

## CICAD Meeting with the Universities of the Americas Concerning the Drug Phenomenon Focusing on the Use of Scientific Evidence

The Role of Family Relations, Spirituality and Entertainment in Moderating the Relationship between Peer Influence and Drug Use among Students from one university in Georgetown, Guyana

Andrew Hicks and Bridget Ogowewo  
2011 - 2012



Sept. 12-14, 2012



# Principals

## CICAD/OASCAMH

- § Maria da Gloria M. Wright, Ph.D.      Academic Coordinator: Maria Itayra Padilha, Ph.D
- § Maria Itayra Padilha Ph.D
- § Samuel Noh. Ph.D (Principal Investigator)
- § Francisco Cumsille, Ph.D.
- § Bruna Brands, Ph.D
- § Hayley Hamilton, Ph.D
- § Denise Gastaldo, Ph.D

### Directors of the Program:

- § Maria da Gloria M. Wright, Ph.D (CICAD/OAS)
- § AkwatuKhenti (CAMH; Office of International Health)





## Introduction

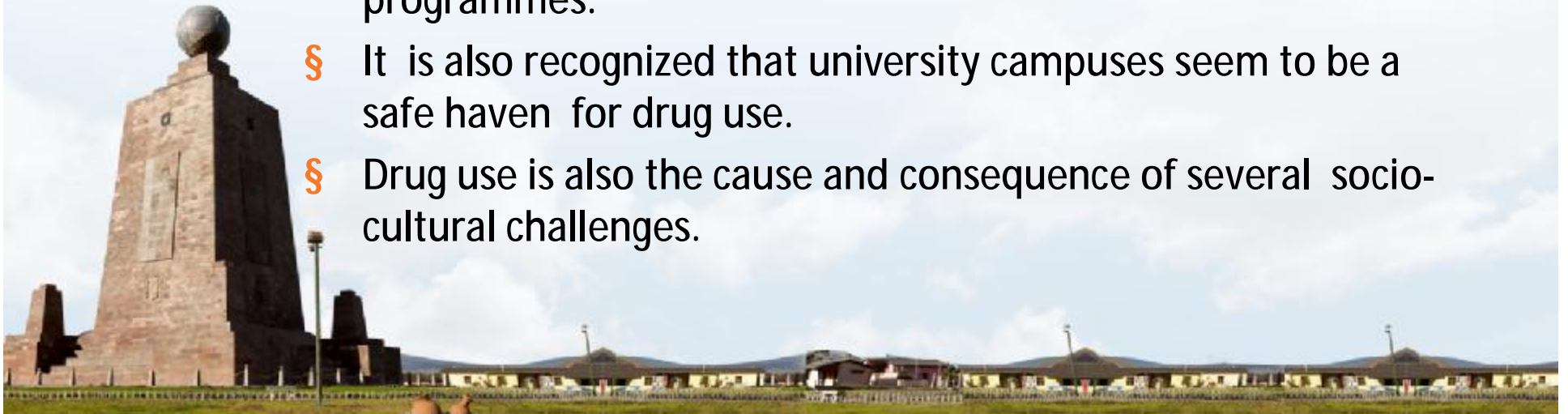
§ Globally, drug use is a concern in public health. Hence the Government of Canada-DFAIT, OAS/ CICAD and CAMH recognized the need to promote Drug–Demand Reduction programmes through sponsoring Multicentric research projects in the Caribbean and Latin America. This study is one of such projects.





## Justification:

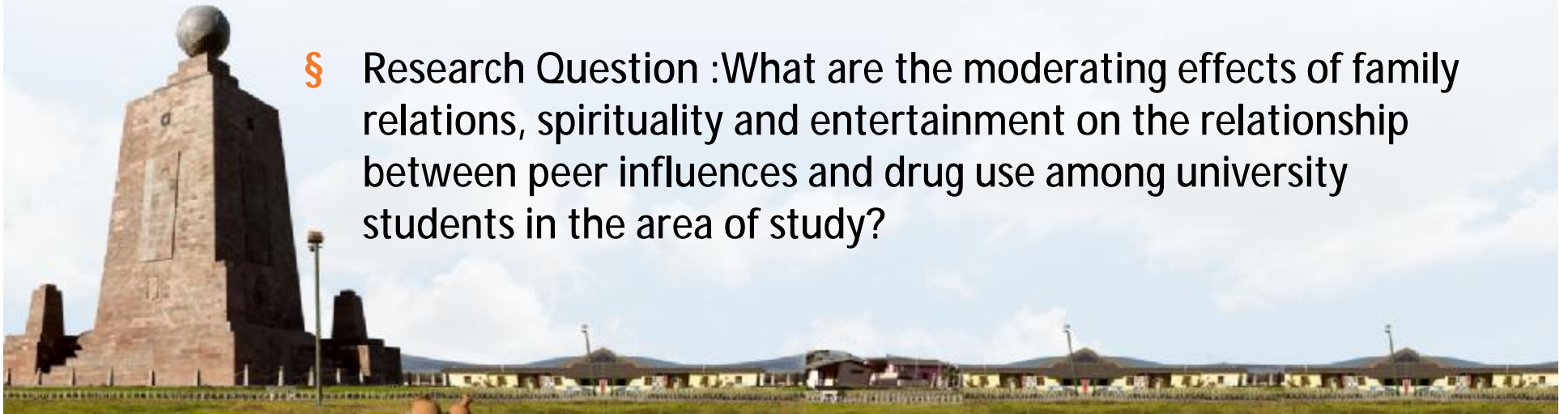
- § From observation, alcohol among others, is the most commonly used drugs in Guyana; and its associated social ills are evident in the society. Based on the findings of this study, policies could be formulated to strengthen existing preventive programmes.
- § It is also recognized that university campuses seem to be a safe haven for drug use.
- § Drug use is also the cause and consequence of several socio-cultural challenges.





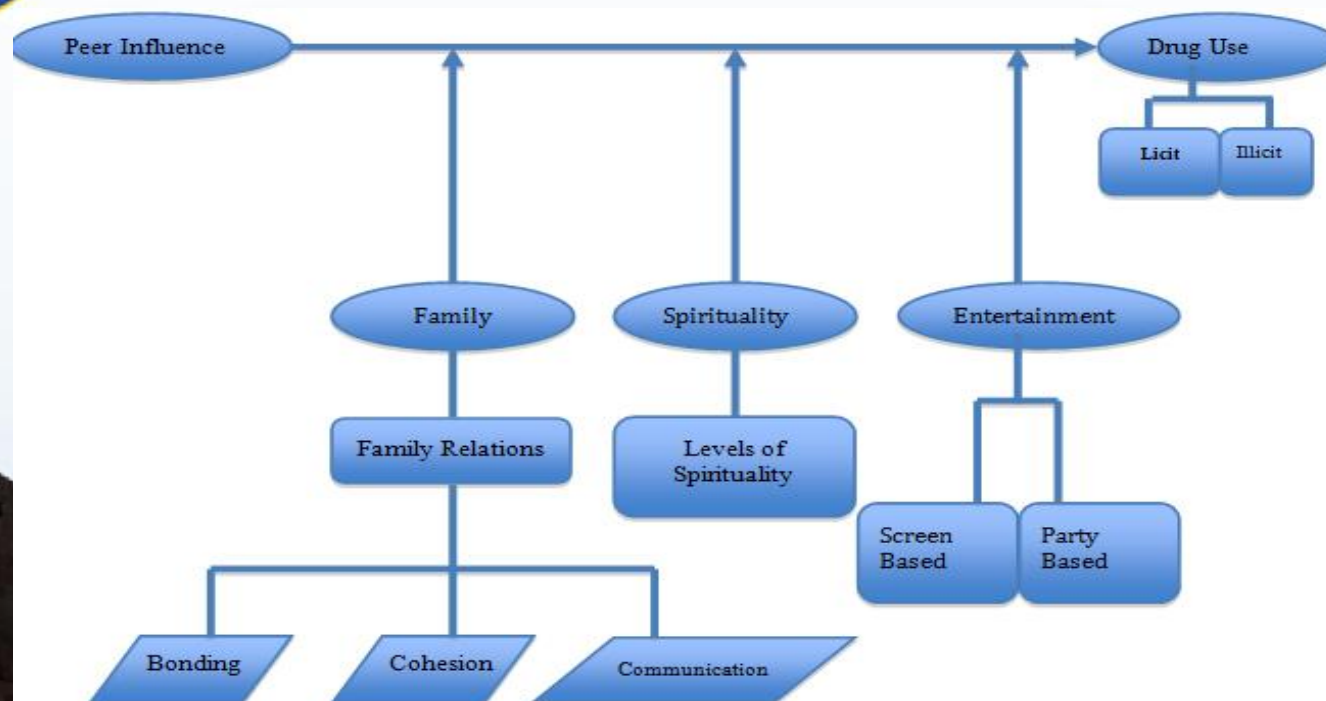
## Focus

- § This study sought to ascertain the moderating effects of entertainment, spirituality and family on the relationship between peer influence and drug use among students from one university in Georgetown, Guyana.
- § Participating institution: The University of Guyana
- § Research Question :What are the moderating effects of family relations, spirituality and entertainment on the relationship between peer influences and drug use among university students in the area of study?





# The Operational Framework



Source: CICAD-CAMH group VI (2011-2012).





## Methodology:

- § A survey of 263 undergraduate students.
- § Sample Technique: Non-probability purposive sampling from the Faculties of Health Sciences, Social Sciences; and School of Education and Humanities.
- § Measure: A standardized self report questionnaire





## Methodology; con'td.

- § The instrument was pilot tested to determine its reliability;
- § The result: reliability coefficient of 0.96
- § Analytical Tools: Percentages, Mean, Pearson Product Correlation and Multiple Regression .







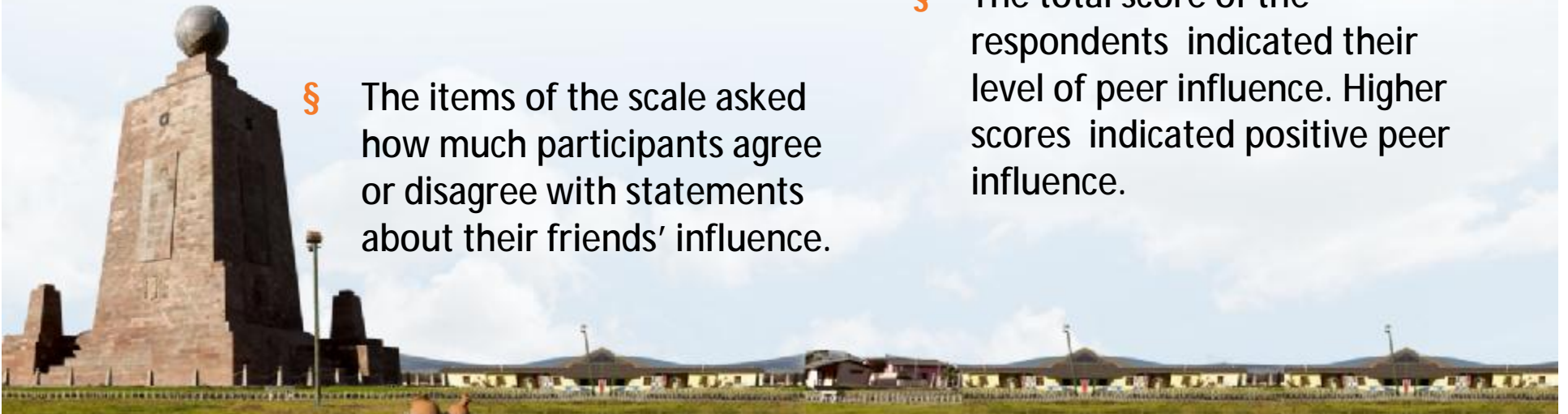
## Methodology con'td./ Variables

§ Peer Influence Scale (PIS): modeled after the scale developed by Mayberry, Espelage and Koenig (2009).

§ Response options range from 0 (Strongly agree) through 3 (Strongly disagree).

§ The items of the scale asked how much participants agree or disagree with statements about their friends' influence.

§ The total score of the respondents indicated their level of peer influence. Higher scores indicated positive peer influence.





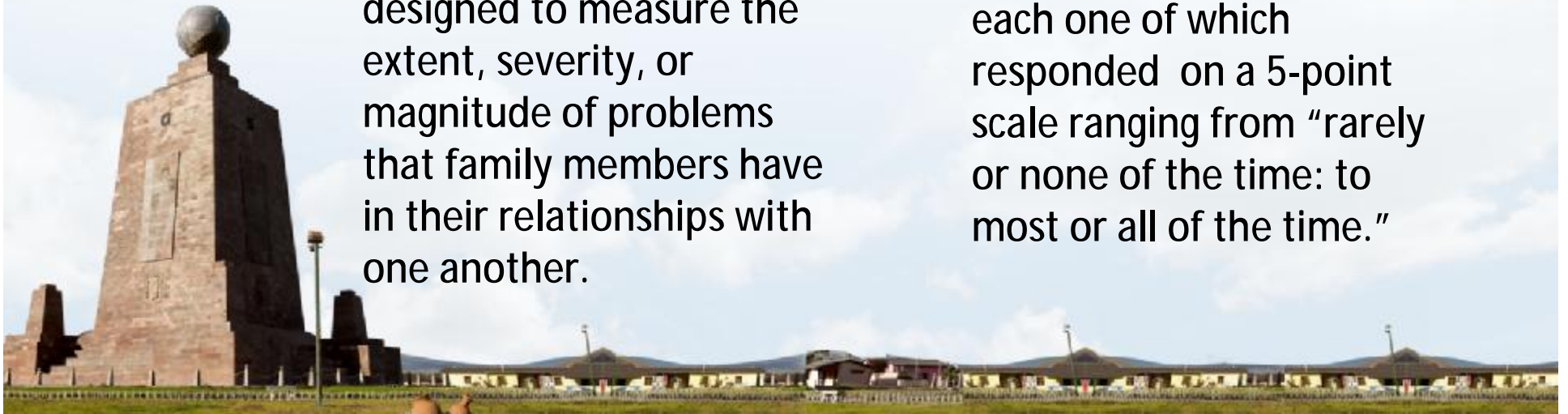
## Methodology: con'td./Variables

§ The Index of Family Relations (IFR) was developed by Hudson (1992).

§ The IFR is a 25 items scale designed to measure the extent, severity, or magnitude of problems that family members have in their relationships with one another.

§ The IFR has a mean alpha of 0.95 indicating excellent internal consistency.

§ The IFR includes 24 items, each one of which responded on a 5-point scale ranging from "rarely or none of the time: to most or all of the time."





## Methodology: con'td./Variables

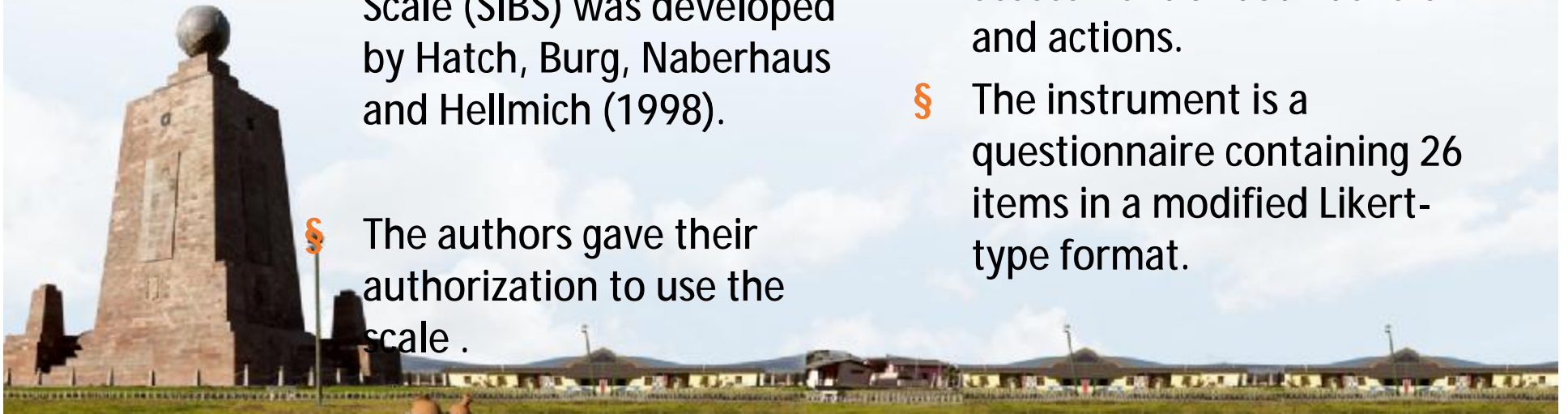
§ The Spiritual Involvement and Beliefs Scale (SIBS),

§ The Spirituality Involvement and Beliefs Scale (SIBS) was developed by Hatch, Burg, Naberhaus and Hellmich (1998).

§ The authors gave their authorization to use the scale .

§ The SIBS has several theoretical advantages, including broader scope, use of terms that avoid cultural-religious bias, and assessment of both beliefs and actions.

§ The instrument is a questionnaire containing 26 items in a modified Likert-type format.



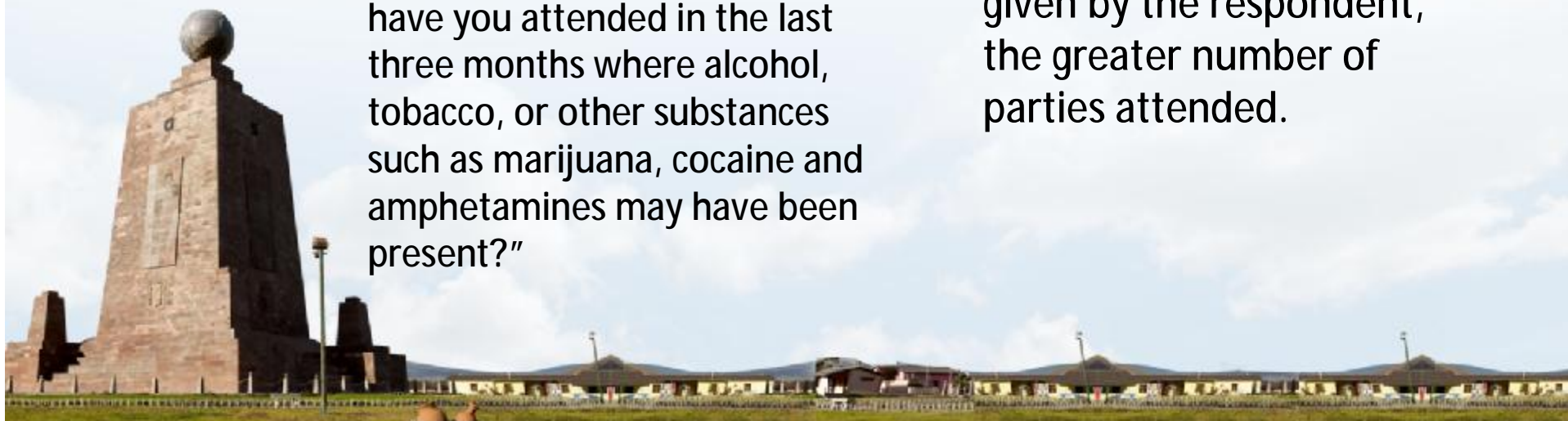


## Methodology Con'td. /Entertainment -variables

§ Measure of Involvement in Party-Based Entertainment

§ To assess the frequency of involvement in party-based entertainment, participants were asked “how many parties have you attended in the last three months where alcohol, tobacco, or other substances such as marijuana, cocaine and amphetamines may have been present?”

§ PBE was scored as a continuous variable with a ratio level of measurement. The higher the number given by the respondent, the greater number of parties attended.





## Methodology: con'td. Entertainment

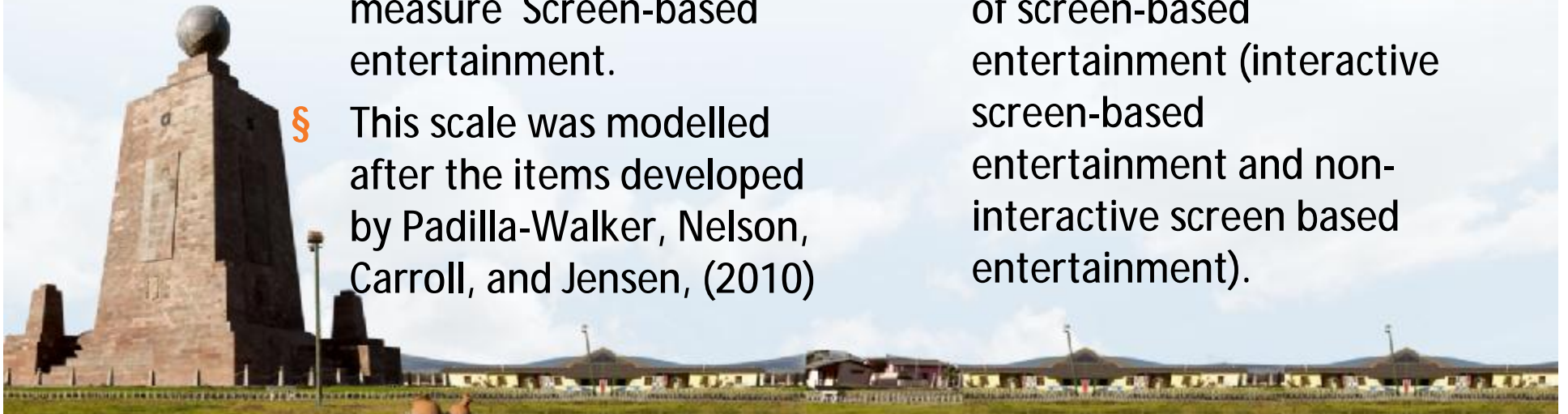
§ Measure of Involvement in Screen-Based Entertainment

§ A self-developed summated rating scale was used to measure Screen-based entertainment.

§ This scale was modelled after the items developed by Padilla-Walker, Nelson, Carroll, and Jensen, (2010)

to measure the internet use.

§ For this study an eight-item scale was designed to measure levels of engagement in two forms of screen-based entertainment (interactive screen-based entertainment and non-interactive screen based entertainment).







## Demographics: living status

§ 212 ( 80.6%) respondents lived at home with their families;

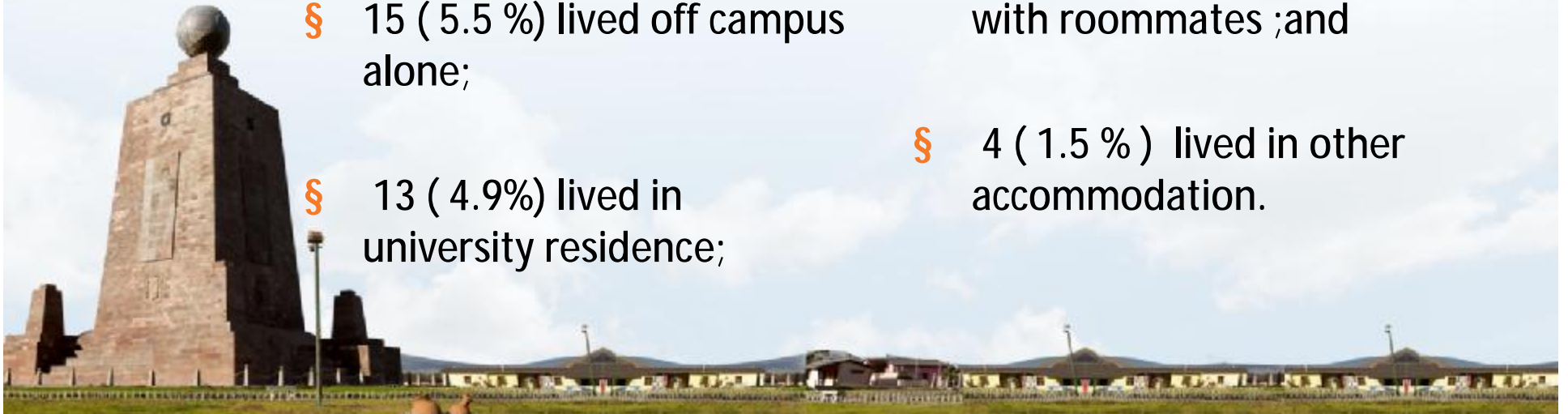
§ 15 ( 5.5 %) lived off campus alone;

§ 13 ( 4.9%) lived in university residence;

§ 13 ( 4.9%) lived with other relatives;

§ 6 ( 2.3 %) lived off campus with roommates ;and

§ 4 ( 1.5 %) lived in other accommodation.







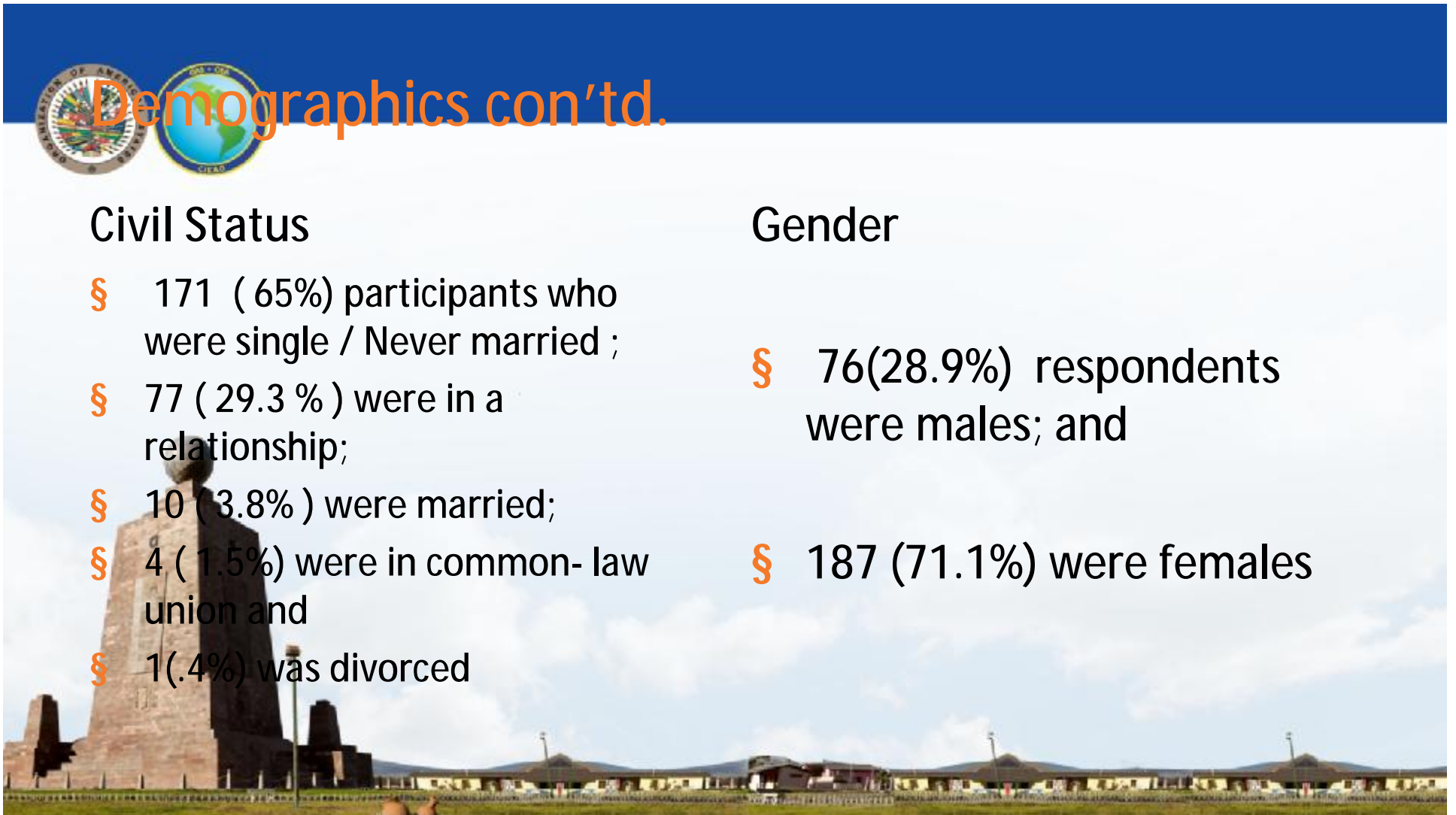
## Demographics con'td.

### Civil Status

- § 171 ( 65%) participants who were single / Never married ;
- § 77 ( 29.3 % ) were in a relationship;
- § 10 ( 3.8% ) were married;
- § 4 ( 1.5%) were in common- law union and
- § 1(.4%) was divorced

### Gender

- § 76(28.9%) respondents were males; and
- § 187 (71.1%) were females





## Findings:

Drug Type	Category	Drug Use Past 12 Months			Drug Use Past 3 Months		
		Specific Mean	Grand Mean	Interpretation	Specific Mean	Grand Mean	Interpretation
Alcoholic Beverages	LICIT	0.6	0.35	Minimal Use	1.019	0.60	Minimal Use
Tabacco		0.1			0.19		
Amphetamines	ILLICIT	0.019	0.04	Minimal Use	0.01	0.609	Minimal Use
Cannabis		0.087			0.15		
Cocaine		0.034			0.01		



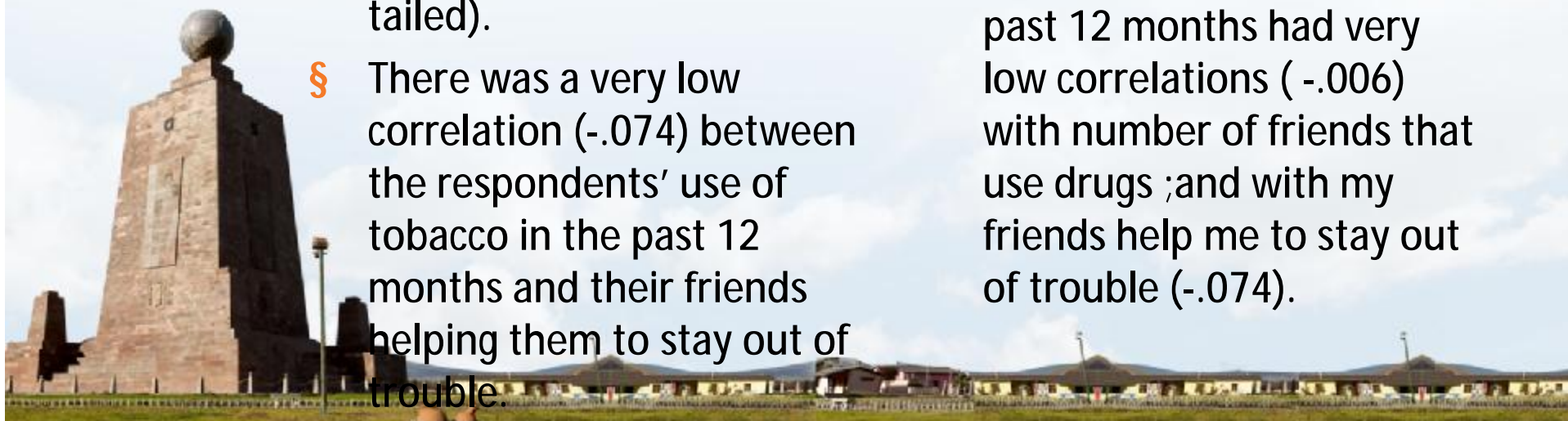
## Findings

§ There was a perfect + corrl (1.000) between the use of tobacco and the use alcohol in the past 12 months. The correlation was also significant at 0.01 level (2 tailed).

§ There was a very low correlation (-.074) between the respondents' use of tobacco in the past 12 months and their friends helping them to stay out of trouble.

§ There was a very low correlation (-.006) between use of tobacco in the past 12 months and number of friends who use drugs.

§ The use of alcohol in the past 12 months had very low correlations ( -.006) with number of friends that use drugs ;and with my friends help me to stay out of trouble (-.074).



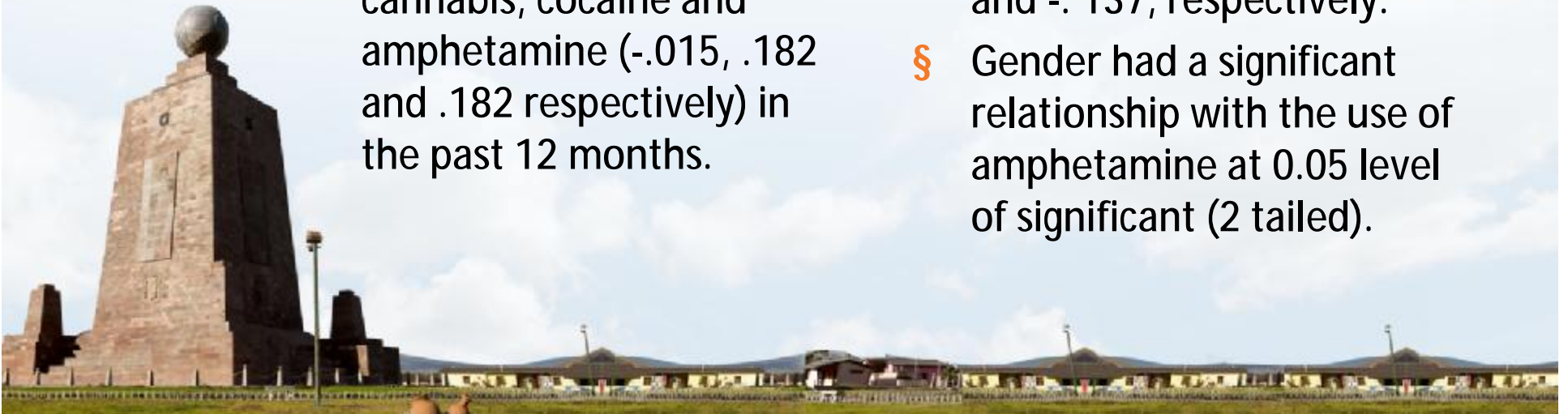


## Findings: con'td.

§ Most of my friends do not drink 5 or more drinks in one occasion had very weak correlations with the use of cannabis, cocaine and amphetamine (-.015, .182 and .182 respectively) in the past 12 months.

§ Gender had very low correlations with the use of cannabis and amphetamine in the past 12 months -.098 and -.137, respectively.

§ Gender had a significant relationship with the use of amphetamine at 0.05 level of significant (2 tailed).





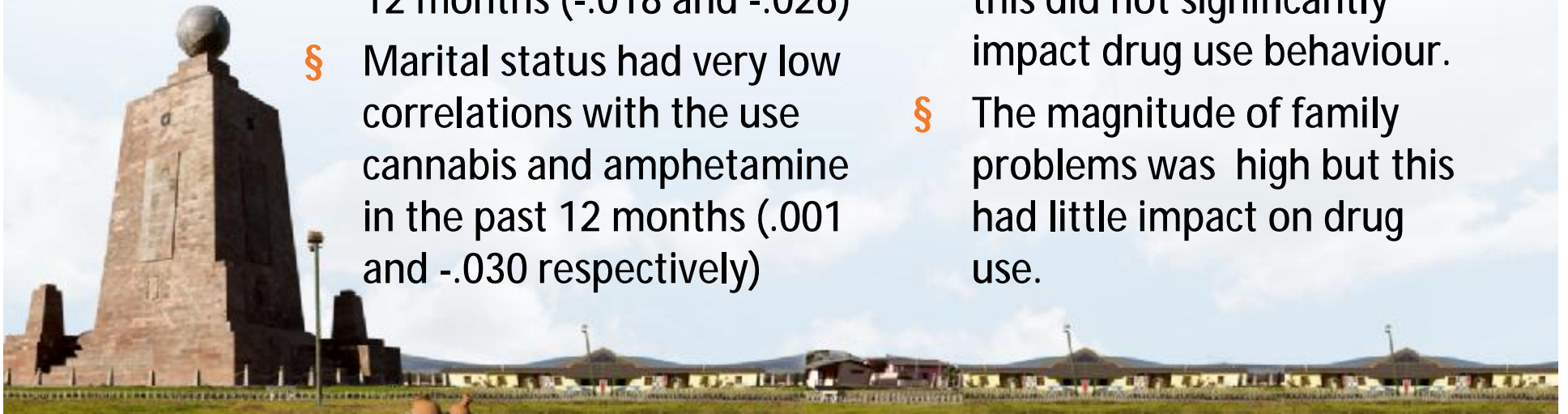
## Findings: con'td.

§ Living status showed very low correlations with the use of cannabis and amphetamines in the past 12 months (-.018 and -.026)

§ Marital status had very low correlations with the use of cannabis and amphetamine in the past 12 months (.001 and -.030 respectively)

§ The respondents overall level of involvement in INSBE was high with an overall mean of 3.30 but this did not significantly impact drug use behaviour.

§ The magnitude of family problems was high but this had little impact on drug use.





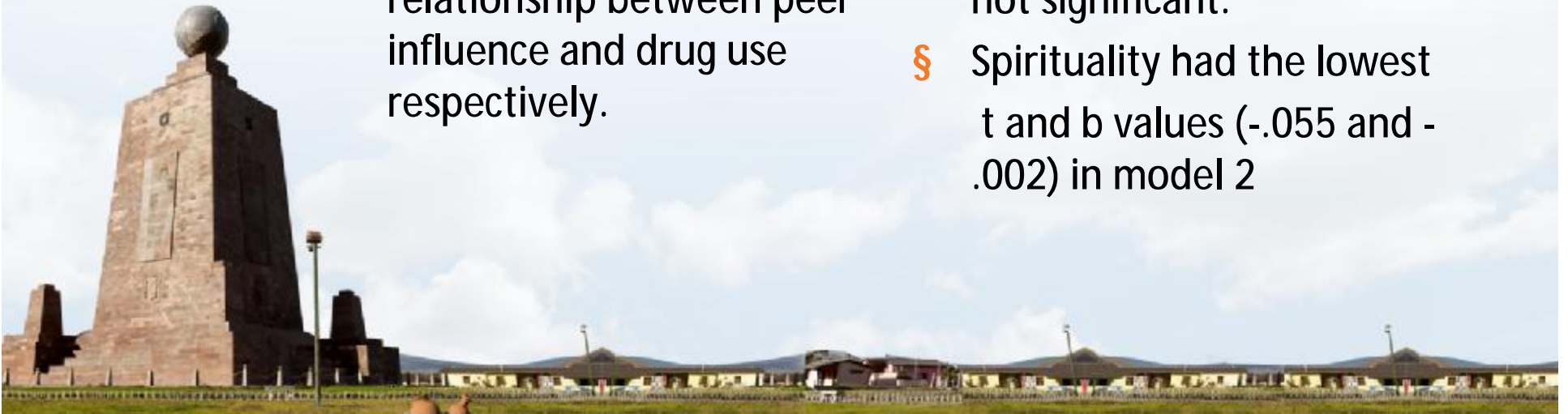


## Findings: con'td.

§ Multiple Regression analysis was done to evaluate the moderating effect of spirituality on the relationship between peer influence and drug use respectively.

§ The result showed that the dependent variable was not significant. It also indicated that all the predictors were not significant.

§ Spirituality had the lowest t and b values (-.055 and -.002) in model 2

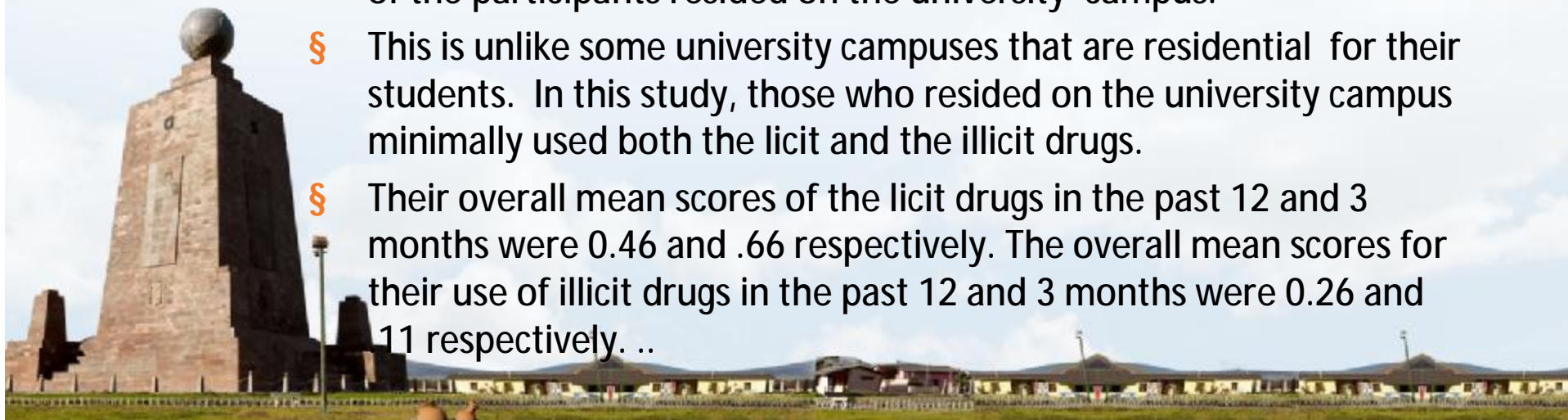






## Observation/Discussion:

- § Although Andrew and Hops ( 2002) noted that various studies have indicated that there is a strong peer influence on substance use and abuse, the result of this study showed that there was little or no relationship between peer influence and drug use.
- § The weak peer influence on drug use among the participants might have been due to the fact that only very few ( 2 males, 11 females ) of the participants resided on the university campus.
- § This is unlike some university campuses that are residential for their students. In this study, those who resided on the university campus minimally used both the licit and the illicit drugs.
- § Their overall mean scores of the licit drugs in the past 12 and 3 months were 0.46 and .66 respectively. The overall mean scores for their use of illicit drugs in the past 12 and 3 months were 0.26 and 11 respectively. ...





## Conclusion

- § Generally the result of this study showed that peer influence had very weak relationship with drug use and the level of drug use by the participants was very minimal.
- § Peer influence seems to be a protective factor when one considers the high level of the positive peer influence of the participants.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION





## Conclusion: con'td.

- § Regarding the effects of the moderating variables, none of them (family, entertainment and spirituality) had any significant moderating effect on the relationship between peer influence and drug use.
- § However although family relations and spirituality were not significant predictors they also seem to be protective factors for drug use; on the other hand, entertainment seems to be a risk factor .

