



AIDS and Anthropology Bulletin

 NEWSLETTER OF THE AIDS AND ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

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Letter from the Chair

I am honored to have taken over as chair of AARG last December. It is humbling to join in the long line of eminent scholars and practitioners who have led this organization to the high profile and well respected place it enjoys as a special interest group of the Society for Medical Anthropology.

Since last December, AARG has held elections for several positions on the Steering Committee. Importantly, we have also filled several critical positions within our leadership that were vacant and yet without which this organization cannot function. So it is with great pleasure that I welcome: Cassandra Workman who has taken on the important role of Secretary/Treasurer; Charlotte Noble who has become our Membership Officer; and Nancy Romero-Daza who is our new editor for the AIDS and Anthropology Bulletin. Our incoming SMA Policy Chair is Emily Block. Alexander Rödlach has taken on the very important role of coordinating our awards. Alex is chairing the paper prize committee, which is rounded out by Emily Frank and Adriana Garriga-López. Doug Goldsmith is serving as Chair of our Distinguished Service Award

committee, joined by Doug Feldman and Patricia Whelehan. Susan Pietrzyk returns for another stint on the steering committee as the Graduate Student Representative, while Barrett Brenton joins as a general member and Morgan Milazzo as the undergraduate representative. Continuing service on the steering committee are the ever stalwart Ray Bucko as Electronic Editor, Adam KIs as International Professional Representative, and General Representatives Fatma Soud, John Mazzeo and Adriana Garriga López.

These officers and steering committee members are a very impressive and able group of practitioners and scholars who will bring new vitality and direction to our organization. This is important because this organization represents members who have diverse interests, expertise and professions. Indeed, areas of HIV and AIDS research and intervention work that anthropologists are involved with have diversified significantly over the years and it is impossible to characterize any one area of research or practice as dominating our concerns and debates. To be sure, anthropologists are using our perspectives and methods to help bring order to HIV and

AIDS epidemics throughout the world and we need to do a better job of making it known to policy makers how we contribute in specific areas. In concert with our steering committee, it is my intention to find ways to make non-anthropologists who work in policy circles better aware of the utility of our approaches. We are also working diligently to revitalize our Bulletin, make our presence at the AAA and SfAA meetings of higher profile, and expand membership.

We have already begun the project of promoting our contributions. Last year Ruth Kornfield and I conducted a survey our membership to find areas of HIV and AIDS intervention work where anthropologists are making significant contributions. We are thankful to the many AARG members who contributed to this effort. The document we produced, which is posted in the resource section of our web page, illustrates many of the diverse and important areas of anthropological engagement with HIV and AIDS. Importantly, it illustrates areas where anthropologists have used our cultural understandings and methods to develop more nuanced and reasoned approaches to com-

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Fred Bloom (1998-99)

Elisa J. Sobo (2000-01)

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Doug Goldsmith (2004-2006)

Delia Easton (2007-2009)

Letter from the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

bating aspects of HIV and AIDS epidemics throughout the world. This document makes clear not only the contributions that anthropologists make, but also the potential benefits our contributions can have if we can do a better job of representing them to policymakers. Conversations we have had with people who work formulating policy in several areas confirm that there is indeed interest in what we do. Based on feedback from these experts, we now know that what is lacking in our document is a succinct statement about the specific kinds of contributions we make. I hope that we can reinvigorate this project and produce a document that addresses these shortcomings. This is a task that exceeds the capabilities of any one member of the organization. Indeed, a quick glance at the concept paper that we have already produced demonstrates just how broad the scope of anthropological approaches to HIV and AIDS is. I hope that there will be vigorous input from the membership when we advance this project, and invite anyone who is interested in spearheading the effort right away to get in touch with me. One way we may move this project forward is by having themed issues of the Bulletin in which members who work in different areas lay out specific methodological contributions they make that may be of interest to policymakers.

Approximately twenty people attended our business meeting during the AAA annual meeting in Philadelphia. From the good number of new attendees, it was clear that there is much interest in our organization. What we need to do better is provide people with strong reasons for joining. In this regard, in order to be relevant, we need to be a venue for disseminating information that is vital and immediate for producing

sound understandings of HIV and AIDS and for contributing to evolving approaches that address its impacts in ways that are culturally grounded and holistically conceived. While, as noted, our Bulletin is certainly one way of doing so, we need to upgrade our web page to make it more timely, informative, and attractive. Ideally, we should be able to post news items as they become available, host blogs, provide resources for teachers and practitioners, and allow for immediate registration and payment of dues. If we can achieve this, then we may be able to merge the Bulletin and web page into a common, dynamic resource that is updated frequently. This would also free up membership dues (from printing and mailing the Bulletin) to be used for expanding our paper and distinguished service awards in order to make them more competitive and of higher profile, and perhaps to fund an annual social for members and prospective members alike at either at the AAA or SFAA meetings. If any member has web page development skills and would like to contribute their talents to helping up build a user friendly page that could be easily maintained by the non-web-savvy folks such as myself and our Electronic Editor, Ray Bucko, please do get in touch with me.

There is much to do, and I encourage our membership to get involved by attending our business meeting, contributing to the Bulletin and to dialogs on our listserv, and making innovative ideas for advancing our interests known to the steering committee.



David Turkon with the late Chief Lerotholi in Motsitseng, Lesotho, 2007.

Letter from the Editor

After a long hiatus, the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group Newsletter is back. Many changes have taken place since our last publication. As our new Chair, David Turkon, states in his letter, we have a new slate of officers; “new blood”, so to speak. However, just like our former officers, we are all dedicated to keeping the spirit of the AARG alive. We believe we are in a really good position to serve as a forum for the dissemination and exchange of information, ideas, and news regarding our HIV/AIDS-related work in domestic and global arenas. We do have a challenge, though: we need to re-

invigorate our membership pool and increase participation from old and new members alike.

This issue of the AARG Newsletter highlights several of the recent contributions made by many of our members. These include, for example, the publication of Douglas Feldman’s edited book *AIDS, Culture, and Gay Men*, as well as the publication of a special issue of the African Journal of AIDS Research (AJAR), co-edited by Alexander Rödlach and David Turkon. These two edited volumes provide a good compilation of work by established AIDS researchers. However, equally important for us, is

the work of our more junior colleagues. In an effort to showcase their contributions, we have invited three of our younger members to describe their HIV/AIDS related activities: Adriana Garriga-López, a very recent PhD graduate from Columbia University, Cassandra Workman-Whaler, a doctoral candidate at the University of South Florida, and Charlotte Noble, also in the PhD program at South Florida. We hope that their narratives will inspire other student-members to share their work with us.

As always, we would love to hear your comments and ideas on how to make this bulletin a valuable resource for all our members. Please feel free to send your suggestions to daza@usf.edu



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 and communicate about their work.

From our Members:

Adriana Garriga-López

Steering Committee General Member will graduate May 15th, 2010 with a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Columbia University.

The title of my dissertation is "Viral Citizens: The Coloniality of HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico" and it is a study of the relationship between the Puerto Rican HIV/AIDS epidemic and the island's political status as an Unincorporated Territory of the United States of America. This doctoral dissertation investigates HIV/AIDS as a socio-political problem in Puerto Rico and elucidates some of the effects of US colonialism in Puerto Rico as they relate to HIV/AIDS.

The text traces multi-emergent configurations of sovereignty and state power in the political structure of governance on the island as they manifest within contemporary Puerto Rican society on the racialized, gendered, and medicalized bodies of the abjectly ill or addicted, the sexually stigmatized, and the socio-economically marginalized, producing an account of the modalities of bio-power that (re)produce 'viral citizenship'. I argue that the political system in place on the island over the last 112 years has had profound and widespread consequences for Puerto Rico's ability to address the particularities of AIDS epidemiology among Puerto Ricans and on the efficacy of research about and social services for those living with or at high risk for HIV/AIDS on the island.

My dissertation is particularly concerned with understanding the ways in which people living with HIV/AIDS (and/or who are assumed to be at high risk for HIV infection) negotiate the political and social stakes they must claim in order to attain access to prevention resources and treatment. Thematically, poverty and violence are guiding threads for the dissertation. I argue against the conceptual and institutional separation of categorical 'populations' insofar as it serves to obscure the relations and commonalities between those who populate different imaginaries of 'risk' groups, making them appear as consolidated and mutually exclusive identities. These reified

categories obfuscate the larger social conditions that undergird the experiences of people at high risk of HIV infection or living with HIV/AIDS in favor of apportioning aid and assistance according to specific categories of identity. "Viral Citizens" scrutinizes discourses of population and community in terms of their use, both as strategies of resistance, collaboration, and political mobilization, and as foils for the enforcement of normative collective and individual behaviors through the application of administrative taxonomies.

In September 2010, I will join the faculty of the Anthropology and Sociology Department of Kalamazoo College, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where I will also be one of two Inaugural Chairs in Social Justice Leadership at the new Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership. As Arcus Chair of Social Justice Leadership, I plan to foster interdisciplinary, inter-institutional, and international collaboration and dialogue among scholars and activists concerned with issues of social justice, with special emphasis on the challenges presented by claims to health and health care as human rights issues.



From our Members:

Cassandra Workman-Whaler

Cassandra Workman-Whaler, MA, MPH (PhD candidate in the department of anthropology at the University of South Florida).

In the summer 2007, I spent two months as part of a multi-national research team examining the link between food insecurity and HIV/AIDS in Lesotho, Africa. My colleagues and I went to several villages and collected data on agriculture and nutrition, household illness, and household vulnerability. At that time, I also conducted pre-dissertation research on water security and HIV/AIDS. In the summer/fall of 2009, I was fortunate to get an internship with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Maputo, Mozambique working as a member of the integrated HIV/AIDS and Health Team. As a member of this team, I assisted the Gender Activities Advisor in ensuring that gender was incorporated into all HIV/AIDS and health programs in the 2010 Country Operational Plan. Recently, I received a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation and will return to Lesotho in August of 2010 to conduct dissertation research on water security and HIV/AIDS, and the impact this has on women and families in Lesotho. Water is critical for disease prevention (e.g. enteric illness, which could be detrimental to the health of HIV positive people) and treatment (e.g. for "compliance" with ARV regimens). Since women are primarily responsible for household chores, water procurement, and caregiving in Lesotho, I want to examine the burden this situation poses for women who are taking care of HIV positive

relatives or who are themselves infected. Finally, I intend to examine how water and health policies are drafted and how the government of Lesotho and non-governmental organizations work with women in communities to achieve participatory programs.

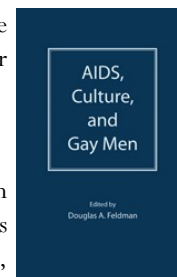


AARG Announcements

We are pleased to announce the publication of "AIDS, Culture, and Gay Men" (University Press of Florida), edited by Douglas A. Feldman, AARG member and Professor of Anthropology at SUNY, Brockport. The book brings together renowned HIV/AIDS scholars who explore the socio-cultural dimensions of HIV/AIDS among men who have sex with men (MSMs) in national and international settings. The book has received considerable praise from many anthropologists and other social scientists, and is sure to become an important resource for researchers and students around the globe.

As Shirley Lindenbaum states in the review of the book:

"AIDS, Culture, and Gay Men addresses the urgent need for research on HIV and the behaviors of men who have sex with men. Based on studies in the U.S., Australia, Greece, and Belgium, the authors provide ethnographic, epidemiological, biological, and historical data and cover issues of risk, ethics, language, and the nature of evidence, all directed at developing effective forms of intervention."



From our Members:

Charlotte Noble

Each day, people engage in high risk behaviors that potentially expose them to infection, just to get enough resources or food to get by. Every day, people around the world face hard decisions about whether or not to remain in treatment for HIV/AIDS. Government policies and international NGO mandates speak of “mainstreaming” HIV into food security programming (and vice versa) and yet, while there are numerous studies that highlight the links between nutrition and HIV, it is still difficult to fund programs that tackle both food insecurity and HIV/AIDS.

My first personal experience with the link between food insecurity and HIV was as an undergraduate student in 2006. I recall standing outside a rural hospital in the southern province of Haiti, sun setting after a busy day, listening to a woman talk about how she and her children had slept under a tree for the last few days. She was frightened and seemed beyond shame when she decided to trek to the hospital with her four children in tow. We followed as she led us to her former home, and listened as she explained to us, almost impassively, that she was evicted from her rented house when she became *kokoye* -'stingy' with her food. I noted that her children's hair was pale orange and their stomachs distended. I knew she was receiving food along with her antiretroviral treatment, but if this was the case, why did her children seem malnourished? We worked on finding her another place to stay, but the fact remained—food assistance, meant to ameliorate her experience with HIV, had seemingly created a chasm between her and her housemates. When she refused to share what she had with them, she and her children were thrown out. She told us she was considering leaving treatment. She pointedly asked us, “Who will care for my children when I die? I must have my community behind me. I cannot afford to be selfish.”

Last year, in Lesotho, I was again confronted with the issue of coupling food assistance and HIV treatment. However, in this case my respondents indicated that they did not receive any assistance with food, despite receiving monthly counseling about the importance of sufficient calories and micronutrients

in their diets. Women with whom I spoke indicated that they were frequently told to consume a minimum of three different kinds of vegetables in a day to help them stay healthy and stave off active AIDS, but were given no way to carry out the doctor's orders. One woman spoke of her experience with anti-retroviral treatment in this way: “These ARVs really weaken my body because of the fact that I do not have as much food as it requires.” She continued, calling ARVs a “parasite” that consumed everything she put into her body, leaving nothing at all for her. For her, the absence of food assistance is causing her to reconsider staying in treatment.

I would wager that many of you have had experiences such as these. For me, it is these stories, and so many others, that drive me to continue to investigate the links between nutrition and HIV, in a way that considers not only the biological synergy, but also the socio-cultural implications. I think of these women often, considering their tough choices and wondering if I would, or could, choose differently.



Bastotho Children, 2009.

African Journal of AIDS Research Special Issue

During the 2008 Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, AARG members Alexander Rödlach and David Turkon organized a session entitled: "HIV/AIDS: Underscoring Needs for and Challenges to Collaboration." The session, co-sponsored by the Association for Africanist Anthropology (AFAA) and the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA), brought together the diverse experiences of researchers working with NGOs and government organization in various parts of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Out of this session grew the idea for an edited volume to address the challenges and rewards of collaborative work in the field of HIV/AIDS. The end result is a special issue of the African Journal of AIDS Research (AJAR) edited by Rödlach and Turkon, which includes pieces from several AARG members, highlighting the various contributions anthropology makes to the fight against AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. The volume includes the following articles:

* **The relation of HIV testing and treatment to identity formation in Zambia**

Emily Frank (efrank@indiana.edu)

* **HIV/AIDS and sexuality: concerns of youths in rural Zimbabwe**

Jeremiah Chikovore (jchikovore@hsr.ac.za), Lennarth Nystrom, Gunilla Lindmark and Beth Maina Ahlberg

* **Mobilizing indigenous resources for anthropologically designed HIV-prevention and behavior-change interventions in southern Africa**

Edward C Green (egreendc@gmail.com), Cedza Dlamini, Nicole C D'Errico, Allison Ruark and Zoe Duby

* **Addressing the HIV/AIDS–food insecurity syndrome in sub-Saharan Africa**

David A Himmelgreen (dhimmelg@usf.edu), Nancy Romero-Daza, David Turkon, Sharon Watson, Ipolto Okello-Uma, and Daniel Sellen

* **Introduction of culturally sensitive HIV prevention in the context of female initiation rites: an applied anthropological approach in Mozambique**

Sophie Kotanyi (sophiekotanyi@yahoo.de) and Brigitte

Krings-Ney

* **HIV/AIDS and family planning services integration: review of prospects for a comprehensive approach in sub-Saharan Africa**

Gisele Maynard-Tucker (gmaytuck@aol.com)

* **Experiences of collaboration, coordination, and efficiency in the delivery of HIV/AIDS home-based care in Zimbabwe**

John Mazzeo (jmazzeo@depaul.edu) and Loveness Makonese

* **Artistic activities and cultural activism as responses to HIV/AIDS in Harare, Zimbabwe**

Susan Pietrzyk (spietrz1@binghamton.edu)

* **Home-based care for people living with AIDS in Zimbabwe: voluntary caregivers' motivations and concerns**

Alexander Rödlach (rodlach@creighton.edu)

* **Rural black women's agency within intimate partnerships amid the South African HIV epidemic**

Britta Thege (britta.thege@fh-kiel.de)

* **Sexual networks and social capital: multiple and concurrent sexual partnerships as a rational response to unstable social networks**

Robert Thornton (Robert.Thornton@wits.ac.za)

* **Anthropological perspectives on the challenges to monitoring and evaluating HIV and AIDS programming in Lesotho**

David Turkon (dturkon@ithaca.edu), David Himmelgreen, Nancy Romero-Daza, and Charlotte Noble

* **The importance of interdisciplinary collaborative research in responding to HIV/AIDS vulnerability in rural Senegal**

Roos Willems (rooswillems_2000@yahoo.com)

Awards and Prizes from the AARG

The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG) – an interest group of the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA), which is a unit of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) – bestows two categories of awards: In even-numbered years the **AARG Distinguished Service Award**. In odd-numbered years three paper prizes:

1. The **Clark Taylor Prize** for a paper authored by one or more professionals. Taylor Clark conducted research on sexuality and men who have sex with men. He was one of the first anthropologists to become actively involved in safer sex interventions and involving anthropology in HIV and AIDS programs.
2. The **Graduate Student Prize** for a paper authored by one or more graduate students.
3. The **Undergraduate Student Prize** for a paper authored by one or more undergraduate students.

Submissions should be sent to the chair of the respective award committee and are due by October 15 of the award's year.

AARG DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The AARG Distinguished Service Award is given to a living anthropologist in recognition of her or his exceptionally meritorious contributions to the improvement of the health of people infected with or at risk of infection with HIV.

The deadline for nominations is **May 9, 2010**. Please send nominations to the chair of the Service Award Committee, Doug Goldsmith douglas.steven.goldsmith@gmail.com

AAA PAPER PRIZES: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PRIZE, GRADUATE STUDENT PRIZE, AND CLARK TAYLOR PRIZE

Papers are evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Potential contributions to the literature/policy/direct impact on HIV/AIDS prevention and/or treatment.
2. Originality of argument and/or data analysis
3. Relevance of cultural, ethnic, gender and/or sexual orientation issues
4. Justified use of methods (when applicable)
5. Theoretical approach (when applicable)
6. Attention to previous research
7. Presentation--grammar, style, etc.
8. Suitability for submission to peer reviewed journals or other professional publications (including newsletters, monographs, etc.)

Please send submissions to the chair of the Paper Prize Committee, Alexander Rödlach (rodlach@creighton.edu).

For additional information and submission requirements please visit the AARG website:

<http://groups.creighton.edu/aarg/awards.html>



Please feel free to submit any papers, news, photos, announcements or funding opportunities to the Bulletin at AARGsub@gmail.com.

Thanks!

Information on New AARG Officers

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AIDS and Anthropology Research Group 2009 Membership Form

AARG continues to work hard to enhance its position as an active site for networking and organizing among scholars like you. This includes developing new and expanded opportunities for you to network with colleagues who share your commitment to the use of anthropology in understanding, preventing, and reducing the harm caused by HIV/AIDS.

As an AARG member, your benefits include:

... access to the AARG listserv, which allows you to send and receive email messages about conferences, job announcements, calls for papers, publications, etc.;

... access to the AARG website, which contains valuable information including course syllabi, important links, upcoming conferences, and publications like the AIDS and Anthropology bibliography;

... the quarterly AARG Bulletin, distributed to national and international scholars, including social scientists and medical professionals;

... AND the AARG Membership Directory, including names, institutional affiliations, addresses and research interests for all AARG members, available in both paper and electronic formats.

Membership is open to all interested persons. Persons do not have to be members of either the American Anthropological Association or the Society for Medical Anthropology to join AARG. Regular membership is \$20, and student membership is \$5 per year (January 1-December 31). Free membership is available to non-U.S. based researchers Please subscribe electronically at: <http://groups.creighton.edu/aarg/membership.html>, if not please mail this form with you check or money order to the address provided below.

Remember, even if you are a non-paying member, we must hear from you once a year to know that you are still active (a note through email for our international members is fine!). If you would still like to continue your membership with AARG, please remember to renew and support AARG by paying your annual dues.



Please Print or Type **New Member** **Renewing member**

Name: _____ **Affiliation:** _____

Mailing Address:

Office Phone: _____ **FAX:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Website: _____

Regular Member - \$20.00, Student Member - \$5.00, Free Membership (available to non-U.S.-based members, or financial hardship)

Please provide up to five key words about your research interests:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Please briefly describe your current project/s:

If given the option in the future, would like to receive the AARG BULLETIN by e-mail? Yes ___ No ___

Would you like your email address to be added to the AARG listserv? Yes ___ No ___

SAVE YOUR POSTAGE -- FILL OUT THE APPLICATION AT: <http://groups.creighton.edu/aarg/membership.html>

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
ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP**

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