

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
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

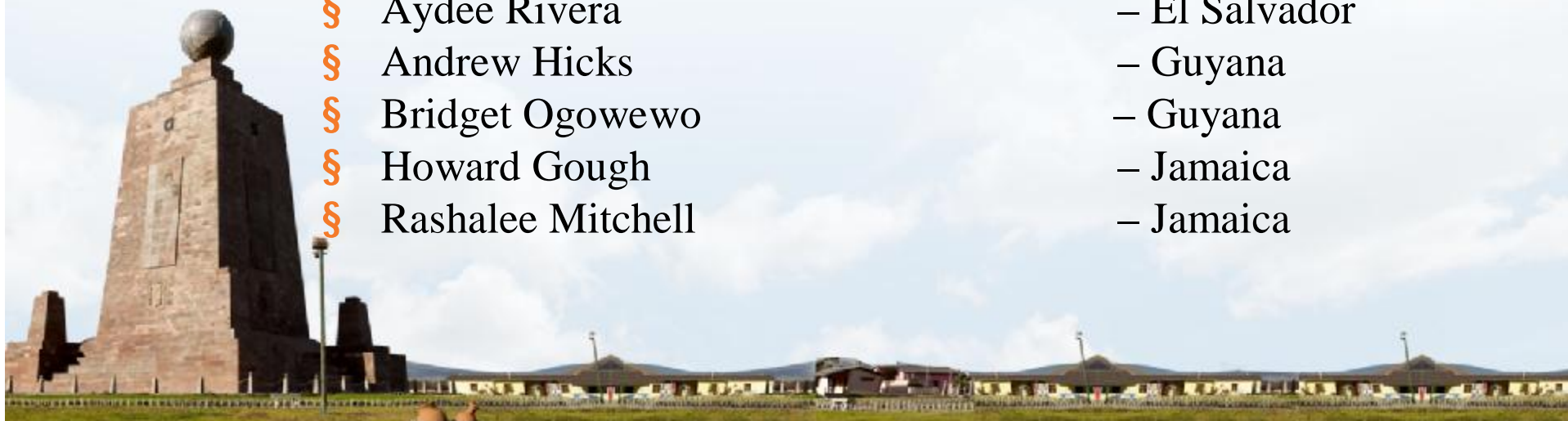
Group VI
2011 - 2012





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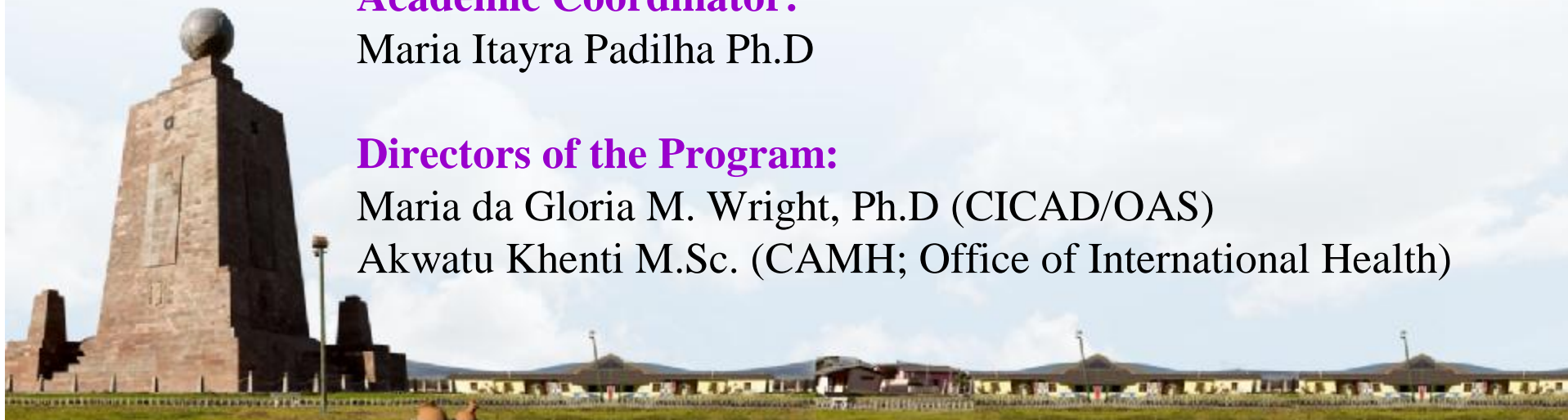
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Presentation Outline

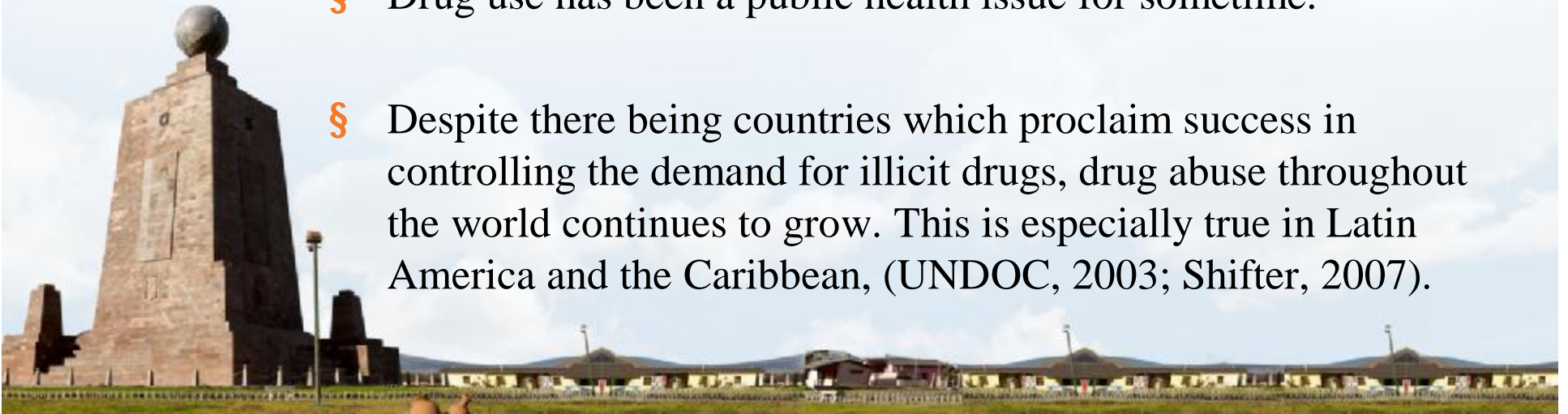
- § Introduction
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- § Research Question & Main Objective
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- § Methodology
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- § Preliminary Discussion
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- § Limitations & Recommendations
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Introduction

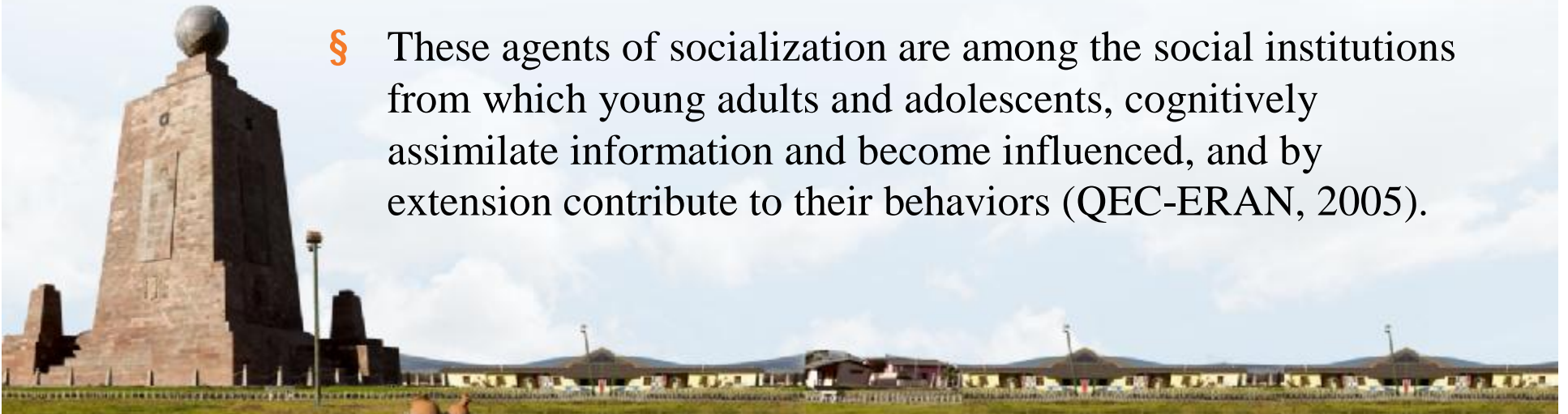
- § As a consequence of the globalization process, many public health issues have come to be seen as affecting all nations (Wright et al., 2005).
- § Drug use has been a public health issue for sometime.
- § Despite there being countries which proclaim success in controlling the demand for illicit drugs, drug abuse throughout the world continues to grow. This is especially true in Latin America and the Caribbean, (UNDOC, 2003; Shifter, 2007).





Justification

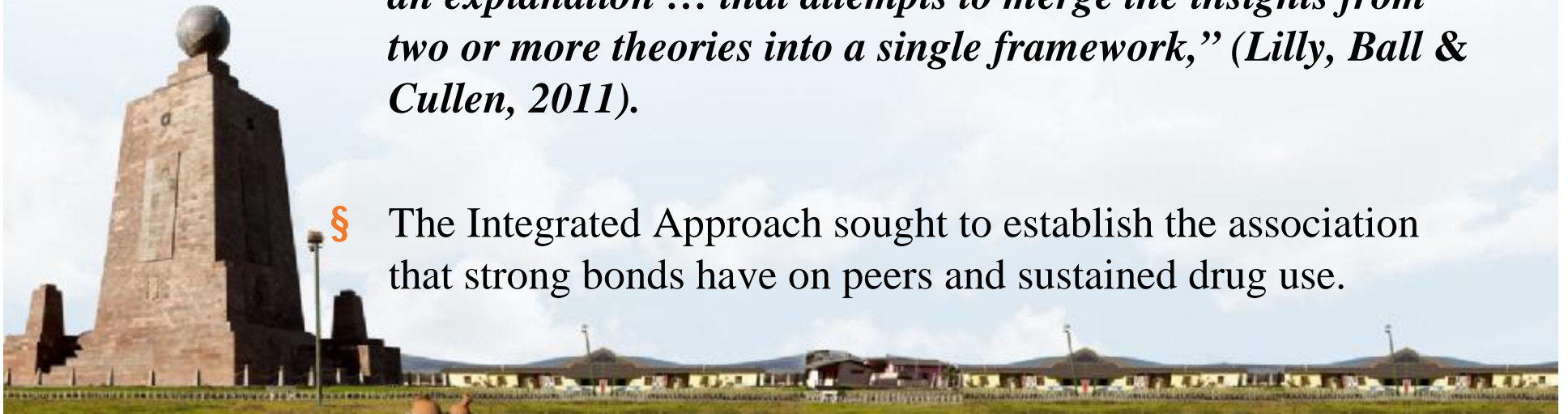
- § Socio-cultural agents (such as: the family, peers, religion and the entertainment industry) have the potential to affect the traditional uses of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, (UNODC, 2004).
- § These agents of socialization are among the social institutions from which young adults and adolescents, cognitively assimilate information and become influenced, and by extension contribute to their behaviors (QEC-ERAN, 2005).





Theoretical Framework

- § An Integrated Theoretical approach was used in the current study.
- § According to Lilly et. al, an integrated theory is: *“typically is an explanation ... that attempts to merge the insights from two or more theories into a single framework,” (Lilly, Ball & Cullen, 2011).*
- § The Integrated Approach sought to establish the association that strong bonds have on peers and sustained drug use.

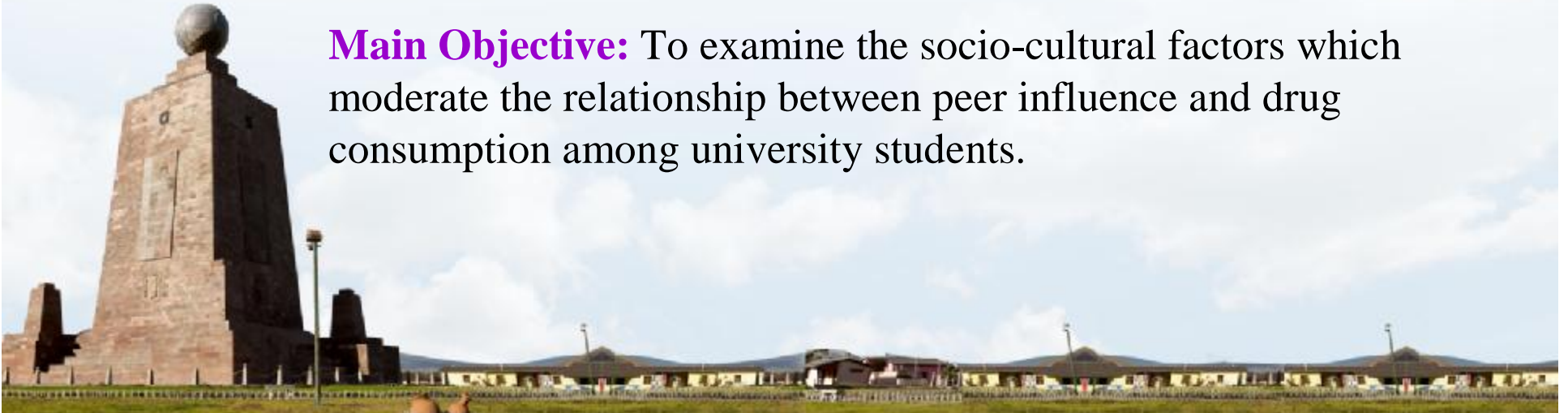




Research Question & Main Objective

Research Question: In each of the countries participating in the study, what are the moderating effects of family relations, spirituality and entertainment on the relationship between peer influence and drug use among university students?

Main Objective: To examine the socio-cultural factors which moderate the relationship between peer influence and drug consumption among university students.



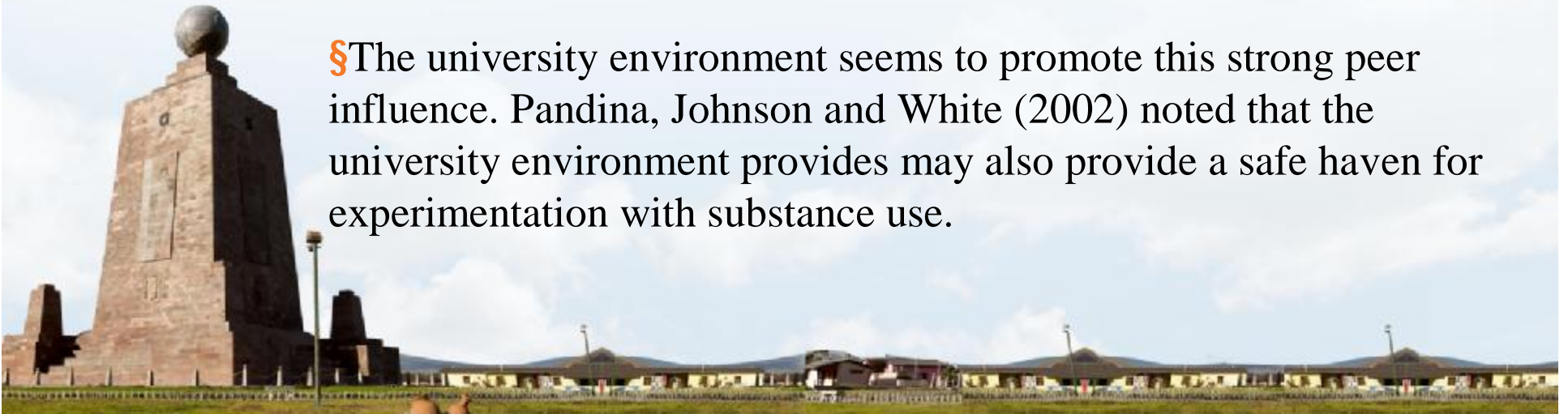


Literature Review

Peer influence and drug use

§The results of several studies have shown a strong influence of perceived substance use of close friends (Read, Wood, & Capone, 2005; Yanovitzky, 2005).

§The university environment seems to promote this strong peer influence. Pandina, Johnson and White (2002) noted that the university environment provides may also provide a safe haven for experimentation with substance use.



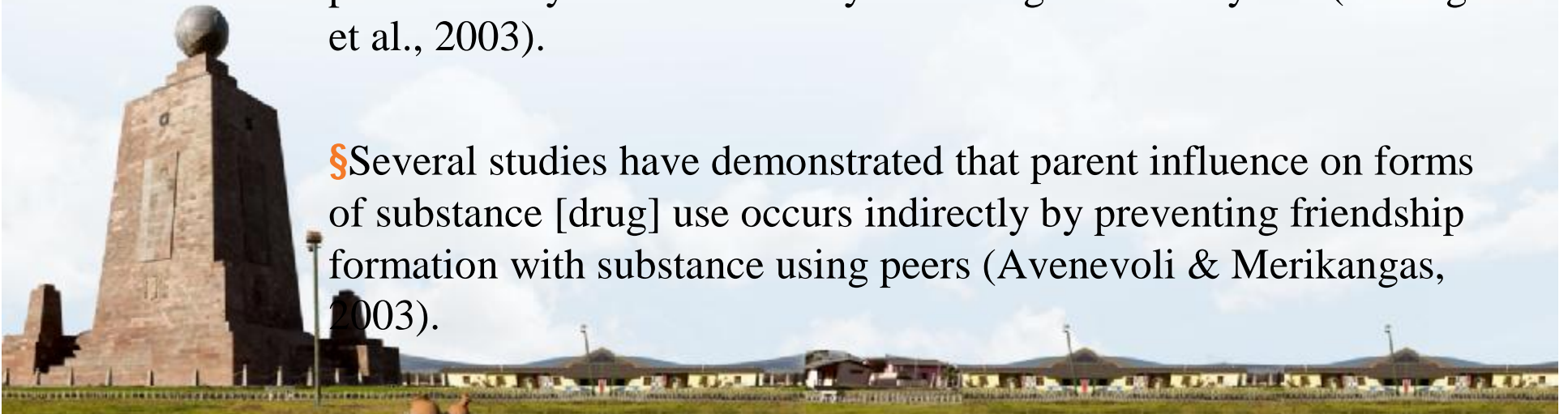


Literature Review

Parenting behaviours [family relations], peer Influence and drug use

§ Parental influence has frequently been found to be associated with behaviour selection and the effect of positive parenting practices may be influenced by the strength of family ties (Urberg et al., 2003).

§ Several studies have demonstrated that parent influence on forms of substance [drug] use occurs indirectly by preventing friendship formation with substance using peers (Avenevoli & Merikangas, 2003).





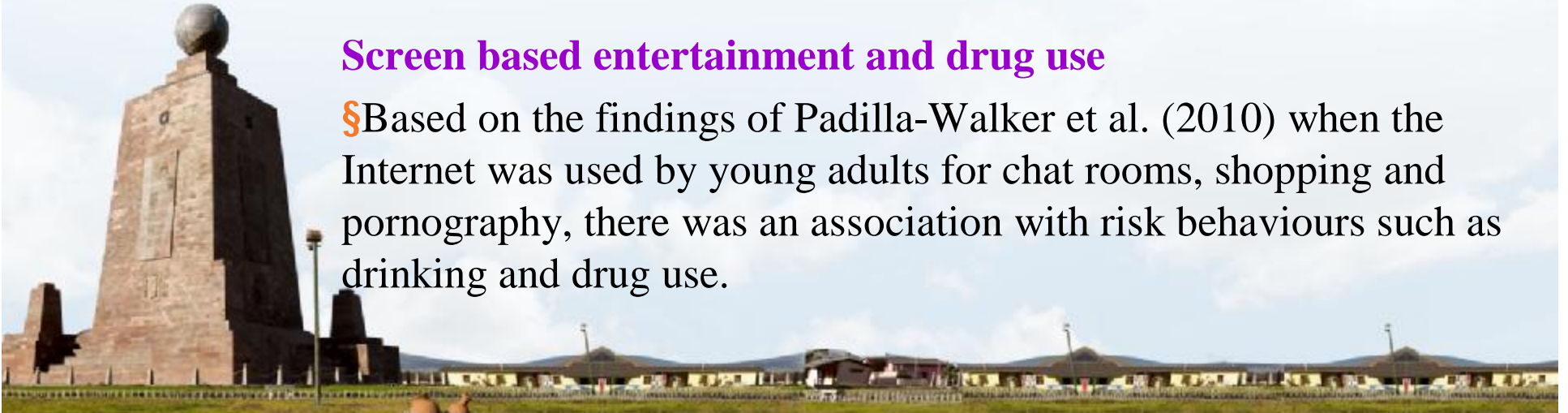
Literature Review

Party based entertainment and drug use

§ As a result of technological advancements in the music industry, there have also been similar rises in the prevalence of drug use by young adults, concurrent with the dance party or "rave" scene. (Measham, Parker & Aldridge, 1998).

Screen based entertainment and drug use

§ Based on the findings of Padilla-Walker et al. (2010) when the Internet was used by young adults for chat rooms, shopping and pornography, there was an association with risk behaviours such as drinking and drug use.



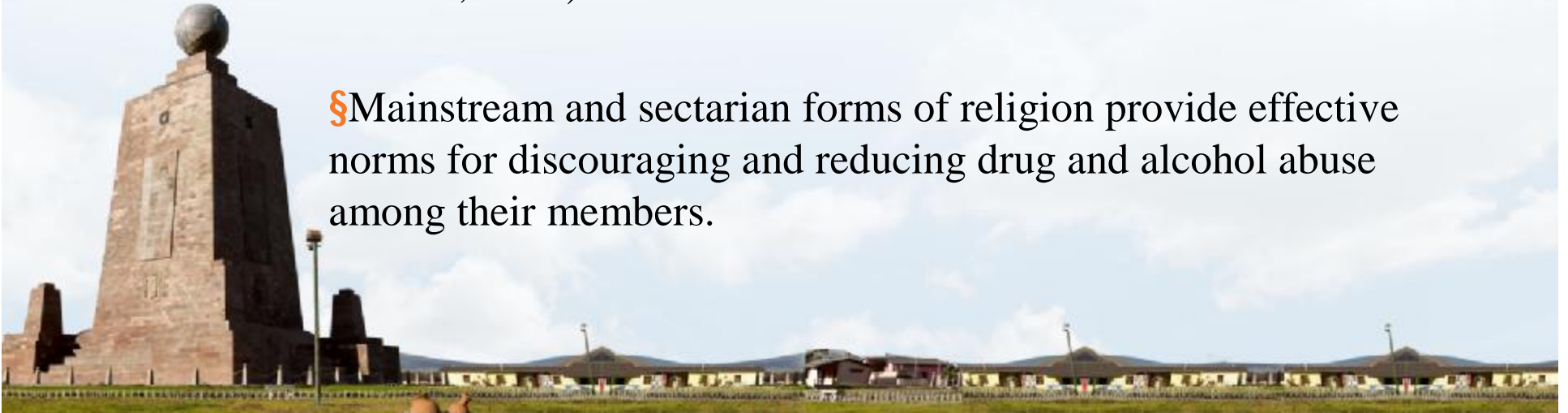


Literature Review

Spirituality, Religiosity and Drug Use

§ Research has found that religion and spirituality are negatively related to drug and alcohol abuse and may act as a protective factor against drug use (Hawks & Bahr, 1992; Cochran, 1991; Burkett, 1980).

§ Mainstream and sectarian forms of religion provide effective norms for discouraging and reducing drug and alcohol abuse among their members.





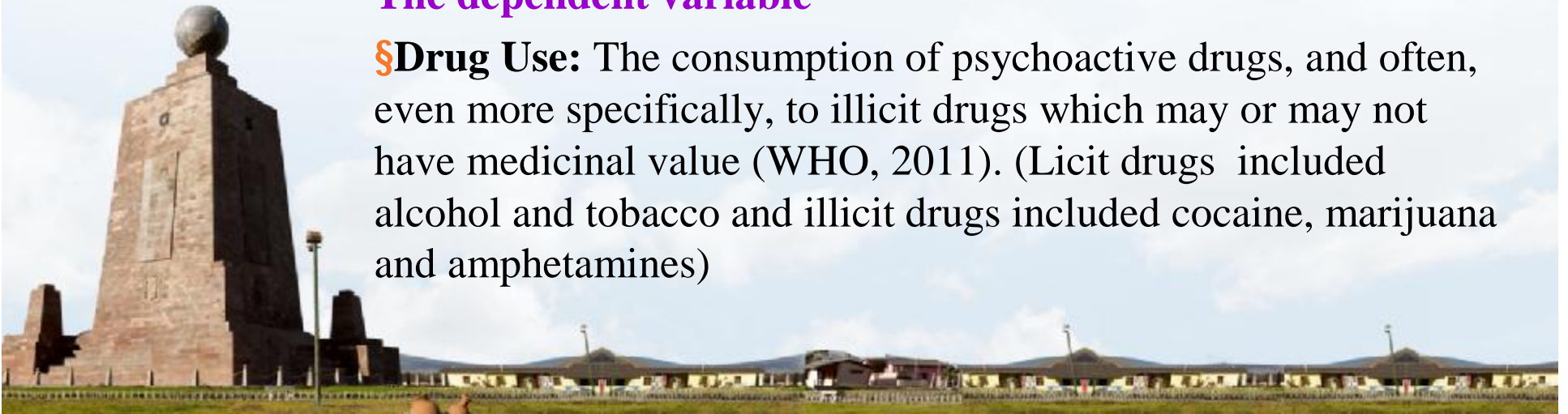
Methodology - variables

The independent variable

§**Peer influence:** Peer influence was defined as the extent to which an individual responds to the social pressure or extrinsic motivation exerted by one's peers to behave in a manner acceptable to them.

The dependent variable

§**Drug Use:** The consumption of psychoactive drugs, and often, even more specifically, to illicit drugs which may or may not have medicinal value (WHO, 2011). (Licit drugs included alcohol and tobacco and illicit drugs included cocaine, marijuana and amphetamines)





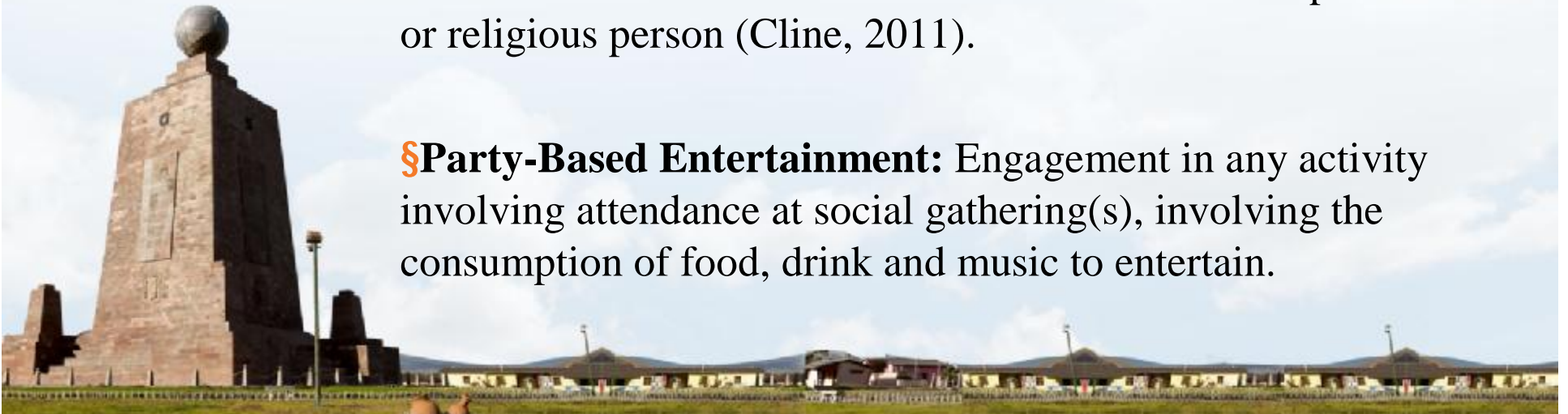
Methodology - variables

Moderating Variables

§**Family relations:** The interconnectedness that family members have in their relationships with one another, how they affect each other's thoughts feeling and actions (Bowen, 1990).

§**Spirituality:** The perception of ones spirituality, that is the extent to which the individual sees him/herself as a spiritual and or religious person (Cline, 2011).

§**Party-Based Entertainment:** Engagement in any activity involving attendance at social gathering(s), involving the consumption of food, drink and music to entertain.





Methodology - variables

Moderating variables of Screen based entertainment

§Non-interactive screen-based entertainment:

The amusement from exposure to audio and/or visual information via an electronic screen.

§Interactive screen-based entertainment: The amusement from active involvement with another source (for example, a person or computer) via an electronic screen, with varying levels of reciprocal interaction.





Methodology

- § **Research design:** This multi-centric study was cross-sectional in design and the survey method was used to collect data from seven universities in eight countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- § **Population and sample size:** At each university, A non-probabilistic sample was used to select at least 250 undergraduate students (between the ages of 18 and 24) from the faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities/Health Sciences. The total sample size from the seven universities was approximately 2000 (N=1847).
- § **Data collection:** After the research was explained and students volunteered to participate questionnaires were then given to each student. These were then collected and stored securely by the P.I.





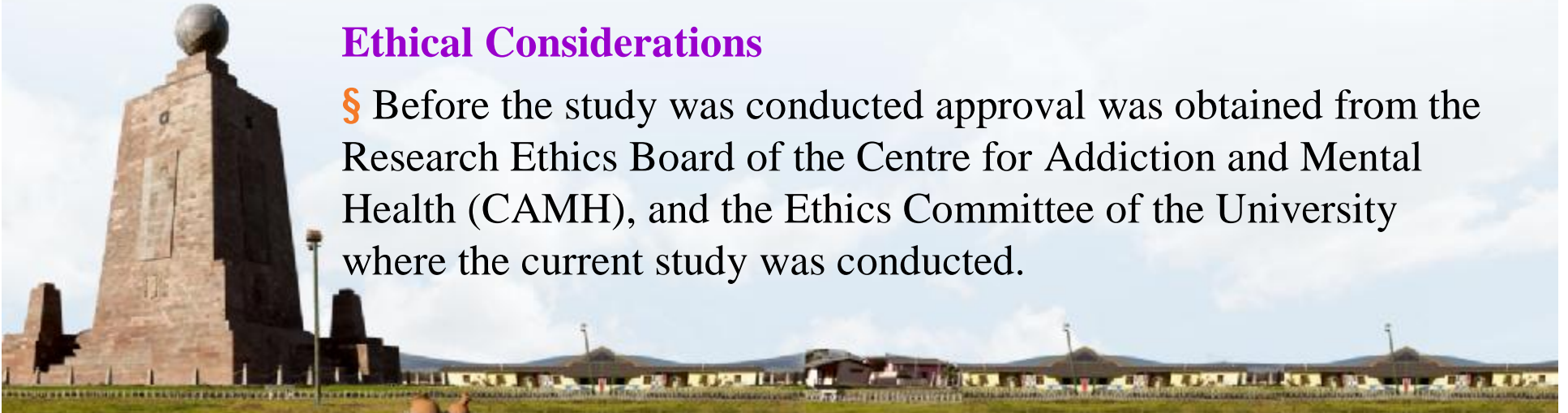
Methodology

Data Analysis

§ The data was entered into a database using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) version 15. The data was analyzed using frequencies, means, & correlations.

Ethical Considerations

§ Before the study was conducted approval was obtained from the Research Ethics Board of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), and the Ethics Committee of the University where the current study was conducted.



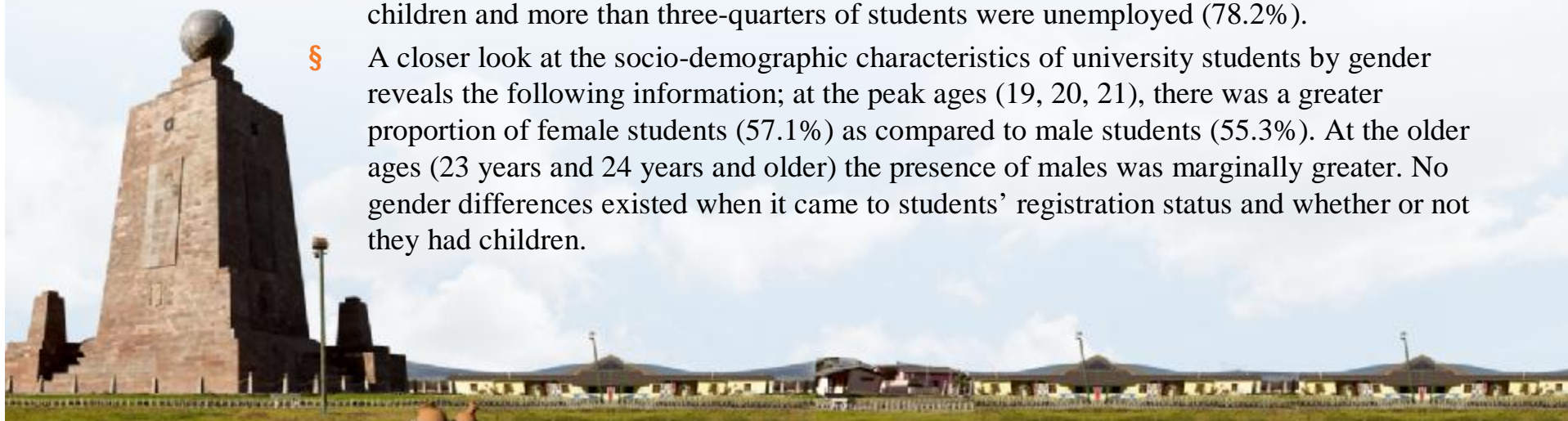


Preliminary Results (Work-In-Progress)

§ **Socio-Demographic Characteristics of University students**

§ University students were predominantly between the ages of 19 and 21 years (56.4%), females (65.1%) and enrolled as full-time students (77.1%). The majority was students in the Faculty of Social Sciences (54.9%) and almost a quarter (14%) were beyond the 3 years of study, Almost three-quarter of students were singled or divorced (73.3%) and resided with family members (71.2%). Approximately 93% of students were without children and more than three-quarters of students were unemployed (78.2%).

§ A closer look at the socio-demographic characteristics of university students by gender reveals the following information; at the peak ages (19, 20, 21), there was a greater proportion of female students (57.1%) as compared to male students (55.3%). At the older ages (23 years and 24 years and older) the presence of males was marginally greater. No gender differences existed when it came to students' registration status and whether or not they had children.





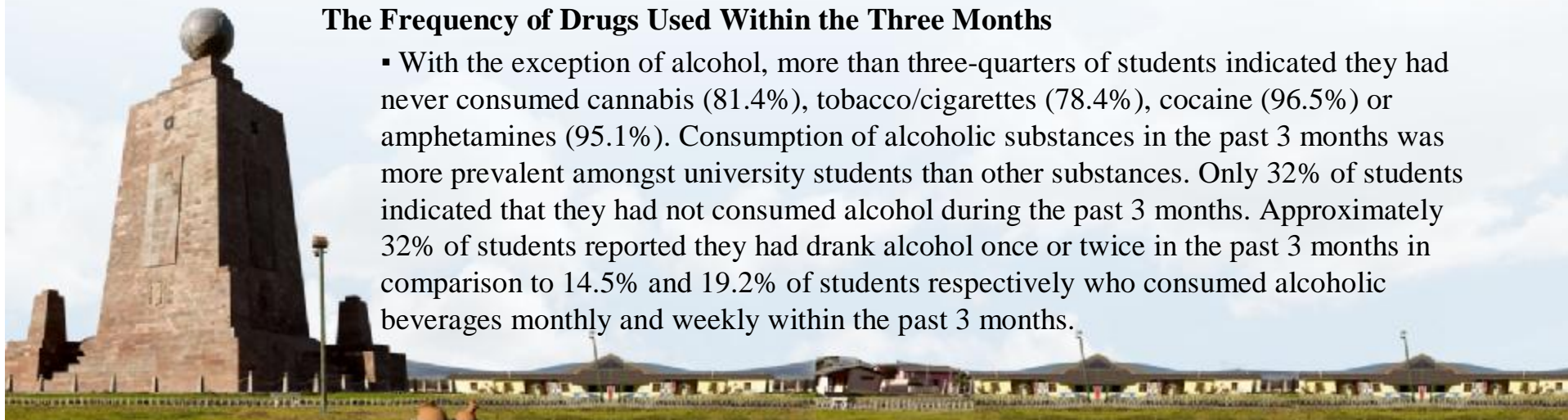
Results Cont'd

Type of Drugs Used Within the Past 3 Months

- The substances used by university students in the past 3 months was alcohol, which is more readily available. Over the past 3 month period 68% of students reported that they had consumed alcohol during the past 3 months. The second substance of choice for students was tobacco or cigarettes (21.6% past 3 months). University students rarely used cocaine (3.5%) or amphetamines (4.9%) during the past 3 months.

The Frequency of Drugs Used Within the Three Months

- With the exception of alcohol, more than three-quarters of students indicated they had never consumed cannabis (81.4%), tobacco/cigarettes (78.4%), cocaine (96.5%) or amphetamines (95.1%). Consumption of alcoholic substances in the past 3 months was more prevalent amongst university students than other substances. Only 32% of students indicated that they had not consumed alcohol during the past 3 months. Approximately 32% of students reported they had drunk alcohol once or twice in the past 3 months in comparison to 14.5% and 19.2% of students respectively who consumed alcoholic beverages monthly and weekly within the past 3 months.



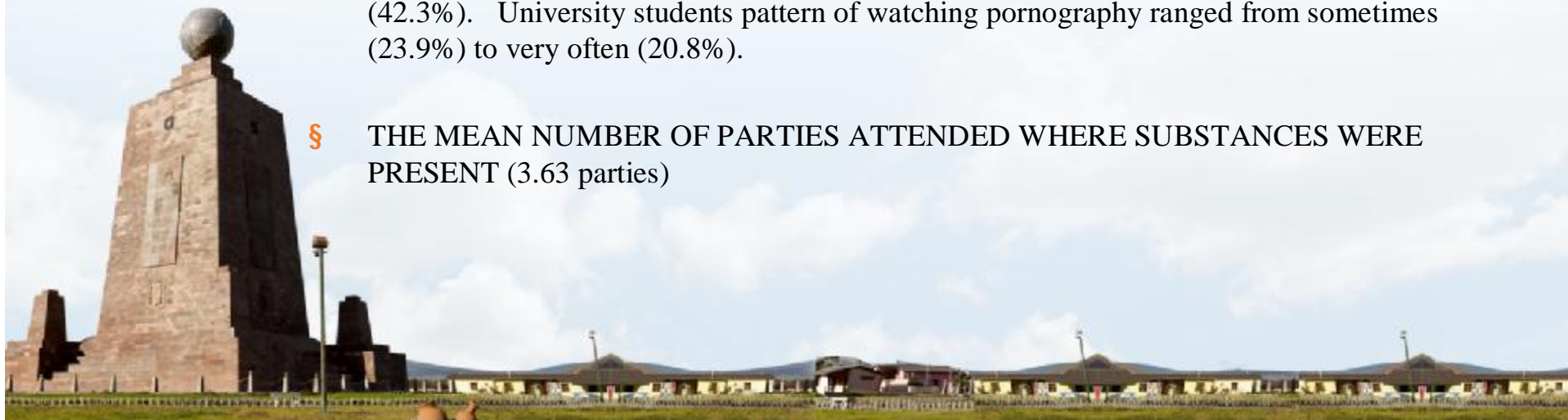


Results Cont'd

§ **Types of Entertainment**

More than a third of students never engaged in playing video/online games (33.7%), shopping online (62.8%) or watching movies or short videos (39.8%). In addition, more than a half (56.7%) and a little more than a quarter (27.7%) of students infrequently watched movies or short videos and played video or online games respectively. Students engaged most often in social networking (46.2%) and watching headline news (42.3%). University students pattern of watching pornography ranged from sometimes (23.9%) to very often (20.8%).

§ **THE MEAN NUMBER OF PARTIES ATTENDED WHERE SUBSTANCES WERE PRESENT (3.63 parties)**





Results Cont'd

§ Drugs Use

§ Approximately 77% of students indicated using drugs.

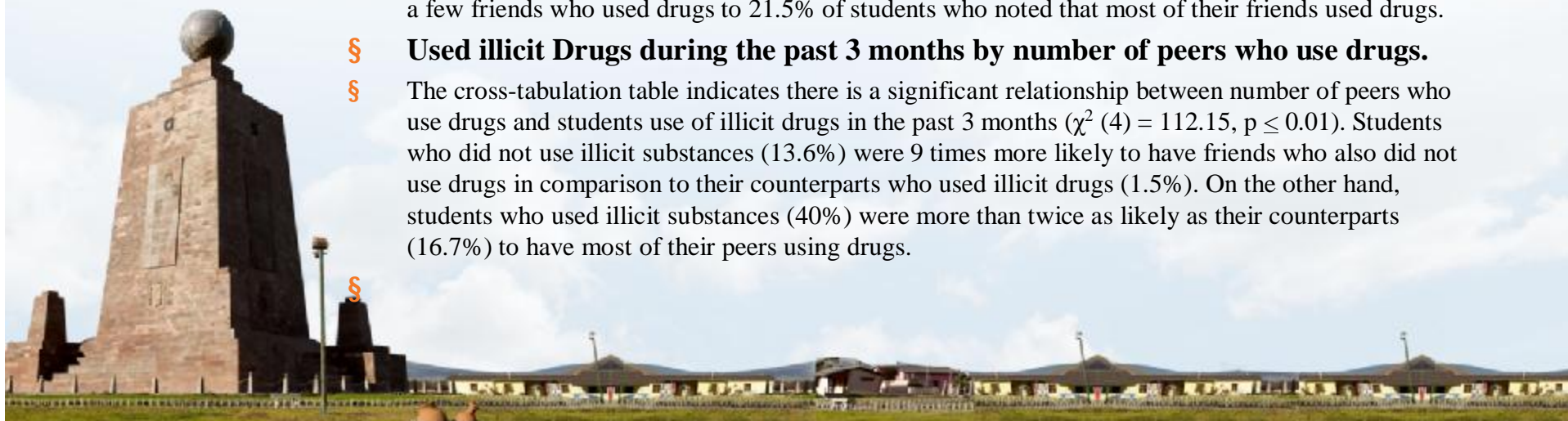
§ Of those students who used drugs, 83.5% used licit drugs such as tobacco or cigarettes and alcohol whilst 15.8% used both licit and illicit drugs.

§ Number of Friends Who Use Drugs

§ Most students had one or more friends who used drugs. This ranged from 39.9% of students who had a few friends who used drugs to 21.5% of students who noted that most of their friends used drugs.

§ Used illicit Drugs during the past 3 months by number of peers who use drugs.

§ The cross-tabulation table indicates there is a significant relationship between number of peers who use drugs and students use of illicit drugs in the past 3 months ($\chi^2 (4) = 112.15, p \leq 0.01$). Students who did not use illicit substances (13.6%) were 9 times more likely to have friends who also did not use drugs in comparison to their counterparts who used illicit drugs (1.5%). On the other hand, students who used illicit substances (40%) were more than twice as likely as their counterparts (16.7%) to have most of their peers using drugs.





Results Cont'd

§ **Licit Drug use over the past 3 months by peers who use substances**

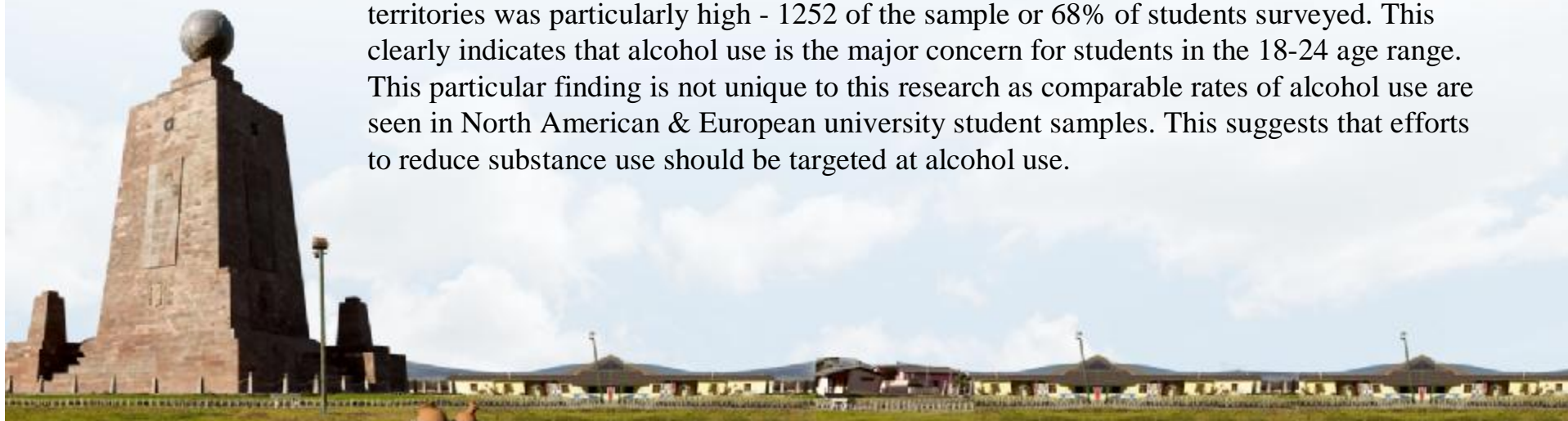
§ The cross-tabulation results indicate a significant relationship between number of peers who use drugs and students licit drug use ($\chi^2 (4) = 93.57, p \leq 0.01$). Students' who use licit drugs are more likely to report that most of their friends used drugs. Students who used licit drugs (20.7%) in the past 3 months were twice as likely to have most of their friends using drugs than students who did not use licit drugs (9.6%).





Discussion

- § The ongoing debate around the drug phenomenon and its social ills, displacements and political challenges is justified and well documented. Thus, research into various aspects of the phenomenon provides well needed empirical evidence and adds to what exists in a rapidly changing global world.
- § The main findings indicate, that relatively few university students used illicit or licit drugs, with the exception of alcohol . Alcohol use among students within the participating territories was particularly high - 1252 of the sample or 68% of students surveyed. This clearly indicates that alcohol use is the major concern for students in the 18-24 age range. This particular finding is not unique to this research as comparable rates of alcohol use are seen in North American & European university student samples. This suggests that efforts to reduce substance use should be targeted at alcohol use.





Discussion Cont'd

- § Though the results cannot be generalized to speak to patterns and trends among university students beyond the borders of those investigated. It is useful in raising questions in some areas and helps to point stakeholders in some useful directions and undertake best practices.





Conclusion

- § The level of illicit use among Caribbean and Latin American university students is low. However, the use of licit drugs in particular alcohol among university students is high.





Limitations

- § Due to the fact that the methodological approach that guided the research involved the use of non-probabilistic sample the results could not be generalized to the wider university populations.
- § The challenges involved in the organisation of a multi-site project of this magnitude.





Recommendations

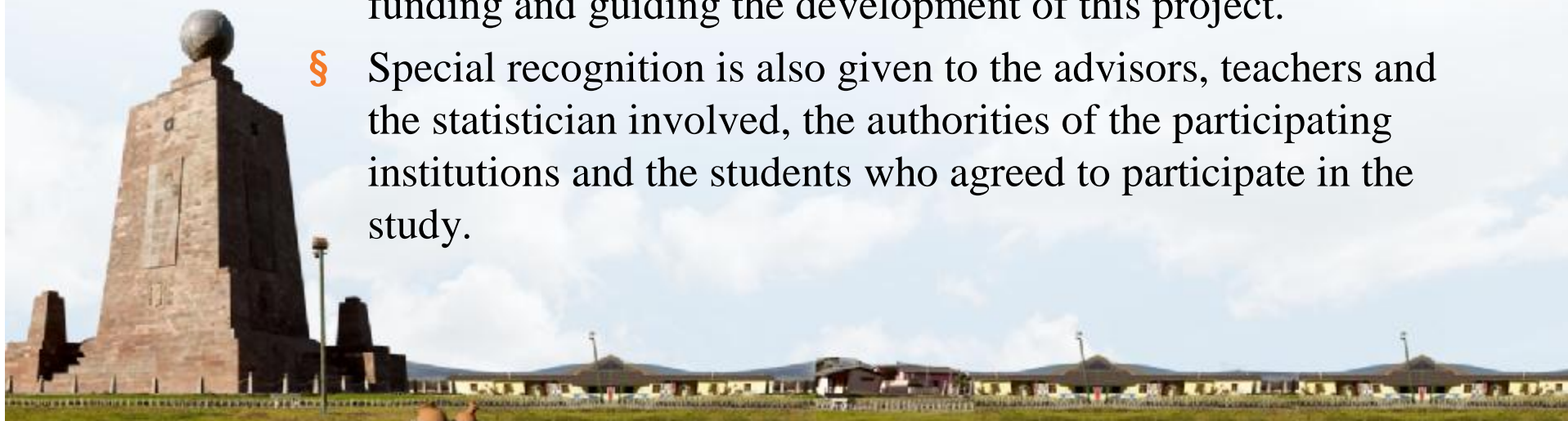
- § University policies and programmes should focus on reducing problematic patterns of alcohol use within the 18-24 age group
- § Influential students who are positive role models in the population of 18-24 year olds may be identified, these role models may then be used in positive media campaigns to discourage binge drinking on campus.





Acknowledgements

- § Special thanks are extended to the Government of Canada-Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) for funding and guiding the development of this project.
- § Special recognition is also given to the advisors, teachers and the statistician involved, the authorities of the participating institutions and the students who agreed to participate in the study.





**Thank You
Gracias
Obrigada !!!**

