

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- “We have no conflicts of interest”

Doing 'GIPA Work': A Critical Discourse Analysis of Select Canadian and International Documents on the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS (GIPA)

Alex McClelland¹, Adrian Guta², Nicole Greenspan³

1. York University, Faculty of Environmental Studies

2. University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

3. University of Toronto, Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation

Objectives

- Investigate how GIPA is taken up in various international documents.
- Contribute to a theoretical re-engagement with the global HIV response.
- Create critical dialogue about GIPA.

Defining GIPA

- The greater involvement of people living with HIV (GIPA) is an internationally recognized principle intended to underpin HIV responses.
- From its inception, GIPA has been promoted by activists, NGOs, ASOs, and multi-lateral institutions as a 'best practice'.

Approach

- Drawing on the techniques of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) we conducted a close reading of national and international GIPA texts.
 - Texts were examined through an iterative inductive approach to surface implicit meanings and agendas.

Theoretical Engagement

- **Biopolitics:** “the disciplines of the body and the regulations of the population constituted the two poles around which the organization of power over life was deployed” (Foucault, 1978).
- **Governmentality** (the “conduct of conducts”): through which capillary forms of power insert themselves into actions, attitudes, and discourses (Foucault, 1980).

Reviewed Texts

- The Denver Principles, 1983
- The Paris Declaration, 1994
- The United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS Declaration of Commitment, 2001 (excerpts)
- UNAIDS Position Paper: Greater Involvement of Persons Living with or Affected by HIV/AIDS (GIPA), 2004
- UNAIDS Policy Brief: The Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA), 2007

GIPA TEXT

KEY CONCEPTS

**Denver Principles,
1983**

- PLHIVs are not “patients” or “victims” but persons
- PLHIVs claiming space and self- determination

**Paris Declaration,
1994**

- PLHIVs role relegated to community-based organizations
- GIPA leads to improvements in HIV response

UNGASS, 2001

- GIPA makes responses “effective”

**UNAIDS Position
Paper: GIPA, 2004**

- “GIPA work”
- PLHIVs are a “resource”
- PLHIVs need capacity building, training and skills

**UNAIDS Policy
Brief: GIPA, 2007**

- Empowerment and effectiveness conflated

Doing GIPA 'Work'

- One Foot Forward: A GIPA Training Toolkit, Canadian AIDS Society, 2009:
 - Resume Development
 - Interviews
 - Listening/Communication Skills
 - Posture
- What does it mean to do build one's capacity and do GIPA "work"?

What does all this mean?

- GIPA as a regulatory framework
- GIPA as a disciplinary framework
 - Empowerment vs. Efficiency

Where does this leave us?

- How do we have a critical discussion about the strengths and limitations of GIPA?
- We need to start being critical of the script, and stop arguing with each other.
- Are there ways of reimagining how GIPA is taken up?

Works Cited

- Cruikshank, B. (1999). *The Will to Empower: Democratic Citizens and Other Subjects*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Foucault, M. (1978). *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Foucault, M. (2003). *The Essential Foucault: Selections from Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984*. In P. Rabinow & N. Rose (Eds.). New York: The New Press.
- Hamann, T., H. (2009). Neoliberalism, Governmentality, and Ethics. *Foucault Studies*, 6, 37-59.
- Kinsman, G. (1996). Responsibility' as a strategy of governance: regulating people living with AIDS and lesbians and gay men in Ontario. *Economy and Society*, 25 (3), 393-409.
- Luke, A. (1997). Theory and Practice in Critical Discourse Analysis. In L. Sasha (Ed.), *International Encyclopaedia of the Sociology of Education*: Elsevier Science LTD.
- Rose, N. (2000). Community, Citizenship, and the Third Way. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 43, 1395-1411.

Thank You

- Alex McClelland is supported by the CIHR HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research Master's Award.
- Nicole Greenspan is supported by an OHTN Studentship award.
- Adrian Guta is supported by an OHTN Studentship award and the UWW fellowship.
- Special thanks to Sarah Flicker, Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, and Darien Taylor.