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Global HIV/AIDS Politics, Policy, and Activism: Persistent Challenges and Emerging Issues

Excerpt from the Introduction "Into the Fourth Decade: Global HIV/AIDS Politics, Policy, and Activism" by Raymond A. Smith, Ph.D., Editor

The three volumes of Global HIV/AIDS Politics, Policy, and Activism: Persistent Challenges and Emerging Issues reflect a rich, eclectic, and wide-ranging set of issues written by an international team of more than 70 authors. The majority of the contributors are based in English-speaking countries (U.S., South Africa, Canada, U.K., Ghana, Australia, New Zealand) but also hail from Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Jordan, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, and Qatar. Most are university professors, though a significant number are from major non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and related advocacy and activist groups. The contributors represent a variety of disciplines, including political science, law, economics, sociology, psychology, anthropology, public health, and various biomedical fields, and bring with them a range of styles and methodological approaches appropriate to their specific topics and disciplines.

The thematic focus is also very geographically diverse, with 16 chapters categorized as "global/transnational" and the rest focused on countries/regions including Brazil, Russia, South Africa, the Middle East, Ghana, Colombia, the Southern Africa region, India, Cambodia, China, Peru, the US, the UK, Zambia, Sudan, and Lebanon. All of the chapters are previously unpublished and were purpose-written for this bookset. The volumes represent a concerted effort to capture the scale and scope of the actions (or inactions) of political systems and governments around the world, the realities of policy and policymaking amidst widely differing national and regional epidemics, and the ongoing opportunities for -- and limits of -- activism and community mobilization.

Volume 1 consists of 14 chapters focused primarily on "Politics and Government," Volume 2 contains 14 chapters on "Policy and Policymaking. Volume 3 has 17 chapters addressing themes of "Activism and Community Mobilization." Within each volume, there are two parts, the first dedicated to global- and transnational-level dimensions, and the second to country- and regional-level analyses. Within each part, chapters are roughly sequenced so that they begin with the broadest themes and move progressively towards narrower and more specific topics or case studies.

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About the Editor: Raymond A. Smith, Ph.D., is Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science at Columbia University and at New York University and an investigator in the Division of Gender, Sexuality, and Health at the Columbia University Medical Center. He is Editor of The Encyclopedia of AIDS and of The Politics of Sexuality, Co-author of Drugs into Bodies: Global AIDS Treatment Activism, and Co-Editor of the Praeger book series “New Trends and Ideas in American Politics.”