

Critical social science and HIV/AIDS : Epistemology, History, Methodologies.
Winter 2014

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This seminar will introduce students to recent critical work on HIV/AIDS in the social sciences. It is organized around three themes : epistemology and critical social science ; history and historiography ; and research methods. Specific course objectives include :

- to offer an overview of epistemological work in critical social science and HIV/AIDS
- to explore different case studies of the writing of the history of the HIV/AIDS epidemic
- to consider questions of research methods and research methodology – in terms of specific, practical skills, in terms of issues particular to research on HIV/AIDS, and in relation to the broader epistemological questions addressed in the course.

Readings

Students are responsible for locating the readings themselves. Oh yes, and they are responsible for reading them as well.

Evaluation

There are a variety of components for evaluation of this course.

Outline for final paper 20% *Due Thursday, Feb. 13.*

The outline, 4-5 pages in length, will consider a clear research question in relation to the course content. Students are to provide an overview of the issue and how they seek to address it. Specific challenges that are anticipated should be discussed. A preliminary bibliography – to go beyond the course reading list – should also be included. The outline will be evaluated on its presentation, argumentation, reflection and preliminary bibliography.

Final paper 50% *Due Thursday, April 10, 3 pm.*

The final paper, 20-25 pages in length, offers an in-depth analysis of a particular issue in relation to course material. It can be a specific case study, or a broader epistemological reflection piece. Papers will be evaluated on their presentation, engagement with course material, argumentation, sources used, and originality. Students are encouraged to develop a course paper which will assist them in their future research and programme study components (e.g., comprehensive exams, thesis proposal).

Participation 30%

The success of this seminar depends on the active and sustained participation of students in it. The professor will not lecture ; it is up to students to ensure the discussion is relevant, focused, linked to the readings, and constructive for learning. Participation will be evaluated on attendance, engagement, and preparedness.

Week 1 Introduction

Introduction, trouble-shooting, defining learning objectives specific to student's programme and research

Week 2 Epistemology I

Eric Mykalovski and Marsha Rosengarten, HIV/AIDS in its third decade: Renewed critique in social and cultural analysis – An introduction. *Social Theory and Health* 7 (2009) : 187-95.

Eric Mykalovski and Marsha Rosengarten, Commentaries on the nature of social and cultural research: Interviews on HIV/AIDS with Judy Auerbach, Susan Kippax, Steven Epstein, Didier Fassin, Barry Adam and Dennis Altman. *Social Theory and Health* 7 (2009) : 284-304.

Elizabeth Pisani, *The Wisdom of Whores : Bureaucrats, Brothels and the Business of AIDS*. Toronto : Viking Canada, 2008. (Preface, The Accidental Epidemiologist ; Chapter 1, Cooking Up an Epidemic ; Chapter 2, Landscapes of Desire.)

Steven Epstein, *Impure Science : AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge*. (Berkeley : University of California Press, 1996). Introduction, Chapter 7 (« The Critique of Pure Science. »), Conclusion.

Paul Sendziuk, *Learning to Trust. Australian Responses to AIDS*. Sydney, NSW : University of New South Wales Press, 2003. Chapters 4 and 5 (Challenges to the traditional model of infectious disease control ; « If it's not on, it's not on. » The triumph of safe sex and community-based education.)

Recommended reading :

Dowsett, G. W. (2009) "Dangerous desires and post-queer HIV prevention: Rethinking community, incitement and intervention." *Social Theory & Health*, 7 (3): 218–240.

Viviane Namaste, T.H. Vukov, Nada Saghie, Jacky Vallée, M. Lafrenière, M.Leroux, Andréa Monette, Robin Williamson, Joseph Jean-Gilles, *HIV Education and Bisexual Realities*. Forthcoming, University of Toronto Press. (Chapter One, The

Epistemology of Epidemiology: Understanding the Knowledge and Limits of Public Health Research and Education.)

Week 3 Epistemology II

Leslie Robertson, « Taming Space : Drug use, HIV, and homemaking in Downtown Eastside Vancouver. » *Gender, Place and Culture* 14.5 (October 2007) : 527-49.

Cedar Project Partnership, Margo E. Pearce, Wayne M. Christian, Katharina Patterson, Kat Norris, Akm Moniruzzaman, Kevin J.P. Craib, Martin T. Schechter, Patricia M. Spittal. « The Cedar Project: Historical trauma, sexual abuse and HIV risk among young Aboriginal people who use injection and non-injection drugs in two Canadian cities. » *Social Science and Medicine* 66 (2008) : 2185-2194.

David Baronov, « Exporting Behavior Modification Models to a US Colony: Public Health Workers and HIV/AIDS Prevention in Puerto Rico. » *Caribbean Studies* 32.2 (Jul-Dec 2004) : 105-144.

Week 4 Epistemology III

Adam Geary, « Culture as an Object of Ethical Governance in AIDS Prevention. » *Cultural Studies* 21.4-5 (July/September 2007) : 672-694.

Vinh-Kim Nguyen, “Antiretroviral Globalism, Biopolitics, and Therapeutic Citizenship.” In *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*, eds. Aihwa Ong and Stephen Collier, Oxford, UK, Blackwell, 2005: 124-44.

Recommended reading:

Vinh-Kim Nguyen, « SIDA, ONG et la politique du témoignage en afrique de l’ouest. » *Anthropologie et société* 26.1 (2002) : 69-87.

Week 5

No in-person meeting this week.

Week 6 Research Methods I – Access to the field, Ethics

Summary Protocol Form (Form, Instructions, Checklist, Sample Consent Form).
Office of Research, Concordia University. Available online at www.oor.concordia.ca

Pranee Liamputtong, *Researching the Vulnerable*. Thousand Oaks, CA : Sage, 2007, 47-70. (Chapter 3, The Vulnerable Research Participant : Procedural Sensitivities.)

Raymond Lee, *Doing Research on Sensitive Topics*. London : Sage, 1993. 1-17 ; 119-41. (Introduction ; The Access Process in Research on Sensitive Topics)

Martyn Hammersley and Paul Atkinson, *Ethnography : Principles in Practice*. Third Edition. New York : Routledge, 2007, 41-62. (Chapter Three, Access)

Week 7

Research Methods II – Interviews

Shulamit Reinharz, *Feminist Methods in Social Research*. New York : Oxford, 1992, 18-45. Chapter 2, Feminist Interview Research.

Ann Oakley, « Interviewing women : a contradiction in terms. » in Helen Roberts, ed. *Doing Feminist Research*. Boston : Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1981, 30-61.

Corrine Glesne and Alan Peshkin, *Becoming Qualitative Researchers : An Introduction*. White Plains, NY : Longman, 1992, 63-92. Chapter 4, Making Words Fly : Developing Understanding from Interviewing.

Week 8

Research Methods III – Oral History

Valerie Yow, *Recording Oral History. A Practical Guide for Social Scientist*. Thousand Oaks, CA : Sage, 1994, 32-54 ; 220-75. Chapter 2, Preparing for the interview ; Conclusion of the Project ; Appendices A – F.

Anna-Louise Crago, « ‘Bitches Killing the Nation’ : The State-Sponsored Scapegoating of Sex Workers for HIV in Zambia 2004-2008. » MA Thesis, SIP, Concordia University, 2010. (Introduction ; Chapter 2, Methodology ; Chapter 7, « It’s Our Time to Die » : The Impact of HIV on the Sex Worker Community.)

Week 9 Fri, Nov 4

No in-person meeting this week.

Week 10

History I

Didier Lestrade, *ACT UP. Une histoire*. Paris : De Noël, 2000. Avant-propos et « La plus belle réussite d'ACT UP, » pp 146-223.)

Deborah Gould, *Moving Politics. Emotion and ACT UP's Fight Against AIDS*. Chicago : University of Chicago Press, 2009, 1-47 ; 55-120. (Introduction, Why Emotion ?; Chapter One, Pride and Its Sisters in Early AIDS Activism).

Lucas Hilderbrand, « Retroactivism. » *GLQ : A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies* 12.2 (2006) : 303-17.

Week 11

History II

Anna-Louise Crago, « 'Bitches Killing the Nation' : The State-Sponsored Scapegoating of Sex Workers for HIV in Zambia 2004-2008. » MA Thesis, SIP, Concordia University, 2010. (Introduction ; Chapter 3, A History of the Governance of Sex Work in Zambia ; Chapter 4, Legal Context ; Chapter 5, « Unless Prostitutes Are Done Away With » : State Repression.)

Paul Farmer, *AIDS and Accusation. Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley, CA : University of California Press, 1992. (Chapters 11, A Chronology of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Haiti, pp 125-9 ; Chapter 19, AIDS and Racism : Accusation in the Center, pp. 208-28.)

Week 12

History III

Let's check out some local archival material !

This week is dedicated to considering accessing local archival sources on the history of HIV/AIDS. We'll consider the kinds of archives which may have relevant materials, as well as other ways to do research in this area.

And in a very special gesture (!), Viviane will bring in a selection of some of her own personal archives on HIV/AIDS. This collection includes some early HIV education pamphlets, as well as activist archives from the groups Réaction Sida (Montréal) and AIDS Action Now ! (Toronto).

Week 13

Conclusion

Course wrap-up ; trouble-shooting for final paper.