Building a Fourth Wave of HIV/AIDS Activism: An Activist-Scholar Panel Discussion

Monday, February 3rd, 2014
4:00-6:00PM

BIOGRAPHIES

Amanda Lugg
African Services Committee

Amanda Lugg has spent numerous years in social justice activism, and has been working in HIV/AIDS since 1994. Since 2000, she has worked at African Services Committee, a community-based organization that provides health, housing, legal and social support services to over 10,000 immigrants each year. African Services also operates four HIV/AIDS testing and care centers in Ethiopia.

As its Director of Advocacy, Amanda works at the intersection of HIV/AIDS and immigration, advocating for public policy change to improve the treatment, care and support needs of HIV positive immigrants in the US. Additionally, Amanda’s work includes advocating for global AIDS treatment access and the resources necessary to sustain that access for people living with HIV/AIDS. Amanda is the Board Chair of Health GAP (Health Global Access Project), Board Secretary of Detention Watch Network and a voting member of the New York City HIV Planning Council.
Jeff Maskovsky  
**Graduate Center, CUNY**

Jeff Maskovsky is Associate Professor and Acting Chair of Urban Studies at Queens College and Associate Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Psychology at the Graduate Center, CUNY. His research and writing focus on urban poverty, grassroots activism and political economic change in the United States. His publications include two co-edited volumes, New Poverty Studies: The Ethnography of Power, Politics and Impoverished People in the United States (NYU Press 2001) and Rethinking America: The Imperial Homeland in the 21st Century (Paradigm Press 2009) and a forthcoming monograph, Poverty and the Fight for Life in the New Inner City. Jeff has collaborated with community groups, non-profit organizations and health policy experts to found several innovative community health and HIV treatment education programs targeting youth, sexual minorities, low-income people, and people of color. With Julie Davids, he co-founded Project TEACH (Treatment Education Activist Combating HIV) in Philadelphia, in 1996. He was an ACT UP/New York member from 1990 to 1992, a member of ACT UP/Philadelphia from 2002 to 2005, and served on the board of CHAMP (Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project) from 2006 until 2011.

Mathew Rodriguez  
**The Body.com and ACT UP/NY**

Mathew Rodriguez is the Editorial Project Manager at TheBody.com as well as a freelance health & lifestyle journalist who writes on HIV, LGBT issues, race issues, health in communities of color and pop culture. His work has been featured on Slate, The Huffington Post, The International Business Times, About.com and TheBody.com. Rodriguez is also a member of the New York City HIV Prevention Planning Group, and in his writing on TheBody.com, has further developed the “fourth wave” concept.

Eric Sawyer  
**UNAIDS**

Eric Sawyer is the Civil Society Partnership Advisor, UNAIDS at its New York UN Headquarters Liaison Office. UNAIDS is the joint co-sponsored program of the United Nations on HIV, and the primary policy and programmatic secretariat for all of the UN agencies’ HIV programs. He is a co-founder of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) in New York, Housing Works that houses homeless people with AIDS, and Health GAP (Health Global Access Program), which does advocacy around HIV and access to essential medicines.
Eric is one of the longest term survivors of HIV, having developed symptoms over thirty years ago, in 1981 when the HIV virus had not been discovered and when the symptoms he was experiencing were called GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency).

**Michael Seltzer**  
**Baruch College, CUNY**

Michael Seltzer is a distinguished lecturer at the Baruch College School of Public Affairs, and an affiliated faculty member with its Center for Nonprofit Strategy and Management. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses pertaining to nonprofit organizations and philanthropy. He is the author of the book, Securing Your Organization’s Future: A Complete Guide to Fundraising Strategies, which is published by the Foundation Center, and a regular contributor to the blog, PhilanTopic.

He has been involved in the fight against AIDS/HIV for thirty years. He was the founding executive director of Funders Concerned About AIDS as well as a founder of Funders for LGBT Issues. Also, he has served as the board co/chair of Lambda Legal and the LGBT Services Center of New York, and a board member of Custody Action for Lesbian Mothers in Philadelphia. More recently, he was a member of the initial organizing committee of the AIDS Memorial Park in Greenwich Village.

**Raymond Smith**  
**Columbia University**

Ray Smith is an adjunct assistant professor of political science at Columbia University and New York University and an investigator at the Columbia University Medical Center in the Division of Gender, Sexuality, and Health and at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies. Smith is the former editor of Body Positive Magazine and co-author of the 2006 book Drugs into Bodies: Global AIDS Treatment Activism. More recently, he edited the three-volume bookset that is being launched at tonight’s even on Global HIV/AIDS Politics, Policy, and Activism. In an op-ed last October in the Huffington Post, Smith coined the term “fourth wave of HIV/AIDS activism.”