

united in anger a history of act up

****United in Anger: A History of ACT UP****

united in anger a history of act up is a story of resilience, courage, and collective action. The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, better known as ACT UP, emerged in the late 1980s as a response to the devastating AIDS epidemic and the lack of attention, funding, and compassion from government bodies and society at large. This grassroots movement transformed activism, bringing visibility and urgency to the fight against AIDS, and reshaping public health policies along the way. To understand ACT UP's significance, it's vital to explore its origins, tactics, impact, and the legacy it has left on both the LGBTQ+ community and broader struggles for social justice.

The Origins of ACT UP: United in Anger and Purpose

The seeds of ACT UP were planted in 1987 in New York City, a time when AIDS was ravaging communities, particularly gay men, with little hope and overwhelming stigma. The federal government's slow response and the mainstream media's silence created a vacuum where misinformation and fear flourished. It was in this climate of frustration and despair that a group of activists came together, united not only by the anger at governmental neglect but also by a shared determination to change the narrative and demand action.

ACT UP's founders were a diverse coalition of people living with HIV/AIDS, their allies, healthcare professionals, and advocates who recognized the power of direct action. Their anger was not aimless; it was a catalyst for strategic and highly visible protests that demanded attention and accountability. This "united in anger" spirit became the movement's hallmark, embodying both the pain of the crisis and the hope for a better future.

The Early Days: From Frustration to Mobilization

ACT UP's initial meetings were informal but filled with urgency. They quickly developed a guiding principle: "Silence = Death." This motto encapsulated the deadly consequences of ignoring the AIDS epidemic and became an iconic symbol in their campaigns. Early actions included protests at government institutions like the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where activists challenged bureaucratic delays in drug approvals and called for more inclusive research and treatment options.

What made ACT UP stand out was its use of innovative, confrontational tactics. Die-ins, where activists would simulate being dead in public spaces,

shocked passersby and media alike. These dramatic demonstrations forced the public and policymakers to confront the human cost of AIDS. The group also harnessed media savvy, crafting powerful visuals and slogans that amplified their message beyond the streets.

ACT UP's Impact on Public Health and Policy

One of the most remarkable aspects of ACT UP's history is its tangible effect on health policy and AIDS treatment. Before ACT UP, the process for drug approval was slow and bureaucratic, often ignoring the urgent needs of patients. ACT UP demanded faster access to experimental drugs, better clinical trials involving diverse populations, and transparency from pharmaceutical companies.

Revolutionizing Drug Approval and Research

ACT UP's activism brought about significant changes in how AIDS drugs were researched and approved. Their pressure led to the FDA adopting accelerated approval processes, allowing patients to access promising treatments sooner. They also advocated for more inclusive and ethical clinical trials, ensuring that marginalized groups affected by AIDS were represented.

This shift didn't just help AIDS patients; it set precedents that continue to influence drug approval protocols today. The movement's insistence on "nothing about us without us" underscored the importance of involving patients in decisions that impact their health.

Changing Public Perception and Fighting Stigma

Beyond policy, ACT UP played a critical role in changing how society viewed AIDS and those affected by it. Their visibility and unapologetic activism challenged the stigma and discrimination that had long surrounded the disease. By humanizing the epidemic and demanding dignity, ACT UP helped foster greater empathy and understanding.

The coalition also highlighted intersections with other social justice issues, including LGBTQ+ rights, racism, and healthcare inequality. Their work underscored that the fight against AIDS was more than a medical battle; it was a struggle for human rights.

Strategies and Tactics: The Power of Direct

Action

ACT UP's approach to activism combined creativity, courage, and strategic planning. Their direct actions were carefully designed to maximize public impact and disrupt complacency.

Iconic Protests and Actions

Some of ACT UP's most famous demonstrations include the 1987 Wall Street protest, where activists disrupted the stock exchange to highlight pharmaceutical profiteering, and the 1989 FDA sit-in, which lasted several days and drew national attention to the agency's slow drug approval process.

These protests often involved theatrical elements—costumes, chants, graphic posters—that made their message impossible to ignore. The group's ability to blend performance art with political protest was a key factor in their success.

Media Engagement and Messaging

ACT UP understood the power of media and used it to amplify their cause. Their clever slogans, like "Silence = Death" and "We Demand the Right to Live," became rallying cries that resonated far beyond activist circles. They also produced informative materials to educate the public and policymakers about AIDS, dispelling myths and promoting scientific facts.

This savvy media engagement helped shift the narrative from fear and ignorance to urgency and action.

The Legacy of ACT UP: Lessons for Today's Activism

Looking back on united in anger a history of ACT UP reveals a blueprint for effective activism that remains relevant. The movement showed that marginalized communities could harness their anger and pain into powerful, organized resistance that forces change.

Community Empowerment and Solidarity

ACT UP's greatest strength was its inclusivity and community focus. It brought together people from diverse backgrounds, united by a common goal and

a willingness to challenge authority. This model of grassroots activism has inspired countless other movements, from Black Lives Matter to climate justice campaigns.

Ongoing Relevance in the Fight for Health Equity

The fight for equitable healthcare and access to treatment continues today, and ACT UP's history offers valuable lessons. Their insistence on patient involvement, transparency, and urgency is echoed in current battles over healthcare access, drug pricing, and public health responses to crises like COVID-19.

For activists and advocates, ACT UP's story is a reminder that sustained pressure, creativity, and unity can transform despair into hope and silence into powerful voices for change.

United in anger, ACT UP transformed the AIDS crisis from a hidden tragedy into a public emergency that demanded attention and action. Their story is not just about the past; it's a living testament to the power of collective resistance in the face of injustice. Through their pioneering activism, ACT UP reshaped society's approach to disease, stigma, and human rights—a legacy that continues to inspire and inform movements today.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'United in Anger: A History of ACT UP' about?

It is a documentary that chronicles the history of ACT UP, an activist group formed to combat the AIDS crisis and advocate for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Who directed 'United in Anger: A History of ACT UP'?

The documentary was directed by Jim Hubbard, who was a member of ACT UP and aimed to capture the group's activism and impact.

Why is ACT UP significant in the history of AIDS activism?

ACT UP was significant because it revolutionized AIDS activism through direct action, public demonstrations, and influencing policy changes that improved treatment and awareness.

When was 'United in Anger: A History of ACT UP' released?

The documentary was released in 2012.

What kind of footage does the documentary include?

The film includes archival footage, interviews with activists, and recordings of protests and meetings that illustrate ACT UP's strategies and struggles.

How did ACT UP influence public health policies?

ACT UP pressured government agencies and pharmaceutical companies to accelerate drug approval processes and improve access to AIDS medications.

Who are some key figures featured in 'United in Anger'?

The documentary features prominent ACT UP activists such as Larry Kramer, Vito Russo, and others who played crucial roles in the movement.

Additional Resources

****United in Anger: A History of ACT UP****

united in anger a history of act up traces the origins and evolution of one of the most influential grassroots movements in the fight against the AIDS crisis. ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) emerged in the late 1980s as a response to government inaction, social stigma, and widespread misinformation surrounding HIV/AIDS. This article delves into the historical context, key campaigns, organizational structure, and lasting impact of ACT UP, highlighting how a united front born from frustration and urgency reshaped public health activism.

The Birth of ACT UP: Context and Catalysts

The 1980s were a critical period in the history of HIV/AIDS. As the epidemic spread rapidly, particularly among marginalized communities such as LGBTQ+ individuals and intravenous drug users, fear and prejudice exacerbated the crisis. Governments, especially in the United States, were slow to respond, and pharmaceutical companies were criticized for the high cost and limited availability of treatment options. Within this environment of neglect and discrimination, ACT UP was founded in March 1987 in New York City.

The phrase **united in anger a history of act up** encapsulates the coalition's spirit. ACT UP was not a traditional advocacy group; it was a radical,

direct-action organization that sought to disrupt complacency through civil disobedience, public protests, and media-savvy tactics. Its members were diverse, including people living with HIV/AIDS, their allies, healthcare professionals, and activists from various backgrounds, all galvanized by a shared sense of urgency and outrage.

Organizational Structure and Philosophy

ACT UP's decentralized structure allowed for flexibility and inclusivity. It operated through various affinity groups and committees focused on specific issues such as treatment access, discrimination, and public education. This model encouraged grassroots participation and empowered members to take initiative within a broader framework of collective goals.

The group's philosophy emphasized "Silence = Death," a slogan that became synonymous with the movement, reflecting the deadly consequences of ignoring the epidemic. The use of bold visual imagery, strategic media engagement, and theatrical protests was designed to capture public attention and pressure policymakers.

Key Campaigns and Actions

Throughout its history, ACT UP orchestrated numerous influential campaigns that shaped AIDS activism and public policy. These actions demonstrated a clear connection between activism and tangible outcomes in healthcare.

Stop the Church Protest (1989)

One of the most controversial actions was the 1989 protest at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. ACT UP members interrupted Mass to denounce the Catholic Church's opposition to condom distribution and safe sex education. This protest highlighted the intersection of religion, policy, and public health, sparking widespread debate about moral authority and AIDS prevention.

FDA and Pharmaceutical Industry Pressure

ACT UP's sustained pressure on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and pharmaceutical companies was instrumental in accelerating drug approval processes. The group's innovative approach, including detailed scientific critiques and patient testimonies, helped shift regulatory frameworks to be more responsive to the urgency of the epidemic.

The introduction of the "Treatment and Data Committee" within ACT UP

exemplified their commitment to evidence-based activism. By analyzing clinical trials and advocating for expanded access to experimental drugs, ACT UP members contributed to the development of life-saving treatments such as protease inhibitors.

Visibility and Fighting Stigma

ACT UP's activism extended beyond policy to cultural change. Through public demonstrations, art, and media campaigns, they challenged the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS, which often fueled discrimination and social isolation. Their work helped humanize those affected and fostered a broader societal understanding of the epidemic's complexity.

Comparative Impact: ACT UP and Other AIDS Activist Movements

When compared to other AIDS organizations, ACT UP's unique combination of militancy, inclusivity, and media savvy set it apart. Groups like GMHC (Gay Men's Health Crisis) provided vital services and education, but ACT UP's confrontational tactics were crucial in forcing systemic change.

Internationally, organizations such as the Treatment Action Campaign in South Africa drew inspiration from ACT UP's model, adapting it to different political and social contexts. This global legacy underscores the movement's significance beyond the United States.

Pros and Cons of ACT UP's Tactics

- **Pros:** Rapid mobilization, increased media attention, policy influence, empowerment of marginalized voices, acceleration of drug approval.
- **Cons:** Sometimes alienated moderate allies, generated backlash from conservative entities, internal conflicts due to decentralized structure.

These dynamics reflect the complexities inherent in radical activism, where the urgency of the cause must be balanced against strategic considerations.

Legacy and Continuing Influence

Though ACT UP's most intense period of activism was during the 1980s and 1990s, its legacy continues. The movement has inspired ongoing efforts in HIV/AIDS advocacy and broader social justice campaigns. Contemporary organizations frequently cite ACT UP's emphasis on direct action and community empowerment as foundational.

Moreover, the historical record of ACT UP serves as a case study in how grassroots movements can impact public health policy amid crisis. The group's integration of scientific knowledge, media tactics, and protest has been emulated in other health-related campaigns, including those addressing COVID-19 and drug pricing.

Documentation and Cultural Representation

Books, documentaries, and exhibitions have preserved the history of ACT UP, ensuring that the narrative of being **united in anger a history of act up** remains accessible. These resources contribute to ongoing education and advocacy, reminding new generations of the power of collective action.

The story of ACT UP reveals how a coalition "united in anger" transformed despair into activism, fundamentally altering the trajectory of the AIDS crisis. Its history is a testament to the potential of organized, informed, and passionate communities to challenge systemic indifference and catalyze change.

[United In Anger A History Of Act Up](#)

united in anger a history of act up: *United in anger* Visual AIDS (Organization), 2012

united in anger a history of act up: [United in Anger](#) , An inspiring documentary about the birth and life of the AIDS activist movement from the perspective of the people in the trenches fighting the epidemic. Utilizing oral histories of members of ACT UP, as well as rare archival footage, the film depicts the efforts of ACT UP as it battles corporate greed, social indifference, and government neglect. The film takes the viewer through the planning and execution of a half dozen exhilarating major actions including Seize Control of the FDA, Stop the Church, and Day of Desperation, with a timeline of many of the other actions that forced the U.S. government and mainstream media to deal with the AIDS crisis. UNITED IN ANGER reveals the group's complex culture - meetings, affinity groups, and approaches to civil disobedience mingle with profound grief, sexiness, and the incredible energy of ACT UP.

united in anger a history of act up: A Visual History of HIV/AIDS Elisabet Björklund, Mariah Larsson, 2018-07-04 The Face of AIDS film archive at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, consists of more than 700 hours of unedited and edited footage, shot over a period of more than thirty years

and all over the world by filmmaker and journalist Staffan Hildebrand. The material documents the HIV/AIDS pandemic and includes scenes from conferences and rallies, and interviews with activists, physicians, people with the infection, and researchers. It represents a global historical development from the early years of the AIDS crisis to a situation in which it is possible to live a normal life with the HIV virus. This volume brings together a range of academic perspectives – from media and film studies, medical history, gender studies, history, and cultural studies – to bear on the archive, shedding light on memories, discourses, trauma, and activism. Using a medical humanities framework, the editors explore the influence of historical representations of HIV/AIDS and stigma in a world where antiretroviral treatment has fundamentally altered the conditions under which many people diagnosed with HIV live. Organized into four sections, this book begins by introducing the archive and its role, setting it in a global context. The first part looks at methodological, legal and ethical issues around archiving memories of the present which are then used to construct histories of the past; something that can be particularly controversial when dealing with a socially stigmatized epidemic such as HIV/AIDS. The second section is devoted to analyses of particular films from the archive, looking at the portrayal of people living with HIV/AIDS, the narrative of HIV as a chronic illness and the contemporary context of particular films. The third section looks at how stigma and trauma are negotiated in the material in the Face of AIDS film archive, discussing ideas about suffering and culpability. The final section contributes perspectives on and by the filmmaker as activist and auteur. This interdisciplinary collection is placed at the intersection of medical humanities, sexuality studies and film and media studies, continuing a tradition of studies on the cultural and social understandings of HIV/AIDS.

united in anger a history of act up: *Teaching Difficult History through Film* Jeremy Stoddard, Alan Marcus, David Hicks, 2017-06-26 *Teaching Difficult History through Film* explores the potential of film to engage young people in controversial or contested histories and how they are represented, ranging from gender and sexuality, to colonialism and slavery. Adding to the education literature of how to teach and learn difficult histories, contributors apply their theoretical and pedagogical expertise and experiences to a variety of historical topics to show the ways that film can create opportunities for challenging conversations in the classroom and attempts to recognize the perspectives of historically marginalized groups. Chapters focus on translating research into practice by applying theoretical frameworks such as critical race theory, auto-ethnography or cultural studies, as well as more practical pedagogical models with film. Each chapter also includes applicable pedagogical considerations, such as how to help students approach difficult topics, model questions or strategies for engaging students, and examples from the authors' own experiences in teaching with film or in leading students to develop counter-narratives through filmmaking. These discussions of the real considerations facing classroom teachers and professors are sure to appeal to experienced secondary teachers, pre-service teacher education programs, graduate students, and academic audiences within education, history, and film studies. Part and chapter discussion guides, full references of the films included in the book, and resources for teachers are available on the book's companion website www.teachingdifficulthistory.com.

united in anger a history of act up: A History of Public Health: From Past to Present Jan Kirk Carney, 2022-03-10 *A History of Public Health: From Past to Present* uses a structured format to study public health from antiquity to the present time. After a brief introduction, this concise text illuminates defining moments in public health history through stories that illustrate people, principles, and challenges. These are followed by a discussion of history's relevance to contemporary practice. Suggestions for additional study, discussion questions, and references complete each chapter. Key Features: • Emphasis on selected narratives - more detailed stories - to highlight defining moments in public health history and help readers to remember key historical events, their significance, and determine their relevance to today's issues and practice. • Easily accessible references and primary sources are included for additional study and context. • Ample visuals and graphics highlight people, priorities, art, public opinion, and trends relevant to the time period,, and more.

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united in anger a history of act up: Queer Representation, Visibility, and Race in American Film and Television Melanie Kohnen, 2015-11-06 This book traces the uneven history of queer media visibility through crucial turning points including the Hollywood Production Code era, the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, the so-called explosion of gay visibility on television during the 1990s, and the re-imagining of queer representations on TV after the events of 9/11. Kohnen intervenes in previous academic and popular accounts that paint the increase in queer visibility over the past four decades as a largely progressive development. She examines how and why a limited and limiting concept of queer visibility structured around white gay and lesbian characters in committed relationships has become the embodiment of progressive LGBT media representations. She also investigates queer visibility across film, TV, and print media, and highlights previously unexplored connections, such as the lingering traces of classical Hollywood cinema's queer tropes in the X-Men franchise. Across all chapters, narratives and arguments emerge that demonstrate how queer visibility shapes and reflects not only media representations, but the real and imagined geographies, histories, and people of the American nation.

united in anger a history of act up: Moving Beyond Personal Loss to Societal Grieving Michelle M. Falter, Steven T. Bickmore, 2018-11-23 *Moving Beyond Personal Loss to Societal Grieving* considers how secondary English language arts teachers and teacher educators can sensitively and thoughtfully teach pieces of literature in their classrooms in which large-scale deaths are a significant, if not central, aspect of the texts. As mass shootings and violence against black and brown bodies increase, and issues such as AIDS, war, and genocide remain important to discuss as part of a shared, critical, and social consciousness, this book provides resources for educators to directly tackle and discuss these topics through the texts they read in their ELA classrooms. Whether it is canonical or contemporary literature, middle grades or young adult literature, fiction, nonfiction, or graphic novels, literature provides a vehicle to have these difficult but needed conversations about not only the personal but social effects of death and grief in our society. Each chapter in this book focuses on 1-2 texts and provides practical activities that ask students to engage with death, dying, and loss through writing assignments, projects, activities, and discussion prompts in order to build empathy, understanding, and develop critically-minded and engaged students. *Moving Beyond Personal Loss to Societal Grieving* will be of interest to English language arts teachers, teacher educators, librarians, and scholars who wish to explore with their students the complex emotions that revolve around discussing deaths that occur in literature.

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united in anger a history of act up: United Queerdom Dan Glass, 2020-06-18 'One of the greatest global creative change-makers and activists in the world right now brings his incredible charisma, provocation and personality into this important book.' Ruth Daniel, CEO and Artistic Director, In Place of War 'United Queerdom is a thing of beauty. Dan Glass has penned a memoir that pulsates with existential rage, solidarity, and tactical hope.' Amin Ghaziani, author of There Goes the Gayborhood? Throughout the 1970s the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) initiated an anarchic campaign that permanently changed the face of Britain. Inspired by the Stonewall uprisings in the US, the GLF demanded a 'Absolute Freedom For All' worldwide. Yet half a century on, injustice is rife and LGBT+ inequality remains. Complete LGBT+ liberation means housing rights, universal healthcare, economic freedom and so much more. Although many people believe queers are now free and should behave, assimilate and become palatable - Dan Glass shows that the fight is far from over. United Queerdom evocatively captures over five decades of LGBT+ culture and protest from the GLF to 2020s. Showing how central protest is to queer history and identity this book uncovers the back-breaking hard work as well as the glamorous and raucous stories of those who rebelled against injustice and became founders in the story of queer liberation.

united in anger a history of act up: The Routledge History of Queer America Don Romesburg, 2018-03-22 The Routledge History of Queer America presents the first comprehensive synthesis of the rapidly developing field of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer US history. Featuring nearly thirty chapters on essential subjects and themes from colonial times through the present, this collection covers topics including: Rural vs. urban queer histories Gender and sexual diversity in early American history Intersectionality, exploring queerness in association with issues of race and class Queerness and American capitalism The rise of queer histories, archives, and collective memory Transnationalism and queer history Gathering authorities in the field to define the ways in which sexual and gender diversity have contributed to the dynamics of American society, culture and nation, The Routledge History of Queer America is the finest available overview of the rich history of queer experience in US history.

united in anger a history of act up: A Badge of Injury Sébastien Tremblay, 2023-12-04 A Badge of Injury is a contribution to both the fields of queer and global history. It analyses gay and lesbian transregional cultural communication networks from the 1970s to the 2000s, focusing on the importance of National Socialism, visual culture, and memory in the queer Atlantic. Provincializing Euro-American queer history, it illustrates how a history of concepts which encompasses the visual offers a greater depth of analysis of the transfer of ideas across regions than texts alone would offer. It also underlines how gay and lesbian history needs to be reframed under a queer lens and understood in a global perspective. Following the journey of the Pink Triangle and its many iterations, A Badge of Injury pinpoints the roles of cultural memory and power in the creation of gay and lesbian transregional narratives of pride or the construction of the historical queer subject. Beyond a success story, the book dives into some of the shortcomings of Euro-American queer history and the power of the negative, writing an emancipatory yet critical story of the era.

united in anger a history of act up: Encyclopedia of Queer Studies in Education , 2022-02-07 Choice Award 2022: Outstanding Academic Title Queer studies is an extensive field that spans a range of disciplines. This volume focuses on education and educational research and examines and expounds upon queer studies particular to education fields. It works to examine concepts, theories, and methods related to queer studies across PK-12, higher education, adult education, and informal learning. The volume takes an intentionally intersectional approach, with particular attention to the intersections of white supremacist cisheteropatriarchy. It includes well-established concepts with

accessible and entry-level explanations, as well as emerging and cutting-edge concepts in the field. It is designed to be used by those new to queer studies as well as those with established expertise in the field.

united in anger a history of act up: The Ashgate Research Companion to Lesbian and Gay Activism David Paternotte, Manon Tremblay, 2016-03-03 The Ashgate Research Companion to Lesbian and Gay Activism provides scholars and students with a comprehensive and authoritative state-of-the-art review of the current research in this subject. Each of the 22 specially commissioned chapters develops and summarises their key issue or debate in relation to activism—that is the claims, strategies and mobilisations (including internal debates and divisions, impediments and state responses) of the lesbian and gay movement. By drawing together leading scholars from political science, sociology, anthropology and history this companion provides an up to the minute snapshot of current scholarship as well as signposting several fruitful avenues for future research. This book is both an invaluable resource for scholars and an indispensable teaching tool for use in the classroom.

united in anger a history of act up: LGBTQ Americans in the U.S. Political System Jason Pierceson, 2019-11-11 This comprehensive sourcebook covers the evolution of LGBTQ engagement in American politics, from the emergence of gay rights as a political issue in the early 1970s to the present day, when LGBTQ issues occupy a prominent place in politics. This work provides a broad and authoritative survey of the ways in which gay Americans are influencing the tenor and trajectory of U.S. politics at the local, state, and national levels. An encyclopedic section offers thorough coverage of all of the individuals, organizations, cultural forces, political issues, and legal decisions that have combined to elevate the role of LGBTQ people at the ballot box, on the campaign trail, in Washington, and in mayors' offices, city councils, and school boards across the country. Complementing reference entries are in-depth essays on the rising prominence of gay Americans as voters, candidates, public officials, lawmakers, and opinion leaders, providing further context for understanding their impact on modern U.S. political processes and institutions from the perspective of liberals and conservatives alike. Finally, the set includes a collection of important primary source documents that illuminate landmark events, examine gay policy priorities and preferences, and showcase the beliefs and experiences of prominent LGBTQ Americans in the world of politics.

united in anger a history of act up: Living Out Loud Michael Murphy, Brytton Bjorngaard, 2018-08-06 Living Out Loud: An Introduction to LGBTQ History, Society, and Culture offers students an evidence-based foundation in the interdisciplinary field of LGBTQ Studies. Chapters on history, diversity, dating/relationships, education, sexual health, and globalization reflect current research and thinking in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences. Coverage of current events and recommendations for additional readings, videos, and web resources help students apply the contents in their lives, making Living Out Loud the perfect core text for LGBTQ+ Studies (and similar) courses.

united in anger a history of act up: Patient Zero and the Making of the AIDS Epidemic Richard A. McKay, 2017-11-22 Now an award-winning documentary feature film The search for a “patient zero”—popularly understood to be the first person infected in an epidemic—has been key to media coverage of major infectious disease outbreaks for more than three decades. Yet the term itself did not exist before the emergence of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s. How did this idea so swiftly come to exert such a strong grip on the scientific, media, and popular consciousness? In Patient Zero, Richard A. McKay interprets a wealth of archival sources and interviews to demonstrate how this seemingly new concept drew upon centuries-old ideas—and fears—about contagion and social disorder. McKay presents a carefully documented and sensitively written account of the life of Gaétan Dugas, a gay man whose skin cancer diagnosis in 1980 took on very different meanings as the HIV/AIDS epidemic developed—and who received widespread posthumous infamy when he was incorrectly identified as patient zero of the North American outbreak. McKay shows how investigators from the US Centers for Disease Control inadvertently created the term amid their early research into the emerging health crisis; how an ambitious journalist dramatically

amplified the idea in his determination to reframe national debates about AIDS; and how many individuals grappled with the notion of patient zero—adopting, challenging and redirecting its powerful meanings—as they tried to make sense of and respond to the first fifteen years of an unfolding epidemic. With important insights for our interconnected age, *Patient Zero* untangles the complex process by which individuals and groups create meaning and allocate blame when faced with new disease threats. What McKay gives us here is myth-smashing revisionist history at its best.

united in anger a history of act up: *AIDS and the Distribution of Crises* Jih-Fei Cheng, Alexandra Juhasz, Nishant Shahani, 2020-04-17 *AIDS and the Distribution of Crises* engages with the AIDS pandemic as a network of varied historical, overlapping, and ongoing crises born of global capitalism and colonial, racialized, gendered, and sexual violence. Drawing on their investments in activism, media, anticolonialism, feminism, and queer and trans of color critiques, the scholars, activists, and artists in this volume outline how the neoliberal logic of “crisis” structures how AIDS is aesthetically, institutionally, and politically reproduced and experienced. Among other topics, the authors examine the writing of the history of AIDS; settler colonial narratives and laws impacting risk in Indigenous communities; the early internet regulation of both content and online AIDS activism; the Black gendered and sexual politics of pleasure, desire, and (in)visibility; and how persistent attention to white men has shaped AIDS as intrinsic to multiple, unremarkable crises among people of color and in the Global South. Contributors. Cecilia Aldarondo, Pablo Alvarez, Marlon M. Bailey, Emily Bass, Darius Bost, Ian Bradley-Perrin, Jih-Fei Cheng, Bishnupriya Ghosh, Roger Hallas, Pato Hebert, Jim Hubbard, Andrew J. Jolivet, Julia S. Jordan-Zachery, Alexandra Juhasz, Dredge Byung'chu Kang-Nguyễn, Theodore (Ted) Kerr, Catherine Yuk-ping Lo, Cait McKinney, Viviane Namaste, Elton Naswood, Cindy Patton, Margaret Rhee, Juana María Rodríguez, Sarah Schulman, Nishant Shahani, C. Riley Snorton, Eric A. Stanley, Jessica Whitbread, Quito Ziegler

united in anger a history of act up: *Fight AIDS!* Michael G. Long, 2025-06-03 Acclaimed author Michael G. Long tells the story of the devastating AIDS crisis and the trailblazing activists who fought for dignity, compassion, and treatment. Act up! Fight back! Fight AIDS! This was the slogan for ACT UP—or AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power—an activist organization that emerged in the 1980s during the height of the AIDS epidemic. The group was loud, direct, and confrontational as it fought for access to treatment, compassionate care, and recognition for everyone with HIV and AIDS. Tracing the history of the LGBTQ+ community from the Stonewall Riots and “gay liberation” movements to the groundbreaking protests of the 1980s and 1990s, *Fight AIDS!* is a gripping narrative of the AIDS epidemic for young readers, told through the lens of the activism it fostered. Focusing on the people most directly affected by the crisis and on the individuals who fought for justice, it is an intimate and humane account of one of the most devastating eras in United States history and an electrifying celebration of the power ordinary citizens have to enact meaningful change.

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