutors to feel more naturally, closely and strongly together because of the shared spatial dimension, which can also have other educational uses during a voice conferencing session, including scenarios involving avatars and various in-world objects. You don't get the same shared pseudo-physical spatial dimension in [conventional flat text \(and emoticons\) / voice / video conferencing and chatting](#) over the Web. (To see the above slide in-world, visit [Info Island \(54, 95, 36\)](#).)

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Second Life](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [A custom Intute search engine for our in-world visitors](#)

August 24, 2007 by mnkboulos

**24 August 2007:** We have just installed a custom Intute search engine inside the glass building in our SIM (pictured below). The object was created and donated by [SL:Csteph Submariner](#) and lets the owner specify multiple search terms on a notecard inside it. We currently have four search terms specified, covering sexual health and related topics.

[Intute](#) is a free UK online service providing access to the very best Web resources for education and research. All material in the Intute database is evaluated and selected by a network of subject specialists from a consortium of seven UK universities. 'Intute: Health and Life Sciences' is led by the University of Nottingham.



Our custom Intute search engine retrieves quality search results from <http://www.intute.ac.uk/> and displays them in-world.

**Latest stats:** [Our Technorati blog authority is now 14](#) (up from 5 at the beginning of August 2007). Also [our overview machinima clip](#) has been watched 5,679 times during the first month after its posting on YouTube (25 Jul 07 - 24 Aug 07 noon BST). Our in-world [public group launched on 10 August 2007](#) now has 42 members as at 24 August 2007 @ 13:00 BST (up from 25 members on 12 August 2007), and as at 23 August 2007, our [SIM](#) received more than 340 *unique* visitors/avatars since our initial launch on 12 July 2007, up from about 210 *unique* visitors on 11 August 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 11 Aug 07) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher. The total visitor-minutes spent on our land during the past 12 days (12 Aug 07 - 23 Aug 07, owner minutes excluded) was >850 minutes.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [A visitor from Singapore!](#)

August 14, 2007 by mnkboulos

[Vanessa Tan \(SL:Vantan Gray\)](#) visited our SIM today and blogged about it on her blog—read her article: [Sexual Health in Second Life \(15 August 2007\) - http://vantan.org/archives/2007/08/sexual\\_health\\_i.php](#)

She also uploaded a nice Flickr collection of snapshots that she took during her visit to our SIM: <http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=Sexual%20Health&w=21548501%40N00>

Vanessa works at the [Health Promotion Board of Singapore](#), handling the new media aspects of their HIV/AIDS campaigns. *Welcome Vanessa!*

[Guus van den Brekel \(SL:Namro Orman\)](#), who oversees [HealthInfo Island](#) with [Carol Perryman \(SL:Carolina Keats\)](#), also visited our SIM this week and blogged about it: [Sexual Health Info Station! \(14 August 2007\) - http://bloghud.com/id/12343/](#)

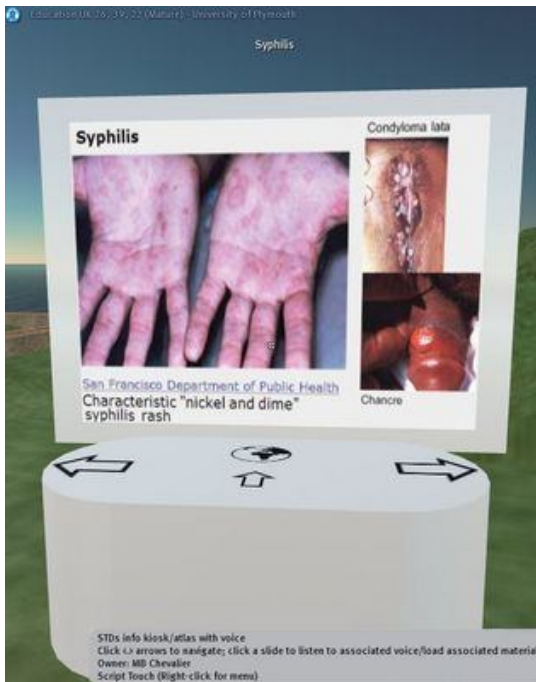
Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »



## [A new interactive STDs info kiosk / atlas with voice](#)

August 12, 2007 by mnkboulos

**12 August 2007:** We now have a new interactive multimedia STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) info kiosk/atlas with voice (pictured below). It is located by the fountain, beside the [blue 'http' cube](#) in our SIM. Operating the new kiosk is very simple. Touch the <> arrows to navigate the slides/topics; touch a slide to listen to associated voice narration (thanks to [Microsoft Anna](#)) or load associated material (PowerPoint quiz game or Web page). The aim of the new kiosk is to send a serious and strong message about STDs to young adults visiting our SIM. Happy learning!



Our new interactive STDs info kiosk/atlas with voice narration. The pre-recorded voice files are stored on the Web outside Second Life to ensure faster access, and also to avoid playing them in-world, (which may annoy other visitors in our SIM), and give our visitors more individual control over voice clip playback without interference by others.

**Other news:** Our [public group launched on 10 August 2007](#) now has 25 members as at 12 August 2007 @ 20:30 BST, including three admin members (the core project team). We have also installed a new advanced [traffic monitor](#) that can track repeat, as well as unique/new visitors, and provide us with useful statistics, including visitors per day, peak visitors and total time visiting (owner's visits are not counted/monitored). The latter statistic ('total time visiting') can serve as a rough measure of visitors' interest in/perceived utility of our SIM (see this related news item: [\[1\]](#)).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [3 Comments »](#)

## [Resources on Sexual Health](#)

August 11, 2007 by mnkboulos

**11 August 2007:** The Sexual Health SIM represents a synthesis of current approaches to both [MUVEs](#) and sexual health. More content on sexual health is under development, including its socio-cultural context.

Key resources that we have consulted and are currently using to guide the development of this content include the UK's [Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV/AIDs](#) publications and [selected peer reviewed articles](#) on interventions targeting sexual health. For an excellent perspective on the social and contextual factors contributing to HIV/AIDs, see Logan, Cole, & Leukefeld's (2002) meta-analysis in the latter.

Hand-picked Web resources that our SIM visitors currently have access to via in-world links include:

- Information from [NHS Direct Online](#);
- Material from the [World Health Organization](#) (all in-world broken links are now fixed);
- Material from [sexualityandu.ca](#), a portal of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC);
- Material from the [Family Planning Association](#), a UK sexual health charity;
- [Podcasts](#) from the US-based [Centers for Disease Control](#) (include sexual health topics);
- Material from [RESOLVE, the National Infertility Association](#): in-world display offering Preserving Fertility information; and
- A sexual health video library from [VideoJug](#) featuring interviews with [Dr Christian Jessen](#) and others.

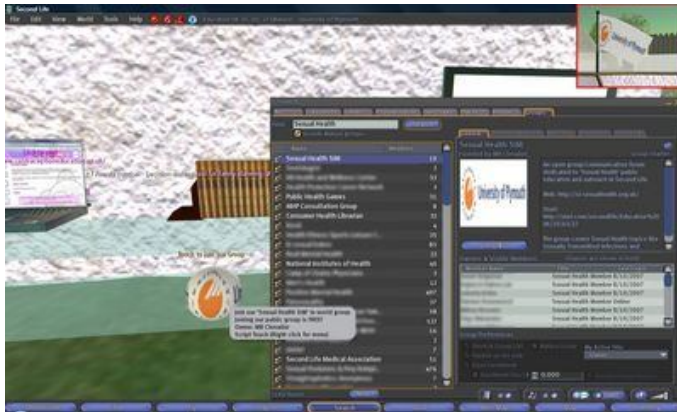
Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments »](#)

## [Join our new in-world public group \(L\\$0\)](#)

August 11, 2007 by mnkboulos

**10 August 2007:** Designing a proper 3-D virtual world service in Second Life presents a social engineering challenge. As Kemp [1] stresses, this is not (just) one of ‘technology and scripting’ but of ‘*community scaffolds*’. Second Life is part of the Web 2.0 movement, which is all about *people* and online communities/social networks [2,3].

Second Life is a unique and rich 3-D social networking experience. It allows people from all over the world to meet, share objects and collaborate in many novel ways, using a comprehensive and well-integrated suite of asynchronous and synchronous multimodal communication tools. One of these powerful social networking/ communication tools is the ‘Groups’ functionality in Second Life.



Our public in-world ‘Sexual Health SIM’ group. Joining this group is FREE (L\$0) and open to anyone in Second Life. Note our new ‘Touch to join our Group’ ball inside our glass building.

We have now created a new in-world public ‘Sexual Health SIM’ group (pictured above) for young adults and health educators interested in our subject. (Creating a new group in Second Life costs L\$100. This is our second group; we have another private/closed group limited to the project’s core team and tied to our land, which we created at the start of the project to enable us to collaboratively create and edit objects on our parcel.)

It is hoped that our new public group and communication channel, and the material/info and forthcoming event notifications that will be exchanged through it, will grow to attract and accommodate dozens or even hundreds of users and supporters over the course of the project. The group has been set so that *all* members can:

- Invite others/friends to join the group;
- Join Calls/Send group IMs (Instant Messages/group chat that can reach all group members, irrespective of their locations in-world, with a single click — we will be closely monitoring this functionality for any abuse/spam and will eject abusers from the group);
- Receive Notices and view past Notices; and
- Vote on Proposals.

The new group charter reads as follows:

An open group/communication forum dedicated to ‘Sexual Health’ public education and outreach in Second Life.

Web: <http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk/>

SLurl: <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Education%20UK/33/63/22>

The group covers Sexual Health topics like Sexually Transmitted Infections and Contraception. Joining this group is FREE!

The group is branded with the University of Plymouth logo. You can find the group and join it in-world, if you search for Groups and type in ‘Sexual Health SIM’. Visitors to our SIM can also request to join the group by simply touching the ‘white ball with the University of Plymouth logo’ inside our glass building (the new ball is also pictured above).

**Our latest in-world visitor statistics** show that we have had more than 210 *unique* visitors/avatars in the first four weeks after our initial launch, between 12 July 2007 and 10 August 2007, up from about 160 *unique* visitors on 4 August 2007 (12 Jul 07 - 4 Aug 07) — the corresponding figures with *repeat* visitors would be much higher.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [5 Comments](#) »



## [Ask Alice a question!](#)

August 5, 2007 by mnkboulos

**5 August 2007:** Want to chat or ask a question but cannot find someone to talk to during your visit to our SIM? Alice, our new 24/7 in-house resident “expert” (pictured below), might be able to help you and also put a smile on your RL face! She never gets tired, but won’t allow you to repeat the same words over and over again. She will even direct you to some suitable Web sites if she is unable to fully understand your question/answer you!



**Ask Alice (our pseudo-intelligent chatbot) a question about contraception or STIs!** Alice can be found 24/7 inside our glass building. Click her to hear a warm ‘Welcome’ in a female voice and then start chatting with her! **Inset:** Human help is also available using our new ‘online tracker’ gadget, which visitors can use to send us instant messages when we are in-world but not in our SIM.

Our ‘Alice chatterbot’ is intended to present some simple facts about contraception and STIs in a fun way, but cannot replace consultation with a real human expert. For best results, try including common keywords like ‘condom’ or ‘herpes’ in your questions, and only ask her simple questions, e.g., ‘What is...’ or ‘Tell me some info about...’ type of questions. (Her answers may sound silly or out of context sometimes, but at least will never harm you or offer you incorrect facts/info.)

Maged built this gadget using only one prim (plus L\$20 to upload Alice’s picture and voice), and powered it by creating a modified version of [SL:Dedric Mauriac’s public domain Eliza Chatbot script](#). (A second script is also included to play Alice’s sound when a user clicks the gadget.)



We have also uploaded [a few useful slides about the prevention of STIs](#) into our in-world PowerPoint Viewer, which is located by the sea in our open-air seminar area. (Our [3-prim Slide Viewer object](#) is a creation of SL:Eloise Pasteur and can be obtained from her in-world vendor at the [ICT Library Shop](#).)

**Our latest in-world visitor statistics** show that we have had more than 160 *unique* visitors/avatars in the first three

weeks after our initial launch, between 12 July 2007 and 4 August 2007 (the figure with repeat visitors would be much higher for the same period – the corresponding SL traffic figures for our SIM fluctuated up and down between 10 and >300 over the same three-week period; [SL traffic calculation takes into account the length of visits](#)), but [our YouTube video](#) has been viewed more than 1500 times between 25 July 2007 and 4 August 2007! Also during the same short period of about three weeks [our blog's Technorati Authority jumped from 0 to 5!](#) ([This blog entry](#) describes a similar observation: “a SL presence has a ‘long tail of impact’ (including on the Web, outside SL) that’s measured in more than the number of avatars in any one place at any one point in time”.)

Automatic tracking of visitors’ interest in, and interaction details with, *specific individual objects* in our SIM would be more useful, though also technically much trickier to implement and sometimes not feasible, reliably or at all, with some object types/scenarios. But thanks to our [in-world questionnaire tool](#) we are still able to gain some insight about (some) users’ preferences/interest in, or dislike of, particular objects or aspects of our SIM.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [Voice at last!](#)

August 3, 2007 by mnkboulos

**3 August 2007:** Our SIM is now fully-voice enabled, but visitors will have to install the latest [main Second Life viewer](#) from Linden Lab to make use of the new feature (some of the elements of the new voice interface are pictured below). Read more at <http://blog.secondlife.com/2007/08/02/the-second-life-voice-viewer-is-live/>



Voice at last!

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [Access the latest CDC podcasts in-world](#)

August 1, 2007 by mnkboulos

**1 August 2007:** Visitors to our SIM can now click a giant podcast player (pictured below) to start browsing and listening to the latest podcasts from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A few of the featured podcasts are about Sexual Health/STIs, e.g., ‘HIV/AIDS and Women’. Users can continue listening to the podcasts after leaving our SIM/teleporting elsewhere.



Our podPlayer (powered by podcastpickle.com) allows our SIM visitors to access and listen to the latest podcasts from the US CDC.

### Latest news media coverage of our project:

- Island SLife (31 July 2007) - <http://steve-wheeler.blogspot.com/2007/07/island-slife.html>
- Sex Ed Comes to Online Game 'Second Life' (Switched, NY - 31 July 2007) - <http://www.switched.com/2007/07/31/sex-ed-come-to-online-game-second-life/>
- Sex ed in Second Life (Salon, USA - 31 July 2007) - [http://www.salon.com/mwt/broadsheet/2007/07/31/sex\\_in\\_second\\_life/index.html](http://www.salon.com/mwt/broadsheet/2007/07/31/sex_in_second_life/index.html)
- Free (Virtual) Condoms in Second Life (30 July 2007) - <http://www.campusprogress.org/page/community/post/ksteiger/C24Q>

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Chronicle of Higher Education takes note](#)

July 28, 2007 by mnkboulos

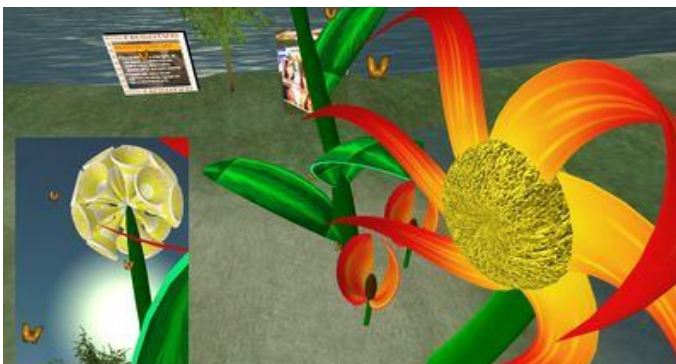
The US-based [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) included a brief news item about our Sexual Health SIM in Friday's (27 July 2007) edition. See the full item at [The Wired Campus blog](#). The Chronicle states that its Web traffic routinely is more than 12 million pages a month, seen by more than one million unique visitors.

Also [Rod Ward](#) posted an entry about our project in Informaticopia (27 July 2007): <http://www.rodspace.co.uk/blog/2007/07/sexual-health-sim-project-in-second.html>

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Catch them with your mouse if you can!](#)

July 28, 2007 by mnkboulos



**Learning can and should be fun!** Our giant and colourful, butterfly-emitting flowers are a good example of how we

designed our SIM to be a truly immersive world in which reality (RL) and fantasy are seamlessly mixed in a carefully balanced way that is warmly-inviting, youthful, cheerful, enjoyable, practical and functional, and aesthetically pleasing, all at the same time (apologies for the long list of adjectives :-). We avoided the replication of a boring and often intimidating RL institutional or classroom environment in SL, but at the same time maintained solid and familiar links with RL.

Our in-world objects are not [too abstract](#), thus reducing learners' [cognitive load](#) – even if over-sized or presented on purpose in some other “odd” way, they remain in essence familiar RL objects that visitors can easily relate to, without being at the same time boring exact replicas of the RL objects they represent. (But faithful replicas of RL objects and buildings in SL are sometimes necessary and to be encouraged depending on context/application, e.g., [virtual tourism](#)/history and architectural modelling of RL buildings in SL for various RL planning/testing, simulation, training and marketing purposes. On the other hand, very abstract creations also have a place as forms of art in SL.) Realistic [sound effects](#) can also greatly enhance the ambience and immersiveness of educational SIMs.

But too much fun and fantasy ('bells and whistles' not directly reinforcing the educational message) might also negatively affect the learning process by acting as distractors. So again a good balance is needed.

We hope this approach will positively effect our young visitors' learning experience and retention, and also encourage longer visits and more exploration of, and interaction with, our SIM's educational objects, as well as more repeat visits and 'teleport offers' to friends.

These beautiful flying butterflies (pictured above) are continuously emitted by a hidden scripted object that is only one prim (bought for L\$100). Catch them with your mouse if you can! (The giant flowers were created by SL:Troy McLuhan and were free to 'Take Copy' at another SIM, and that's how we acquired them, a good example of how (prefab) objects can be reused unchanged or modified, remixed and repurposed in many creative ways in the immersive, vast 3D wiki that is SL, much *à la* Web 2.0 (subject to the object having its SL DRM properties set to allow reuse/modification).)

#### Related food for thought:

- Kemp J. Designing in Second Life (The SLED Picayune - 2 June 2007) - <http://sledpicayune.blogspot.com/2007/06/designing-in-second-life.html>
- Mosely B. Keynote session at Second Life Best Practices in Education Conference 2007 (25 May 2007) - [http://healthcybermap.org/MNKB\\_slbp2007.pdf](http://healthcybermap.org/MNKB_slbp2007.pdf)
- 'The copying of RL into SL is rather silly' –multiple with and against opinions/messages with this subject line (SL Educators List - July 2007) - <https://lists.secondlife.com/pipermail/educators/2007-July/subject.html>

–[M.N.K. Boulos](#) - 28 July 2007

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Second Life](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

## [Open-ended questions added at last! Thanks Eloise!](#)

July 27, 2007 by [mnkboulos](#)

**27 July 2007:** [Eloise Pasteur](#) (pictured below during her visit today to our SIM) has kindly helped us add the functionality for open-ended/free-text questions to our in-world survey tool by editing the [LSL](#) script that powers our questionnaire inside the blue ball at the entrance of the glass building.

Our in-world questionnaire now features three new open-ended questions (including 'What did you like the most?' and 'What did you like the least?'), which respondents can answer in free text by typing in the chat box, in addition to the original six close-ended/fixed-choice questions. (The script then e-mails all answers to the project team.)

It is also worth noting that we are already using [Eloise's scripts](#) elsewhere in our SIM, e.g., the slide/PPT viewer in our open-air seminar area and the script powering our blue obelisk quiz game, both of which (and many more) can be bought from her in-world vendor at the [ICT Library Shop](#). Eloise also wrote a nice article about our project for *Second Life Insider* (see link below). Thanks Eloise!

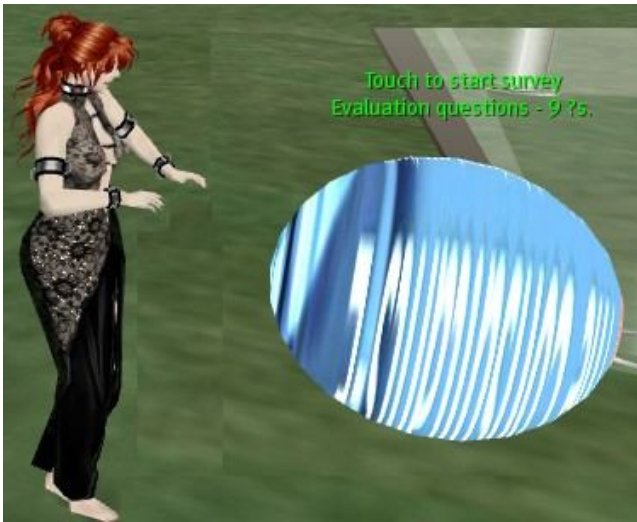
#### Latest blog entries about our project:

- **Sex in SL** - <http://www.secondlifeinsider.com/2007/07/27/sex-in-sl/> (Eloise's article mentioned above - don't miss

the readers' comments below her article)

- **Virtual condoms anyone?** -

<http://steve-wheeler.blogspot.com/2007/07/virtual-condoms.html>



Left: Eloise Pasteur during her visit to our SIM on 27 July 2007 - Right: Our in-world questionnaire tool.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment »](#)

## [Tour of Sexual Health SIM](#)

July 25, 2007 by mnkboulos

Machinima video date: 24-Jul-07 - Music by Medwyn Goodall <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKL3GZUDudg>

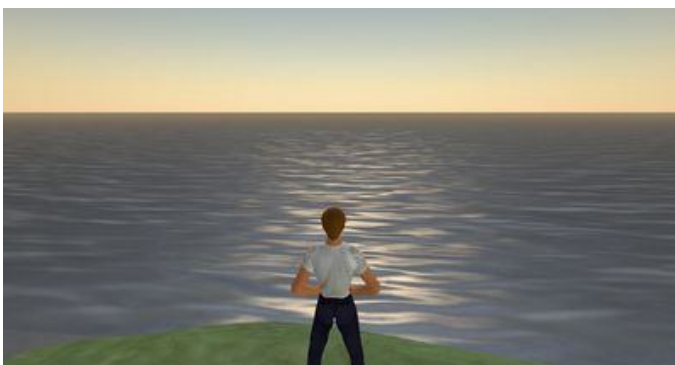
This video provides an introduction to some of the resources currently available at the Sexual Health SIM, a snapshot of our “work in progress.”

Posted in [Machinima Videos](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [4 Comments »](#)

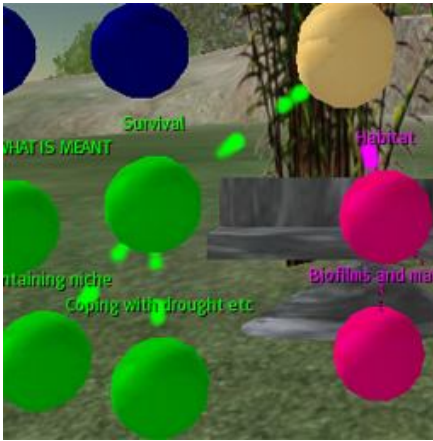
## [Opinion: apples and oranges — I like them both!](#)

July 24, 2007 by mnkboulos

Comparing the 2D Web to 3D multi-user, immersive virtual worlds can be tricky, and some might consider it like comparing apples with oranges or comparing the experience of reading an online health information leaflet to that of having a face-to-face meeting with a clinician. The affordances of both media are different; they are also not mutually exclusive or a substitute for one another, but rather very complementary and synergistic in many ways.



We need to especially identify and focus/capitalise on what 3D virtual worlds are best at—those (useful) things/scenarios that can only be effectively carried out in virtual worlds and not via any other ‘e’ medium (as effectively), and also determine the optimal formulae for blended approaches that combine 2D and 3D media.



Online leaflets and static information materials have no social component—even those materials offering single-user interactivity or asynchronous, multi-user (predominantly textual) interactivity remain seriously lacking in this respect. Second Life, on the other hand, is about 3D social networking par excellence; it has this unique ‘human touch’ and is instantaneous, something not found (in a similar way) in 2D social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook or in instant messaging/voice chatting services like [Paltalk](#). Second Life is closer in many respects to face-to-face/social encounters, but also adds to them many exciting new dimensions, fantasy, and virtually endless possibilities—you name it. And let’s not forget that Second Life is a collaborative 3D wiki and an immersive audio-visual spatial experience that users can edit, experiment with, and see the changes in real time!

People also have different tastes/preferences and currently the audiences of the 2D Web and the 3D Web/Second Life are overlapping but still different ([read the US CDC arguments about this: “going where people are... yet another opportunity to learn and teach about public health”](#)). Furthermore, and in support of the above mentioned potential complementarity and synergy between both media, we are starting to see the 2D and 3D Webs gradually converge and merge; see, for example, the [Flux project](#), [this blog article](#) and [this application](#).

So 3D virtual worlds are here to stay and eventually become one with/tightly and seamlessly integrated with the 2D Web over the coming months and years (rather than replace the 2D Web). Indeed, a recent futuristic/visionary American report entitled [VISIONS 2020—Transforming Education and Training Through Advanced Technologies](#) suggests that by 2020 (or before) we will see new jobs like “*simulation and virtual environments engineers who build and maintain the components for synthetic environments, including specialised scientific software, e.g., a digital human that can be used for a variety of learning situations; specialists in building the components of simulated towns, instruments, landscapes, biological systems, or physical phenomena*”.

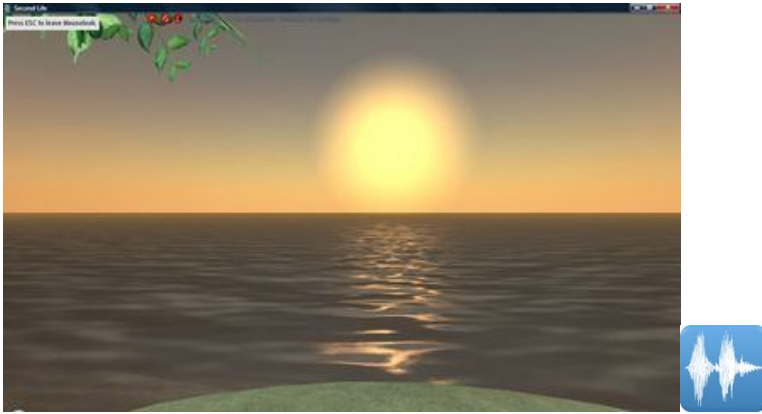
—[M.N.K. Boulos](#) - 24 July 2007

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Opinions and Reflections](#), [Second Life](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Environmental sound effects: turn your speakers on and enjoy!](#)

July 24, 2007 by [mnboulos](#)

**24 July 2007:** We now have some excellent 3D spatialised ambient environmental sound effects in our SIM for the *ultimate immersive edutainment experience!* Our new refreshing and relaxing sounds include gentle waves at seashore, birds in the trees and water flowing (for the fountain we have in the corner). The sounds are subtle and non-intrusive, and become practically imperceptible when voice or music are played in-world. Click the sunset screenshot below to listen to a recorded MP3 sample of our new ambient sounds.



Click the image above to listen to a sample of our new ambient sounds.

Related SL function: <http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/LIILoopSound>

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [1 Comment »](#)

## **[Free \(virtual\) male condoms for every visitor!](#)**

July 23, 2007 by mnkboulos

**23 July 2007:** We now have a Free Condom Dispenser inside the glass building, offering visitors free (virtual) male condoms and practical information (pictured below - only one prim)! We hope this will prove to be a useful 'raising awareness' edutainment artefact.

We have also added a virtual bookshelf (beside the mock laptop, again inside the glass building), which visitors can interact with to browse a collection of 22 PowerPoint FLIPCHARTS and other documents from the [World Health Organization](#) that together make an excellent decision-making and how-to tool for family planning and sexual health.

Finally, we have contacted the UK [Family Planning Association](#) (fpa) for possible collaboration with them, and added an in-world link to their homepage to our [blue Web URL Cycler/Launcher cube](#) by the fountain.





Our Free (virtual) Condom Dispenser: dispenses two 3D male condom objects to user's inventory, plus an information notecard on how to use a (real) male condom. Maged built the dispenser using only one prim, and textured it using two uploaded images (at L\$10 each), one for the front of the machine and the other for the remaining sides. The virtual condom objects (do not count as simulator prims) and information notecard are stored inside the dispenser object (as 'Content'), together with a script to offer (copies of) them to the user upon clicking on the machine ([try it now in-world](#)).



Some have argued that you cannot use an SL virtual condom in RL sex, but you also cannot drink a Coca-Cola radio! It is the *message* that matters in both cases ('remember to use a condom'; 'drink Coca-Cola')!

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

## ['Preserving Fertility' materials added](#)

July 21, 2007 by mnkboulos

**21 July 2007:** Our group is now collaborating with [RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association](#), a US based non-profit, to help educate residents of Second Life about lifestyle choices that may preserve fertility. A continuous slide show of *Preserving Your Fertility*, excerpted from a 2004 brochure published by [RESOLVE](#), is now live. RESOLVE's mission is to "provide timely, compassionate support and information for people experiencing infertility and to increase awareness of infertility issues through public education and advocacy. "



Our new Resolve.org multi-slide information display about 'Preserving Fertility' (slides used by permission).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [Our project is covered in Eduserv's July 2007 snapshot of UK HE and FE developments in SL](#)

July 20, 2007 by mnkboulos

**20 July 2007:** We have just received an e-mail from [John Kirriemuir \(SL: Silversprite Helsinki\)](#) saying that the report he was collecting information for is now published online:



[...]

If you are reading this, then you sent me a good reply to the request for information about your Second Life development. To which: thanks very much. The report is finished, and online at:

<http://www.eduserv.org.uk/foundation/sl/uksnapshot072007>

[...]

Thanks John!

#### Other updates:

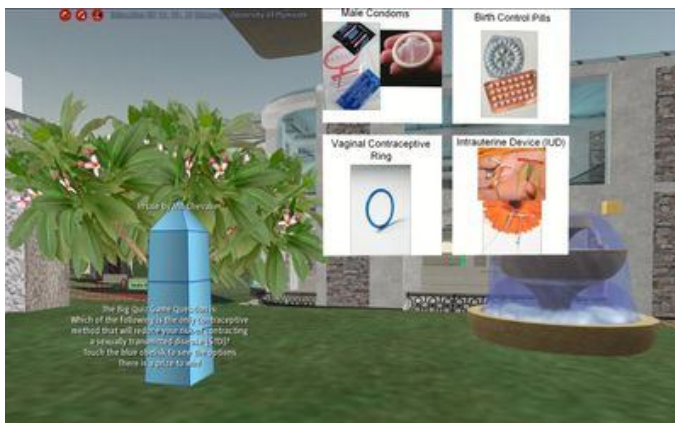
- Added new/more questions to our in-world survey tool;
- Added new right/wrong textures and an additional prize (prizes are given by the game at random) to our [Big Quiz Game](#); and
- Increased size of our video screen (inside the glass building).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [The Big Quiz Game!](#)

July 18, 2007 by mnkboulos

**18 July 2007:** Touch the obelisk (pictured below) and test your knowledge. You could win a surprise prize!



The Big Quiz Game - an interactive graphical 'Contraception and STDs' quiz with a prize to win if your answer is correct (the prize is delivered to your inventory in-world). The four photo tiles change position randomly each time the game is played.

We also have another new gadget to show you today:



Our new Web URL Cycler/Launcher featuring a hand-picked collection of Online Sexual Health Resources from NHS Direct and Mayo Clinic.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments »](#)

## [The latest Sexual Health news for our in-world visitors](#)

July 17, 2007 by mnkboulos

**17 July 2007:** We now have a newsstand displaying the latest Sexual Health news from Yahoo! (pictured below - bought for L\$350 from the [ICT Library](#) shop in-world, then customised to parse the Yahoo! News RSS feed for the phrase 'Sexual Health'). The gadget does not use a proxy server. The included script parses the XML directly! The newsstand will refresh every 10 minutes, and will display the top two Sexual Health headlines on Yahoo! News in hover text. If you click on the newsstand, it will load the top story in a Web browser.



Our newsstand displaying the latest Sexual Health news from Yahoo! News.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [A new open-air seminar area](#)

July 15, 2007 by mnkboulos

**15 July 2007:** Susan has been very active today using her creative talent to experiment with various designs for our open-air seminar area. The current design at time of writing is pictured below. Thanks Susan.





Our new open-air seminar area.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Welcome ChaCha!](#)

July 14, 2007 by mnkboulos

**14 July 2007:** ChaCha Biedermann (pictured below) has agreed to join our project and build a new interactive AIDS/HIV/STD information kiosk on our land. She has many exciting low-prim plans and ideas, including making the kiosk read aloud using pre-recorded voice files. You can also find ChaCha's Second Life group for supporting HIV-positives in-world, if you search for Groups and type in "AIDS". Her group is named "AIDS and HIV HELP".



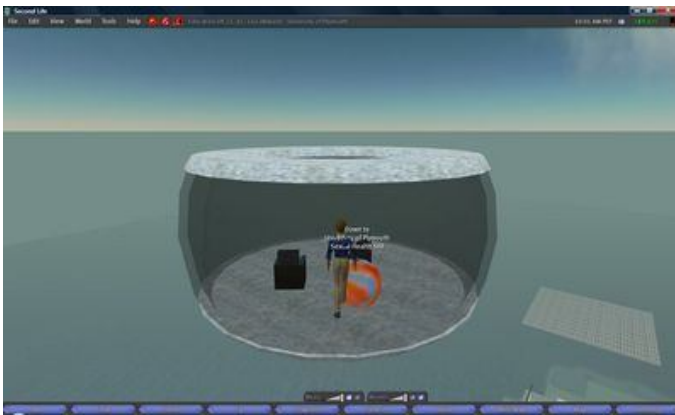
ChaCha Biedermann visiting our Sexual Health SIM land (14 July 2007).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments »](#)

## [Privacy in the skies!](#)

July 13, 2007 by mnkboulos





**13 July 2007:** We now have our own very low-prim, private skybox high in the sky above our land. Skyboxes can be used (instead of/in addition to private IM) to ensure privacy for realistic one-to-one visitor-advisor/counsellor voice and text consultations. It is noteworthy that the ‘Health and Wellness Center’ at HealthInfo Island, which was developed to bring patient advocacy to Second Life, uses skyboxes, so that support groups or smaller consultations are ensured privacy.

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## [New screenshots - 12 July 2007](#)

July 12, 2007 by mnbkoulos



Open-air seminar area with presentation/video screen (still under construction)



Our glass building entrance - Video screen playing/streaming a programme about AIDS/HIV Note our new water fountain (to the right)!



Nice flowers!



Laptop displaying a page from Contraception Education - clicking the laptop in-world will launch the [corresponding Web page](#)



Taking a visitor survey in-world - user feedback is then sent via e-mail to the project team



Teleport station to the new AIDS/HIV/STD display at HealthInfo Island - click cube (in-world) for teleport landmark ([night view](#))



Our new in-world noticeboard - click in-world to visit [sl-sexualhealth.org.uk](http://sl-sexualhealth.org.uk)



As at 12 July 2007 noon our traffic value has increased to 215 (up from 54 in above screenshot taken on 11 July 2007)! (This is a daily value that fluctuates up and down.)



Our new interactive EZ-Note Message Board (bought for L\$100) - visitors can click in-world to leave a note. We also have a ‘visitor counter’ installed beside it to monitor land traffic.



Another view of the glass building - when the video is playing it makes nice reflections on the glass walls.

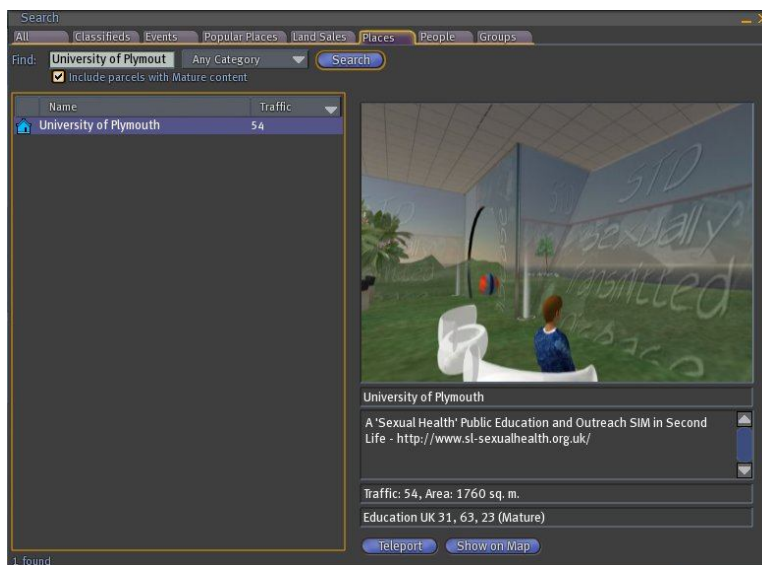
Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [SIM Statistics](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## [Initial construction work and networking began](#)

July 11, 2007 by mnkboulos

**10-11 July 2007:** Some initial construction work has been carried out, with new functionality added to the land, e.g., an 'info notecard/landmark giver' and test audio/video streams. The land is also now listed in Second Life Search (pictured below - costs L\$30/week). Maged contacted (in-world) Karen Ngowe (SL: Wuzzadiva Iddinja) who manages the [US CDC presence in Second Life](#) and Carol Perryman (SL: Carolina Keats) who oversees [HealthInfo Island](#), a project funded by the US NIH/NLM. Wuzzadiva warmly welcomed the news about the new project and said she will relay the info to her CDC colleagues working on sexually transmitted infections. Carolina expressed her willingness to help promote the project, and asked for a poster or display about the project (which I sent to her this morning) to have a copy of it at HealthInfo Island. She also mentioned that they have a display on AIDS/HIV and that she is working with a student who is creating an interactive STD display. She said that one of the co-creators of the AIDS/HIV display is a young person who is HIV positive, who had really wanted to begin an AIDS/HIV support group. This has not been successful, but the person is still active in SL, and we hope to invite them to contribute to our project. We will also definitely explore further opportunities and possibilities to collaborate with Karen and Carol/the CDC and HealthInfo Island, and exchange relevant in-world objects/materials and expertise with them over the course of the project.

Elizabeth Grigg, Senior Lecturer in Adult Nursing at the University of Plymouth (Taunton site), is an expert in sexual health and might also help us in this project—maybe as one of our invited speakers in future in-world events. Another potential speaker is Barbara Hastings-Asatourian from Salford University; she is the inventor of the very successful [Contraception Board Game](#).



Our Sexual Health SIM is now listed in Second Life Search (costs L\$30/week).

Posted in [Health Education and Outreach](#), [Second Life](#), [Sexual Health](#) | [2 Comments »](#)

## [New project land granted on 9 July 2007 until 31 July 2008!](#)

July 10, 2007 by mnkboulos

**Welcome to SL-SexualHealth.org.uk!** Yesterday (9-Jul-07) we heard the great news that our grant application to [SLEducationUK.net](http://SLEducationUK.net) was successful! They granted us a 1760 m2 land in Second Life (pictured below - [SLurl](#)), plus other in-world goodies and this Web site. The land is very nicely sized with a 402 prim quota, and we very much like its waterfront location.

The [University of Plymouth](#) team (in collaboration with [Thomas Jefferson University, USA](#)) will design and implement a sexual health education programme targeting young adults in Second Life that focuses on:

- Prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STI's);
- Prevention of unintended pregnancy;
- Promotion of equitable sexual relationships;
- Developing methods for systematic data gathering on users' sexual health concerns and response to programming in Mutli-User Virtual Environments (MUVES);
- Identifying best practices for delivery of health education programmes in Second Life and other MUVES; and
- Developing recommendations for ways that MUVES can contribute to comprehensive health education programmes that include multiple educational venues.

You can learn about our project in detail and what we are planning to do over the coming year by downloading and reading our winning proposal: [A 'Sexual Health' Public Education and Outreach SIM in Second Life](#).

[Maged N Kamel Boulos, Faculty of Health and Social Work, University of Plymouth, UK](#)  
[Susan Toth-Cohen, Jefferson College of Health Professions, Thomas Jefferson University, USA](#)



Our new presence in Second Life! Nothing built yet (10-Jul-07).

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