



AIDS and Anthropology Bulletin

NEWSLETTER OF THE AIDS AND ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

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NOVEMBER 2008

Letter from the Chair

With advance apologies to AARG members living and working overseas, this will be a U.S.-centric introduction, with significant implications for those of you in other countries.

To begin, let's take a moment for a brief quiz.

Question: "Do you think contraceptives help stop the spread of HIV?"

Response: "You've stumped me."

Who is the respondent in the brief exchange above? Yes, if we look back over the decade, the respondent could be just about anyone, possibly under the age of 10 or over the age of 70, who has not been tuned into world events or who has willfully ignored extensive media campaigns and scientific fact. If we further narrow the pool of potential respondents to people who exert sometimes inexplicable leverage over U.S. and foreign political policy, an answer with a name rhyming with "mush" would not be incorrect in terms of the spirit of how this person has attempted to muddy the evidence demonstrating contraceptive efficacy for HIV prevention. You could also argue that this person's response to whether or not con-

traceptives help stop the spread of HIV would be a more decisive "no." The technically correct respondent is still only a presidential nominee. There is no extra credit or prize for all of you who undoubtedly answered the question correctly. The prize, in the form of policies which actually address the importance of sociocultural and political affects of HIV/AIDS, may come later.

Many things remain unknown about the near and more distant future with regards to the future of HIV/AIDS research, the virus itself, and how the current U.S. economic and political climate will affect how HIV/AIDS is regarded and addressed, in the U.S. and internationally.

What will things look like four years from now for AARG? We will need to work individually and collaboratively to keep AARG energized and relevant to current and future members. Imagine how refreshing and extraordinary it would be to have HIV/AIDS cast, in the eyes of many, as an issue of both scientific and humanitarian import, by a U.S. President. Imagine if and how this might change the tenor (and frequency?) of our listserv discussions.

If you aren't already familiar with either presidential candidate's positions on HIV/AIDS, read the Michigan Messenger's piece on Election Issue: HIV/AIDS (<http://michiganmessenger.com/4305/understanding-the-election-issues-hiv-aids>), or simply visit Obama's website (http://obama.3cdn.net/2cb319a705c2ef49d1_or0gmvqxd.pdf), since McCain has not written anything specific to HIV/AIDS on his.

If Obama is elected, some of the following may happen during his time in office:

- The development of a comprehensive National HIV strategy
- An eradication of the ban on needle exchange programs
- An eradication of the ban on granting visas to people with HIV
- People with HIV/AIDS having increased access to health care
- Increased attention to reducing the negative effects of stigma for people with HIV

Shifting national policy back to HIV prevention, contraception, and microbicide use and not on abstinence

Obama's ideas are pragmatic

(Continued on page 2)

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Inside this issue:

<i>Letter from the Chair</i>	1
<i>Letter from the Editor</i>	3
<i>AARG Announcements</i>	3
<i>AARG Chair and Steering Committee Nominee Biosketches</i>	4
<i>Susan Pietrzyk-Through the Words and Minds</i>	8
<i>AARG Member Bibliography</i>	12
<i>Membership Form</i>	19

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Merrill Singer (2002-03)

Doug Goldsmith (2004-2006)

Letter from the Chair,

(Continued from page 1)

in any other context, but given the current political climate they seem almost idealistic. We will have to see how many of his plans come to fruition if he is elected. Nonetheless it is promising that we have a presidential candidate who has either himself considered, or surrounded himself with people who have acknowledged, the need to develop policy to address not only the virus itself, but its far-reaching sociocultural ramifications.

In other news, we need to find another Chair/president and some new Steering Committee members. Dave Turkon, currently on the Steering Committee, is running for President, and John Mazzeo, Adriana Garrina Lopez and Fatma Soud are running for positions on the Steering Committee. Nominee biosketches are in this newsletter on page 4. Please vote.

We will be having our annual business meeting in San Francisco on Thursday, November 20 from 12:15- 1:30 p.m. We will be meeting in Continental Parlor 8. I will give the results of the election, and we will discuss the format for developing a session or presentation on HIV and ex-

ceptionalism, the topic which generated the most interest on our listserv in May and June of this past year. Andrew Irving, the 2007 recipient of the Clark Taylor Professional Paper prize winner, will briefly present on his work. We will announce the recipient of the 2008 Service Award. If you have not yet paid your AARG dues this year, Dave Turkon will be collecting these at the meeting.

Thanks to Alex Rodlach for compiling a list of HIV/AIDS related sessions and abstracts at this year's meeting. You can find this as a supplement you can print out and take to the AAA meetings.

See you in San Francisco!

Delia



The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group

Mission

The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG), an interest group of the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA), is a network of scholars interested in anthropological research on HIV infection and AIDS. The mission of the AARG is to support anthropological research in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

To this end, AARG

1) works to use anthropological research in the fight against HIV and AIDS, 2) advocates for AIDS research within anthropology, 3) promotes AIDS research by anthropologists within the broader AIDS research community, 4) and provides a forum for anthropologists working on AIDS to meet & communicate about their work.

Letter from the Editor

Change has been the overarching theme this fall, from the historic upcoming election to the changing of the seasons. The transformational nature of fall encourages us to do new things and acquire new perspectives. In tune with these changes, I will be stepping down from my post as lead editor and handing the keys to someone else. I will continue my duties doing layout and design for the newsletter until we can find someone to replace me. First, I want to thank everyone who has helped me put the newsletter together over the years and the great submissions that we have received. I enjoyed my time as editor and have learned a lot from the great work of my fellow AARG members. AARG is a wonderful community of researchers, scholars and activists, I hope that it continues to espouse the ideals and goals set by its founders and that the newsletter continues in its efforts to high-

light the work of its members and the state of HIV/AIDS research.

In this issue of the bulletin we have biosketches from the nominees of our upcoming AARG election and an article by Susan Pietrzyk. In addition, Ray Bucko has compiled a bibliography of AARG member publications from 2006 to the present.

Accompanying this issue is a great list of HIV/AIDS related panels at the upcoming AAA meetings compiled by Alex Rodlach.

Thanks to everyone and continue to support the bulletin! Submit papers, news, announcements, photos and funding opportunities to AARGsub@gmail.com

Dugeidy

AARG Announcements



107th AAA Annual Meeting | November 19-23, 2008 | San Francisco Hilton and Towers

Inclusion, Collaboration & Engagement

Please join us at the
AARG Business Meeting!

Thursday, November 20 from 12:15- 1:30 p.m

In the Continental Parlor 8

Hilton Hotel, San Francisco

AARG Officer and Steering Committee Nominee Biosketches

Chair- David Turkon

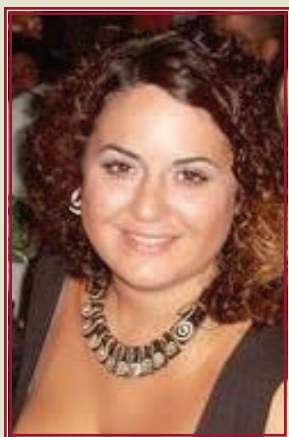


I'm an assistant professor of anthropology at Ithaca College. I have been doing fieldwork in Lesotho since 1987, and in 2004 began collaborating with scholars at the National University of Lesotho and the University of South Florida to formulate a sustainable, community focused, nutritionally

grounded participatory action intervention for rural areas. My area of interest is with how AIDS affects community dynamics, and with community capacity building. I am also studying how fragmented and specialized interventions exacerbate the impact of AIDS. I also work on community capacity building among Sudanese, unaccompanied minor refugees. I am presently on the steering committee for AARG, co-program editor and chair of the Graduate Student Paper Prize committee for the Association for Africanist Anthropologists (AfAA), and a senior adviser to the Central NY Lost Boys Foundation, I have been an elected member to the board of directors for the AZ Lost Boys Center, and served on steering

committees for the Samaritan Center Resettlement Program in Ithaca, NY and the Immigrant Rights Coalition of Tompkins County. If elected chair of AARG I will work to increase member participation in service and decision making, increase dialog among members to define and engage the most critical issues, and draw on my experience as AfAA program chair to help assemble high profile panels on HIV and AIDS at the annual meetings of AAA and SfAA.

Steering Committee- Adriana Garriga-Lopez



Adriana Garriga-Lopez is a cultural and medical anthropologist focusing on Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, whose research investigates the intersections of colonial and post-colonial histories and social contexts in the age of AIDS. Her dissertation focuses on AIDS as a socio-political preoccupation in Puerto Rico, and its attendant histories of activism and struggle in that context. As an elected member of the AARG Steering Committee,

she will focus on two areas of interest: 1) expanding membership and visibility of the organization, and 2) the creation of a body or sub-group of researchers interested in the question of colonialism in the study of HIV/AIDS, both as a historical and a theoretical preoccupation, with a view to developing symposia and other opportunities to explore this topic in cross-sectional, international, and interdisciplinary frames.

AARG Officer and Steering Committee Nominee Biosketches

Steering Committee- John Mazzeo

John Mazzeo received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Arizona in 2007 and is an Assistant Professor at DePaul University in the Department of Anthropology and is a faculty member in the Masters in Public Health Program. His research interests include the impacts of HIV/AIDS on rural livelihood systems, especially in drought-prone regions. Mazzeo has worked on HIV/AIDS and community based health related projects in Zimbabwe and Haiti. His current activities include a co-edited volume entitled *Anthro-*

pological Approaches to Confronting HIV/AIDS and Food Insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa and is organizing a conference at DePaul University, *Health Disparities and Social Justice: A Focus on Families*, that will include a workshop on anthropological methods in public health research on HIV/AIDS. As a member of the AARG steering committee, he would like to further expand AARG's focus on HIV/AIDS to include food security and how populations are coping with the global food crisis. Mazzeo also enjoys working



with undergraduates and would be active in encouraging greater involvement by students at meetings and conferences.

Steering Committee- Nancy Romero-Daza

I am an applied medical anthropologist with special interest in HIV, women's health, and minority health. I received my Ph.D. from SUNY Buffalo in 1994 (my dissertation examined the impact of labor migration on the spread of HIV in Lesotho, southern Africa). From 1994 to 1998 I worked at the Hispanic Health Council in Hartford, CT as an ethnographer researching HIV/AIDS, violence, and other health issues among injection drug users, crack users, and sex workers. At the HHC I also coordinated two units that provided HIV and drug-recovery related services for minority MSMs and women. At present I am an Associate Professor in the department of Anthropology at the University of South Florida,

where I teach courses on HIV/AIDS, Community Health, and Reproductive Health, among others. I have done research on access to health services among HIV positive African Americans and among Latino immigrants in Florida. I have also examined the impact of tourism on the spread of HIV and other STIs in Costa Rica, and, along with other anthropologists (Himmelgreen, Turkon, Sellen), I'm trying to secure funds to examine the relationship between food security and HIV/AIDS in Lesotho. I am a consultant for FHI on a project on concurrent multiple sexual partners and HIV risk in Lesotho, and I am actively involved in CHOIDS, an organization that provides care for HIV positive Haitian chil-

dren who have lost their parents to AIDS. I would like to contribute to AARG in any way I can. I would love to foster involvement of students and non-academic anthropologists, and increase the visibility of the AARG not only in the AAA but also in the SfAA by promoting specialized sessions.

AARG Officer and Steering Committee Nominee Biosketches

Steering Committee- Fatma Soud

Presently I work with a CDC and Botswana government project in a clinical trial to assess the use of an antiretroviral for HIV prevention. The work entails: data collection and analysis to identify and define behavioral and social science aspects such as change in sexual behavior and medication adherence among study participants. Participate in collecting, analyzing and interpreting data using appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods. Devise solutions and strategies related to non-research such as retention and recruitment of

participants. Synthesize results into written documents and/ or oral presentations for varied scientific and non-scientific audiences. Collaborate with internal staff, government and non-government partners to accomplish prevention strategies to reduce the spread of HIV. I would like to provide my 20 years experience in clinical practice and behavioral science research to support AARG's mission of HIV/AIDS research. As an active field worker in HIV prevention, I would like to collaborate with other scientists to net-

work, share experiences with domestic and international colleagues, and provide informative knowledge in meetings and for publication to the AARG.

Funding Opportunities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of HIV/ AIDS Prevention (DHAP) proudly announces that it is offering four two-year post-doctoral research fellowships--the 2009-2011 DHAP/ORISE Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships for HIV Prevention in Communities of Color.

The mission of this fellowship program is to recruit, mentor, and train recently graduated doctoral-level researchers (with doctorates earned no earlier than May 2004 and no later than May 2009) in conducting research leading to the prevention of HIV infection in communities of color in the United States.

The fellowships will begin August 1, 2009, and end August 1, 2011; the fel-

lows will be located in various branches in DHAP at the CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

Applications will be accepted from November 1, 2008 until December 31, 2008.

More information about these fellowships and their application procedures and materials may be found on the DHAP Web site [<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/aboutdhap/orise>].

Department of Health and Human Services

Title: Using Proven Factors in Risk Prevention to Promote Protection from HIV Transmission (R01)

Request for Applications (RFA) Number: RFA-HD-08-010

Key Dates

Release/Posted Date: August 28, 2008

Opening Date: November 12, 2008 (Earliest date an application may be submitted to Grants.gov)

Letters of Intent Receipt Date(s): November 12, 2008

NOTE: On-time submission requires that applications be successfully submitted to Grants.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. local time (of the applicant institution/ organization).

Application Due Date(s): December 11, 2008

(Continued on page 7)

Funding Opportunities

(Continued from page 6)

AIDS Application Due Date(s): Not applicable
Peer Review Date(s): February/March 2009
Council Review Date(s): May 2009
Earliest Anticipated Start Date (s): July 1, 2009
Additional Information to Be Available Date (Activation Date): Not Applicable
Expiration Date: December 12, 2008

- Purpose.** This FOA issued by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, solicits investigator initiated research applications from institutions/organizations that propose to develop, implement, and evaluate new or improved HIV prevention programs that incorporate proven factors from social and sexual development, positive youth development, sexual risk behavior, and drug prevention programs for use in high-risk, urban American minority preadolescents or early adolescents (approximate ages 9-14).

FOR MORE INFO SEE:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-08-010.html>

2008 Puerto Rico HIV / AIDS Prevention Grants Program

Grant Application Deadline: November 14, 2008

The National AIDS Fund (NAF) is pleased to announce funding to support HIV/AIDS prevention programs in Puerto Rico. Grants will support community-based organizations to implement HIV/AIDS prevention programs serving priority populations. NAF will award 4-6 grants of up to \$30,000 each by December 31, 2008. This funding initiative is meant to boost the capacity of community-based organizations to provide vital HIV/AIDS prevention services, such as syringe exchange, risk reduction counseling and group programs, HIV testing and counseling, peer-based outreach and education, and community-level interventions to reduce stigma.

You may submit a proposal to the National AIDS Fund by either email or postal mail to the attention of Kathleen Quirk, Program Officer (kquirk@aidsfund.org) by 5:00 EST Friday, November 14, 2008. Please provide your email and postal mail contact information in your application. Please note: "Puerto Rico Grant Application" in the subject line, if submitted by email. Our postal address is: National AIDS Fund, 729 15th St., 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20005.



AARG Business Meeting Agenda

11/20/08

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

San Francisco Hilton and Towers
Continental Parlor 8

- * Updates and Notices
- * Service Award winner announced and plaque presented
- * Treasurer's Report
 - * Dues reminder (Dave Turkon will collect outstanding dues at the meeting)
- * Election Results
- * Call for volunteers/nominees
 - * Nominees for Secretary/treasurer position
 - * Volunteers for newsletter compilation and layout
- * AARG SMA Policy piece update
- * Andrew Irvine
 - * brief presentation on his Professional Paper award winning article
- * AIDS and Exceptionalism
 - * Ideas for presentation, session next year
- * Outstanding dues collected
- * Meeting Adjourned

SEE YOU THERE!!!

Through the Words and Minds: Intellectual and Creative Currents in Harare*

Susan Pietrzyk

Binghamton University

In 1984, artist Affrekka Jefferson produced a mixed media piece called *Violation of Africa*. To view Affrekka Jefferson's work see: http://www.thebody.com/women/resource/visualaidsa_jefferson.html. The work depicts four hands grasping the breasts of a woman. We see only her body and breasts; no face. Through this creative expression, Affrekka's work potentially conveys a critique on the ways the imperialist attitudes of the West lead to tendencies to conduct research *on* people and not *with* people.

Also around 1984, HIV and AIDS activism in the United States was burgeoning. Engagements were intellectually layered. Painters, writers, gay rights activists, and feminists had something to convey; present was an intellectual and creative fervour. This was a set of experts making headway with a transformative agenda to challenge the relationships of politics, power, science, and sex.

Many believe these intellectual and creative currents played a role in curtailing the spread of HIV in the United States. The 1980s marked a time when activists in the United States put across their expertise, not merely as interest groups, but rather, with the skill to challenge and transform knowledge about the multifaceted dimensions of HIV and AIDS.

This paper focuses on questions stemming from this observation. How do similar intellectual and creative currents engage HIV and AIDS in Zimbabwe? Are

there ways Zimbabwe has been flooded with donor-driven agendas—what some call the AIDS Industry—to the extent that the importance of local intellectual and creative currents may be under-recognised?

To begin to address these questions, this paper draws on survey data collected from Harare-based AIDS Services Organisations (ASOs). The purposes of the survey have been to:

1. Assess the ways the arts is/is not integrated into HIV and AIDS programmes and
2. Gather opinions concerning the ways terms such as multi-sectoral, gender, and sexuality are defined.

Assessing the Role of the Arts in Work Around HIV and AIDS

The survey is ongoing and to date half of the target number of surveys has been collected. This paper highlights some of the early findings. Notably, 90% of the Harare-based ASOs who have responded integrate the arts into their programmes. This points to the prominent role the arts play in work around HIV and AIDS in Zimbabwe and that this prominence is not just a token gesture. As Figure 1 demonstrates, the majority (or 67%) of respondents feel the arts are central to or hold significant importance for programming. Only a negligible number (2%) feel the arts are tangential. Harare-based ASOs give the arts such prominence. So what do the arts add?

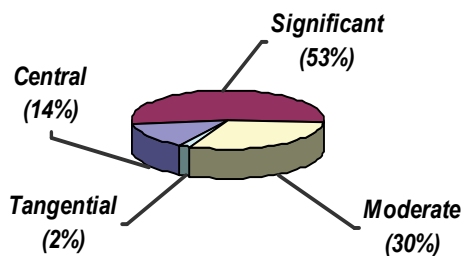
(Continued on page 9)

Through the Words and Minds: Intellectual and Creative Currents in Harare

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Figure 1

How important are the arts in programmes?
N = 43



In response to a pre-coded question, more than half (or 58%) of Harare-based ASOs

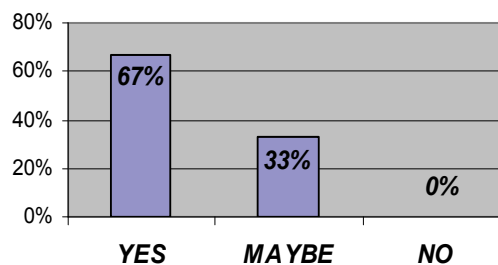
feel that the arts provide an opportunity to convey complex information in culturally-sensitive ways. Relatedly, 24% of the respondents indicate the arts are a

way for people to feel more comfortable in learning about HIV and AIDS. Certainly the aim of ASOs is for information to be culturally-sensitive and conveyed in ways which foster a comfortable learning HIVH environment. Yet, often the challenge is to break down complex information into an accessible presentation without sacrificing the details. Overwhelmingly, Harare-based ASOs who took part in this survey feel that the arts represent an important and effective avenue for meeting this challenge. In large part, the appeal of a song, drama, painting, or poem is its ability to strike a chord on a personal level and place the information within the life of an individual. As one respondent comments: "People see themselves in the art and hence are able to relate to the activity." While another respondent notes: "It makes the whole programme real." And in the words of another: "The arts have a lasting impression."

In Zimbabwe, the lasting impression of the arts may have played a role in inspiring behaviour change. As Figure 2 below shows, 67% of the ASOs surveyed state that they believe this is the case, while the remaining 33% indicate that it may be the case. These figures are the opinions of the ASO staff members, not individuals explicitly stating that the arts prompted changes in their behaviour. Yet they are the views of people who work on the ground and regularly witness what people respond to. Further, there is evidence that the arts represent more than a way to catch attention and convey information as if it is merely entertainment. As one respondent comments: "Arts are very effective in mobilising the community." While another notes that the arts: "Inspire a unity of purpose and energy."

Figure 2

Have the arts inspired behavior change?
N = 42



The Arts and Multi-Sectoral Approaches to HIV and AIDS

It is perhaps not surprising that 90% of ASOs surveyed report they integrate the arts into their programmes. This may be a given in Zimbabwe and other African

(Continued on page 10)

Through the Words and Minds: Intellectual and Creative Currents in Harare

(Continued from page 9)

nations, if not across the world. After all, even the most basic pamphlet about HIV usually contains an artistic aspect and performance or drama is a common way to give instructions on, for example, how to use a condom. But there are other reasons to take note of this finding concerning the prominence of the arts in work around HIV and AIDS.

The paradigm of donor funding has undergone a definitive shift: from biomedical-oriented public health to multi-sectoral approaches. Importantly, this shift extends research beyond the health sector, to address economic impacts and sustaining economic factors, often paying attention to the intersections of gender and poverty. But this multi-sectoral approach tends to consider only the macro and micro economic profile of sectors with larger and more tangible economic orientations, for example, agriculture, education, governance, the military, transportation, and informal business.

Without diminishing the need to understand economic impacts, what such an approach often fails to consider adequately are the interconnections of hard and fast economic sectors with more culturally-oriented or intellectual and creative engagements. Consider both how the arts is viewed as a sector within society, and the arts sector in the context of growing emphasis on multi-sectoral approaches. The economic preoccupations of multi-sectoral approaches have diverted attention from the spheres of human activity which are less easily quantified into economic indicators. Among other concerns, they have omitted critical artistic knowledge production.

In Zimbabwe HIV and AIDS is interwoven into the

fabric of daily life. It is neither an isolated biomedical epidemic nor solely an issue of economics. This reality potentially positions fiction writers, poets, and in broader terms, intellectual and creative currents as poised to convey expertise. HIV and AIDS interventions rely heavily on visual and performing arts to generate and convey knowledge. Yet, the shift to multi-sectoral approaches has largely been a shift to frame HIV as a broader threat to economic growth and development. This shift risks minimising the roles that intellectual and creative currents play in work around HIV as well as the impacts HIV and AIDS have on the intellectual and arts sectors, which in turn also impact the economy of the country and the country overall.

Intellectual and Creative Currents in Harare

Once we begin to think about the arts as an important sector and a form of knowledge production, it becomes crucial to give attention to the ways HIV and AIDS themselves are part of the arts. It is not only ASOs making use of the arts which is relevant. Harare's many painters, poets, and writers, produce probing works rich with intellectual and creative energy. The current which emanates is not always explicitly about HIV and AIDS, but it sheds light on HIV's connections to complex dynamics and constructed forms of difference such as class, colonialism, disease, gender, sexuality, politics, race, sex, and violence. For example, Chirikure Chirikure's Poetry Café ran the duration of HIFA; one often felt the intellectual buzz bubbling over from the café. Pamberi Trust-run programmes provide platforms to speak the truth through artistic expression. Comrade Fatso's Magamba links culture and activism through spoken word. Contradiction Arts Development Trust (CADET) is on the ground empowering youth, inclu-

(Continued on page 11)

Through the Words and Minds: Intellectual and Creative Currents in Harare

(Continued from page 10)

sive of a poets for human rights forum. The Women Writers of Zimbabwe (WWZ) amplifies the voices of women. Through publications such as *Light A Candle*, they make available short stories which offer up compassionate and astute renderings of the complexities of HIV and AIDS.

In the end, we must expand our thoughts on who counts as an expert. We need to consider not only the numbers of economics, but also the contributions of artistic expression. In Harare an intellectual and creative current is thriving. This current is decidedly transformative. And it appreciates that the path to understanding and confronting HIV and AIDS involves critically engaging the relationships of politics, power, science, and sex.

Susan Pietrzyk is a PhD candidate in anthropology at Binghamton University. She is conducting dissertation research in Harare funded through a J. William Fulbright US Student Grant. For further information contact: spietrz1@binghamton.edu.

* This article was first published in SAFAIDS News Volume 14 Issue 1 2008. SAFAIDS or the Southern Africa HIV/AIDS Information Dissemination Service is a Harare-based Non Governmental Organization (NGO) which works to promote effective and ethical development responses to the epidemic and its impact through HIV/AIDS knowledge management, capacity building, advocacy, policy analysis and research. For more information see: <http://www.safaid.net/>



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(Continued on page 13)

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(Continued from page 12)

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Please send this form and a check or money order (made out to AARG in U.S. funds only) to:

Raymond A Bucko, S.J., Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178 Any questions? Please email-
bucko@creighton.edu

 **AIDS and Anthropology Bulletin**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE AIDS AND
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