

SOCIAL SCIENCES EMPHASIZED AT
MONTREAL

Volume 2, Number 1 Sept. 1989

The Fifth International Conference on AIDS took place in Montreal last June, and it was clearly the largest conference on AIDS ever held. Over 11,000 delegates attended, and there was a strong emphasis on social, cultural, psychological, international, economic, and public policy issues. One of the highlights of the conference was a plenary address given by Dr. Gilles Bibeau of the University of Montreal who spoke on the topic, "For a Biocultural Approach to AIDS: Dead Ends and New Leads." He is the first anthropologist to participate in a plenary session at an international AIDS conference.

In spite of the central role of the social sciences at the conference, few anthropologists actually attended. The 18 AARG members who presented a paper or poster are included with their abstracts in the attachment to the AARG Newsletter. The AAA Task Force on AIDS hosted an open informal meeting to discuss anthropology and AIDS issues at the Department of Anthropology of the University of Montreal. The Sixth International Conference on AIDS will be held in June, 1990 in San Francisco. For information about anthropological involvement at that conference, contact Dr. Linda A. Valleroy at 2727 29th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, USA.

ELECTION FOR AARG OFFICERS

AARG is currently holding mail ballot elections for the positions of Co-Chair for 1990-91 and Steering Committee members for 1990-92. Please vote for any three candidates by placing a check mark next to the candidate's name. Do not sign the ballot or put your name anywhere on the ballot. The candidate with the most votes will be given the option of becoming the next Co-Chair of AARG. Please return your ballot by the November 1, 1989 deadline to: AARG, c/o Norris G. Lang, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 77004. USA.

REGIONAL AARG MEETINGS

National AARG roundtable meetings are generally held in the Fall in conjunction with the American Anthropological Association meetings and in the Spring with the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings. The purpose of holding additional regional AARG meetings, usually on a quarterly basis, is to bring together anthropologists doing AIDS research or activities in particular local areas in order to share information and ideas. So far, there have been four quarterly meetings in New York, one in Miami, one in Chicago, and one in the Los Angeles area.

The first northern California meeting will be co-chaired by Dr. Susanna Hoffman, Dr. Barbara Koenig, and More Downing, and held on September 16, 1989 between 10 A.M. and 12 noon at the Cafe at the California College of Arts and Crafts (5212 Broadway, Oakland, CA). For more information, please call (415) 547-1066. The next South Florida meeting will be chaired by Dr. Douglas A. Feldman and Dr. J. Bryan Page, and held on September 28, 1989 from 2:30-4:30 P.M. at 1029 N.W. 15th Street, Room 1005 at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Please contact Dr. Feldman at (305) 547-5710 for additional information.

The next New York meeting should occur in the Fall. Contact Dr. Francis Conant at (212) 772-5420 for details. Dr. Robert T. Trotter II has tentatively agreed to hold an AARG regional meeting at Northern Arizona University soon. Contact him at (602) 523-4521. Dr. Merrill Singer is planning to hold an AARG regional meeting in Hartford, CT soon. Contact him at (203) 527-0856.

There may be a meeting in Denver soon. Contact Dr. Stephen Koester, George Burke, Lucia C. Schwaab, or D. Scott Wilson for details. There may also be a meeting in Washington, D.C. soon. Contact Dr. Gretchen Schafft or Dr. Moses B. Pounds. On the international front, there may even be an AARG meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Contact Dr. Richard Parker and Dr. Carmen Dora Guinaraes for information.

AIDS ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR AAA

The next annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association will be held in Washington, D.C. on November 15-19, 1989. AARG will host a Cash Bar, a Business Meeting, a Steering Committee Meeting, and a National Roundtable Meeting on AIDS. Everyone is cordially invited to attend our Cash Bar and our National Roundtable Meeting on AIDS. The Business Meeting is open to all AARG members, and the Steering Committee Meeting is open to Steering Committee members. Please consult the September, 1989 issue of the Anthropology Newsletter for other AIDS-related events.

THE MAGDALENE MESSENGER

Family Health International (FHI) has begun an informal newsletter to communicate with people who are working to slow the spread of HIV infection in high risk groups, particularly prostitutes. The title is taken from St. Mary Magdalene. FHI is a not-for-profit organization with a long history of work in the Third World in the area of reproductive health. It has begun a number of interventions to carry services and education to prostitutes in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

FHI realizes that this is a difficult, controversial, but also very important area demanding a sensitive and respectful approach. If any AARG members are involved with similar interventions, or know of people who are, they are asked to contact FHI (P.O.Box 13950, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709. USA; phone: (919) 544-7040) who will share copies of the Magdalene Messenger free of charge. Circulation is limited to people who are working to take education and services to this high-risk group.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

Starting with this issue, we will periodically be including copies of published abstracts by anthropologists and/or AARG members at selected conferences as an additional membership service. Abstracts from the Society for Applied Anthropology meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico and the Fifth International Conference on AIDS in Montreal are included with this issue. We welcome your comments.

NEW COMPENDIUM ON AIDS

The Compendium of International AIDS Programs and Policies has just been published, profiling the activities of 104 AIDS-related international organizations and reproducing significant AIDS policy statements and resolutions of major international public and private agencies. For a copy, send \$15.00 (US) to: George Marshall Worthington, International Health and Development Consultant, Author/Editor-in-Chief, 345 West 21 Street, Suite 3D, New York, N.Y. 10011-3059. USA; phone: (212) 243-5883. Copies are free to all persons with AIDS who can demonstrate a practical need for the directory, and to all journalists, development specialists, and public health workers in developing countries.

AARG AIDS RESEARCH STUDY PROJECT

In order to further facilitate the sharing of information among anthropologists conducting research on AIDS, AARG is requesting that all AARG members who have ever conducted any AIDS-related research to please complete the AARG Research Form enclosed with the AARG Newsletter. The material, or a summary of it, will be included in a special article in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Please include all AIDS-related research projects with which you have had a significant role that have either been completed or are currently underway. Include the dates of the research, the country where it was conducted, the target population, the funding source(s) (if any), the purpose of the study, the methodology utilized, and the primary finding(s). Complete this information for each research project. Xerox blank copies of the form as necessary if you need additional space. The data will be compiled by geographical area for research conducted outside the United States and by topical area within the United States. We have received requests for information by the media on AIDS-related research conducted by anthropologists, and this will also facilitate our ability to respond to future requests. It is important that we receive it no later than November 1, 1989 to be included in the next Newsletter.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL

The Community Development Journal has published a special issue (July, 1989) on "Community Responses to AIDS." It contains six papers, several book reviews, and a bibliography. The papers are: "Editorial: Seeing Light at the End of the Tunnel," "Responding to a Metropolitan Health Crisis: London Lighthouse," "AIDS as a Political Issue - Working with the Sexually Prostituted in the Philippines," "Housing: A Critical Need for People with AIDS," "Cases of HIV - or People with HIV?," and "New Hope for Seropositive Intravenous Drug Abuser in a Therapeutic Community." Single issues are available for \$18.00 (US) from Journals Subscriptions Department, Oxford University Press, Pinkill House, Southfield Road, Eynsham, Oxon OX8 1JJ, United Kingdom.

NEW AARG BIBLIOGRAPHY

AARG is compiling a bibliography of all journal articles, books, book chapters, and other published material by anthropologists on AIDS. The bibliography when completed will be sent to all AARG members as a free membership service. It is anticipated that the bibliography will be updated annually. If you are an anthropologist and an AARG member, please send us all bibliographic citations by the November 1, 1989 deadline for inclusion in our first bibliography (use the American Anthropologist format). Send to AARG at our Editorial Office.

CONSULTANT ROSTER

In an effort to compile a new roster for possible future AIDS-related consulting positions, AARG is requesting all AARG members who would like to be included to complete the AARG Consultant Roster Form which is attached to this Newsletter. Please include your name, address, phone(s), geographical areas of interest, topical areas of interest, availability, consulting experience, other AIDS-related experience, foreign language ability, your signature, and the date. The last consultant roster compiled by the AAA is already becoming outdated. This is being done by AARG as a public service to our members.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Global Programme on AIDS (World Health Organization, 21 Rue Appia Way, CH-1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland) is currently hiring for 84 new positions. For information, contact Dr. Jonathan Mann or Dr. Manuel Carballo at the above address.

If you are an employer looking for an anthropologist for an AIDS-related position, please send your announcement to us at our Editorial Office by November 1, 1989 for the December, 1989 issue. There is no charge for this service.

CROSS-CULTURAL ANAL SEX

One of our AARG members has suggested that we ask our membership if they can provide any information on heterosexual anal sex practices in African, Asian, and Latin American cultures. Can you provide us with such information? Responses may be made confidentially if you prefer. The results will be published in a future article in the AARG Newsletter. Please send all information to us at our Editorial Office by November 1, 1989.

REVISED AARG MEMBERSHIP LIST

The revised AARG membership list for September, 1989 is attached to your AARG Newsletter. There have been many changes made to this revision. Please check to see that your listing is correct and complete. Be sure to send us your bitnet code and fax numbers, if applicable. Changes should be sent to our Membership and Subscriptions Office by November 1, 1989.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

If you have an announcement or brief communication that you would like to have included in the next issue of the AARG Newsletter, please send it to us by November 1, 1989.

AARG STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D.
 Morris G. Lang, Ph.D.

Treasurer: Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D.

Secretary: Lucia Cargill Schwaab, MA, BSN

Steering Committee:

Ralph Bolton, Ph.D.
 Barbara O. de Zalduondo, Ph.D.
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 Gilbert Herdt, Ph.D.
 Susanna Hoffman, Ph.D.

AARG Newsletter Co-Editors:

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 University of Miami School of Medicine
 Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (R-669)
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 Miami, FL 33101 USA
 (305) 547-5710

Membership and Subscriptions Office:

Dues for the balance of 1989 are \$5.00 payable to AARG by November 1, 1989. Membership currently is free to all anthropologists outside North America and Europe, to all anthropology graduate students conducting AIDS research, and to all unemployed anthropologists interested in AIDS research and activities. The quarterly AARG Newsletter, the revised quarterly membership lists, periodic abstracts, and other materials are included in the membership dues. A renewal form for 1990 dues will be included with the December, 1989 issue of the Newsletter.

Mail check or money order to:

AARG, c/o Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D.
 Treasurer, 1303 Northview Road
 Baltimore, MD 21218 USA
 (301) 328-8334.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

October 10-14: 1989 National AIDS Update, San Francisco. Contact: 1989 National AIDS Update c/o Krebs Convention Management Services, 555 DeHaro Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94107 USA; (415) 255-1297.

October 11-13: AIDS and Infectious Disease in the Workplace, Boston. Contact: Sharon Black, Harvard School of Public Health, Office of Continuing Education, 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, USA (617) 732-1171.

October 19-20: International Conference on AIDS and Associated Cancers in Africa-Fourth, Marseilles, France. Contact: Christian DeVaux, Retroviruses and Associated Diseases Research Laboratory, Inserm U. 322 B.P. 33, Marseilles Cedex 9, France.

October 20-21: AIDS and the Social Sciences: a Symposium on Research Agendas and Applications, Lexington, Kentucky. Contact: Dr. Richard Ulack, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY USA; (606) 257-6947.

October 22-26: American Public Health Association -117th Annual Meeting, Chicago. Contact: Bob Johnson, APHA, 1015 15th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 USA; (202) 789-5672.

October 22-26: International Symposium on AIDS Information and Education - Second, Yaounde, Cameroon. Contact: Yaounde Symposium 89, B.P. 155, Yaounde, Cameroon; (237) 22-29-20.

November 1-3: National Conference on AIDS Prevention, Education and Service Delivery to People with Disabilities - First, New York City. Contact: George H. Worthington, 345 West 21st St. (Suite 3D), New York, N.Y. 10011 USA; (212) 243-5883.

November 2-5: African Studies Association, Atlanta (see notice in this issue).

November 2-5: National AIDS Network Skills Building Conference - Second, Washington, D.C. Contact: Lynne G. Vance, NANN, 2033 K. St. N.W., Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20036 USA; (202) 293-AIDS.

November 15-19: American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C. (see September issue of the Anthropology Newsletter).

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

1. Airhihenbuwa, C.O. "PERSPECTIVES ON AIDS IN AFRICA: STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL." AIDS Educ Prev. 1(1): 57-69. Spring, 1989. "... Given the facts, it is clear that the only weapon against the spread of HIV infection is health education...AIDS is a pandemic, the impact of which is felt much in its economic ramifications as in the conditions of declining physical health. In the absence of a vaccine, treatment, or cure, health education appears to be the only weapon against this disease. Winning the war against AIDS, which has reminded us once more that the world is a global village, requires a universal effort."

2. De Macedo Rodrigues, L.G., P. Chequer. "AIDS IN BRAZIL, 1982-1988." Pan Amer. Health Org. Bull. 23(1):30-34. 1989.

"AIDS was first identified in Brazil in 1982, and by mid-1988 a total of 3,952 cases had been detected. The highest concentrations of cases have occurred in the Southeast region of the country (81.8%), which includes the States of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, and in the 25-to-40 year-old age group (58.2%). Sexual transmission is responsible for 72.8% of the cases; 18.8% of the cases were transmitted by contact with contaminated blood or blood products; perinatal transmission is responsible for 1.0% of the total recorded cases. On the basis of serologic surveys of certain population groups and projections of the prevalence of infection bases on the number of actual cases at the end of 1987, the number of asymptomatic infected individuals would be between 200,000 and 400,000."

3. Morvan, J., B. Carteron, R. Laroche, E. Bouillet, R. Teyssou, P.B. De Vaucouleurs. "SEROEPIDEMIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF HIV INFECTION IN BURUNDI BETWEEN 1980 AND 1981 (in French)." Bull. Soc. Pathol. Exotique 82(1): 130-140. 1989. "We have conducted a retrospective serological study of the presence of HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies (screening by ELISA and confirmation by western blot) in 658 sera collected between 1980 and 1981 from health subjects in Burundi. The results, carried out by examination of HIV-1 antigenemia, show that 29 subjects were infected at that time by HIV-1 (27 carriers of HIV-1 antibodies and 2 of the antigen). This study describes the epidemiological

situation before the discovery of the virus responsible for AIDS and shows a high prevalence (4.4%) of HIV-1 infection. No HIV-2 was found. The prevalence is higher in urban areas (8.08%) but 2.82% of the rural population examined in this study were infected by HIV-1. Seropositivity was more frequent in men (5.94%) but 3.03% of the women included in the cohort were seropositive. The incidence in both sexes and the frequency in the age groups corresponding to the period of sexual activity seem to show the dominant role of sexual transmission. More recently, we have witnessed an outburst of HIV-1 infection in which vertical transmission is a new epidemiological modality. With important frequency, there are serological cross-reactions between HIV-1 and HIV-2, and the existence of cross-reactions between other retroviruses is envisaged."

4. Reeve, P.A. "HIV INFECTION IN PATIENTS ADMITTED TO A GENERAL HOSPITAL IN MALAWI." Brit. Med. Jour. 298(6687):1567-1568. June 10, 1989.

"...The magnitude of the AIDS epidemic in Malawi has been seriously underestimated. The number of cases of AIDS is increasing relentlessly, and soon HIV infection will be the commonest cause for admitting adults to hospital. By the middle of 1988 over 10% of all the patients admitted to the medical wards of the hospital had illnesses related to HIV. Early immune deficiency in many other patients may have gone undiagnosed. The further spread of HIV infection is inevitable, and 10 to 20 times more cases of AIDS will occur over the next five years in people already infected with the virus. Malawi, like many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, has limited resources for health care, and these will be stretched further by the increasing number of cases..."

5. Friedman, S.R., D.C. Des Jarlais, A. Meaigus, A. Abdul-Quader, J.L. Sothoran, M. Sufian, S. Tross, D. Goldsmith. "AIDS AND THE NEW DRUG INJECTOR." Nature 339(6223): 333-334. June 1, 1989.

"...If people start sharing injection equipment, it might be hoped that they would consistently follow safer injection procedures. Sadly, this does not seem to be the case. In a New York City study of drug injectors recruited from 'street' locations (in which drugs were being sold openly), Kleinman and colleagues found that only

very experienced IV drug users were taking deliberate steps to reduce their risk of AIDS. Only 16% of users who had been injecting for two years or less had changed their injection behaviour to reduce their risk of HIV infection, compared to 29% of those who had been injecting for 3-5 years, 33% of those who had been injecting for 6-10 years, and 66% of those who had been injecting for more than 10 years..."

6. Howlett, W.P., W.M. Nkya, K.A. Muni, W.R. Missalek. "NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS IN AIDS AND HIV DISEASE IN THE NORTHERN ZONE OF TANZANIA." AIDS 3(3): 289-296. May, 1989. "This study presents the main clinical findings on 200 AIDS patients at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in the northern zone of Tanzania, with detailed neurological findings on 135 out of 200 cases and 53 controls. Results show that 21 out of 200 (10.5%) had an obvious focal neurological disorder. 97 out of 135 (72%) had less obviously detectable neurological disorders, versus 36% of controls ($P < 0.005$). Most frequent was AIDS dementia complex (54%). Advanced and terminal AIDS cases were more likely to have neurological disorders than early AIDS patients. A further study on 87 non-AIDS patients with acute unexplained neurological disorders showed 10 out of 87 to be seropositive. This study suggests that neurological disorders are among the main clinical features of AIDS and HIV disease in Africa.

7. Grace, E., S.J. Emans, E.R. Woods. "THE IMPACT OF AIDS AWARENESS ON THE ADOLESCENT FEMALE." Adolesc. Pediat. Gynecol. 2(1): 40-42. 1989. "Twenty-six percent of heterosexual AIDS patients are women, one-third of whom may have been exposed to HIV during adolescence. Because little is known about attitudes, AIDS awareness, and the impact of AIDS knowledge on the sexual behavior in adolescent and young adult females, 200 private primary care patients (mean 18 years, range 11-25 years) were interviewed during an office visit. One hundred twenty-seven (64%) were sexually active. Condoms were used by 35 (28%) of the patients' sexual partners. No perceived need for condoms was the most frequent reason for condom nonuse. A history of a sexually transmitted disease did not increase patients' willingness to use condoms in the future. Despite verbalized concern about AIDS, few patients were willing to alter their present sexual behavior. All but one of the patients credit television as an AIDS information source, yet friends had the greatest influence in precipitating

a willingness to change sexual behavior. Protecting the sexually active female from AIDS necessitates more effective education using peer counselors as well as the media."

8. Rich V. "AIDS TEST BACKLASH." Nature 339(6223): 326. June 1, 1989. "The Bulgarian government's compulsory AIDS screening programme has been attacked as undemocratic and a breach of human and civil rights by the Communist youth daily, Narodna Mladost. The programme, introduced two years ago, imposes heavy fines on people who refuse to report for tests when ordered to do so and empowers the police to bring them in by force after a second refusal. The first thrust of the programme was directed against 'high-risk' groups, in particular foreigners and Bulgarians who had spent more than a month abroad. As a result, the crews of Bulgarian ships returning home were marched off under armed guard to an 'unknown destination' for testing. Journalists who questioned these tactics were asked to play down such 'mistakes' as being due to the tense situation that led to the programme, but the number of such incidents actually increased as the programme went on, according to Narodna Mladost..."

AIDS IN AFRICA MINI-CONFERENCE

The African Studies Association (ASA) will host a two-day "mini-conference" on AIDS in Africa: the Global Context" in Atlanta at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on November 3-4, 1989. Panel topics will include AIDS epidemiology, US government responses to AIDS in Africa, AIDS among African women and children, economics, and education. For information, contact Rosemary Hynes at ASA, Credit Union Building, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322. USA; (404) 329-6430.