

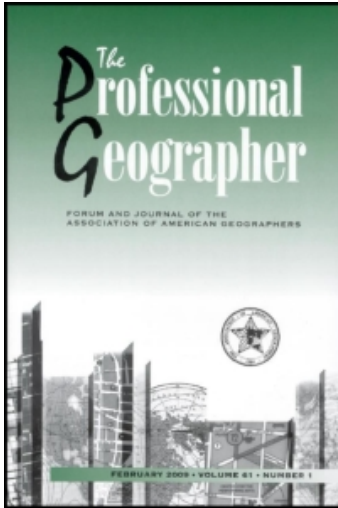
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A Review of “HIV/AIDS Global Frontiers in Prevention/Intervention”

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from 1929 showing a motorist driving in the country attempting to view the scenery, yet wall-to-wall billboards hawking cigars, hotels, beer, and colas block his view.

The end of World War II becomes the automobile's tipping point, when it makes the leap from technological help to full agent of social and economic change. As Americans came back from World War II, the wages of sacrifice and victory included an expansion of individualism and an automobile was the foundation for this. The handmaidens of the automobile, including the billboards, convenience stores, fast-food restaurants, urban sprawl, and tourist traps, are also extensions of the American character. This is an egalitarian, middle-class character, processed and ground like the ubiquitous hamburger. While the well-heeled traveled the cobblestone streets of Europe or cruised on trans-Atlantic lines, all the while dining in formality, middle-class Americans could relax in their cars. The opinions of the well-educated, such as that of Pierce F. Lewis in 1973 that "It's hard to believe that the marketing of sandwiches which happen to be made of meat (mostly) requires an environment reminiscent of a defective . . . Wurlitzer juke box, but American fast food restaurants are nearly always built that way," serve to remind the reader that this middle-class, automobile culture has always been decried by elites.

To be sure, the externalities of this lifestyle are great. Jakle and Sculle use their conclusion to remind us of the negative externalities associated with congestion, sprawl, and the time associated with commuting, but they also remind the reader that the automobile gave newfound mobility to women, especially in suburban America, allowing them to more fully participate in the American economy and seek self-fulfillment between daily obligations. The authors also assert that they do not envision a scenario in which Americans relinquish this freedom—a conclusion I share, as it is very difficult to imagine anything other than a complete and total lack of any fuel source that would curtail American motoring.

Detailed statistics and grand social and economic theories are lacking—as they should be with a book like this. However, as a light introduction into the history and effects of the American love affair with the automobile, Jakle and Sculle have constructed a good read with

Motoring: The Highway Experience in America, covering the essential elements of the story at a level of detail that is more than adequate for the vast majority of readers. Theorists will be disappointed as the book is topical in sensibility, but as with its inclusions of period comics, cartoons, and advertising, this makes the book enjoyable reading, perhaps even at bedtime.

Key Words: *automobile, bus, gender, mobility.*

HIV/AIDS Global Frontiers in Prevention/Intervention. Cynthia Pope, Renee T. White, and Robert Malow, eds. London and New York: Routledge, 2009. xx and 572 pp., maps, diagrams, photos, and index. \$65.95 paper (ISBN 978-0-415-9538-2).

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The emergence, propagation, and maintenance of infectious diseases occur at the intersection(s) of multiple ecologies (human and environmental). For a disease to maintain at epidemic proportions in a human population, the landscape that supports these intersections represents a complicated interaction between infectious agents (e.g., bacteria, viruses) and populations at risk framed by the political, social, and natural and built environment where these populations reside. Because of this it is imperative to provide comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches to understanding such diseases that focus not only on where diseases occur, or the mechanics of how or when, but that also include methods for understanding why these diseases persist in these populations and how these landscapes play a role in that persistence. This is particularly true of pandemic-scale diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, that require complex prevention, intervention, and support strategies that span the global cultural, economic, and political landscapes. This effort, edited by Pope, White, and Malow, is just such a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to understanding HIV/AIDS and it provides a current and global perspective.

The book is a very well-organized volume of works divided into multiple sections that address a range of topics, each introduced with a comprehensive framing essay. The introductory chapter provides an overview to the global

HIV/AIDS situation with a discussion on a structuralist approach to understanding the disease. From here, the book includes an overview of theories of harm reduction and risk; gender and sexuality associated risk; biomedicine and behavioral interactions; an overview of newly forming intervention and prevention strategies; policy and governmental responses to HIV; the role of the media in HIV communication and prevention; an overview of populations at risk from natural disasters and conflict and associated forced migration; an overview of long-term care for HIV/AIDS patients; and a forward-looking section on globalization and HIV research and intervention in a changing world. Each of these sections includes several chapters that provide either a larger view of the disease in the context of a particular component of transmission (such as drug use or sexual behavior), prevention (such as specific mechanisms for integrating gender-specific biology into control methods), social situation (gender and sexuality across the landscape from the Pacific to the former Soviet Union), or intervention and treatment strategies.

A number of key chapters focus on the role of society and culture in complicating the prevention and intervention of HIV/AIDS. For example, chapter 5 focuses on the cultural situation that leads to increased (community-sanctioned) sex trade activity in parts of India and the role this plays in increased incidence of HIV/AIDS in women and efforts to improve prevention in these situations. Likewise, chapter 6 discusses the history of HIV/AIDS in Ukraine and provides a thorough overview of the disease in that country and the numerous challenges that exist in the post-Soviet era. Chapter 7 provides much needed information on homosexuality and the lack of homosexual acceptance and the related HIV/AIDS situation in post-Soviet central Asia. Both of these chapters provide a much needed description of the disease in and the need for data sharing and continued study. These chapters, along with several others, make this text arguably one of the most up-to-date overviews of the HIV/AIDS situation worldwide.

Other important topics include updates on the relatively new programs aimed at broad-scale antiretroviral therapies. This section provides a framing essay by S. G. Jones on the

evolution of drug therapy and the progress of combination drug therapy. The section then goes on to discuss these therapies in the context of microbicides and gender, such as chapter 10, which acknowledges the increased incidence of the disease in females and the need to understand both the physiology and behavior of women in better targeting drug treatment and adherence to therapies. This is followed by a series of chapters that evaluate successful adherence to drug therapy programs and the types of behaviors that promote adherence. Later sections in the text go on to investigate larger policy-level strategies for managing the pandemic and discuss the complications between "cultural norms" and government-led campaigns across the world to promote prevention and intervention. These sections are also complemented by an overview of the role of the media in this disease and education and intervention campaigns.

One strength is the broad geographic overview provided in the text. In addition to new works from post-Soviet countries, there are also several chapters that provide fresh overviews of the disease status and intervention efforts across much of Africa and several other countries. Brazil, China, the American South post-Katrina, India, Ukraine, Central Asia, the Philippines: The list goes on and with each case we gain a better appreciation of the global connectedness of this disease and the international challenges that face the global community to combat the disease. Throughout the text, authors are discussing the intersections of policy and drug therapy, gender and culture, and policy and local traditions. It is at these intersections that we will fully understand this disease and find appropriate local-level strategies to prevent future infections or intervene appropriately for those already infected and reduce the global burden of the disease. In short, this is an excellent text. Although it is focused on a single disease, it is well organized and dense enough to serve as secondary text for any medical geography class. It should also become standard reading for any cultural or social epidemiologists or health policy professionals.

Key Words: disease, epidemiology, health policy, HIV/AIDS, intervention, prevention, public health, social science.