

# Black Same-Gender Men's Communities in the Age of AIDS: The Sociocultural Contexts of Stigma, Marginalization, and Structural Inequalities

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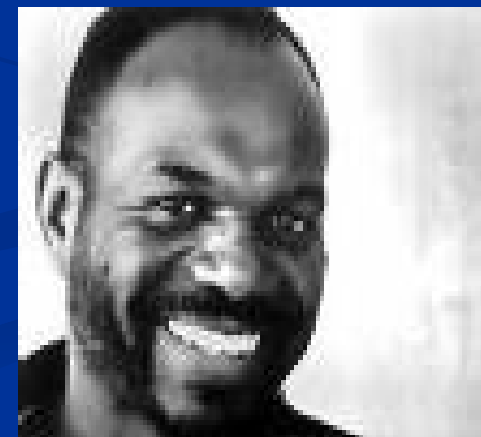
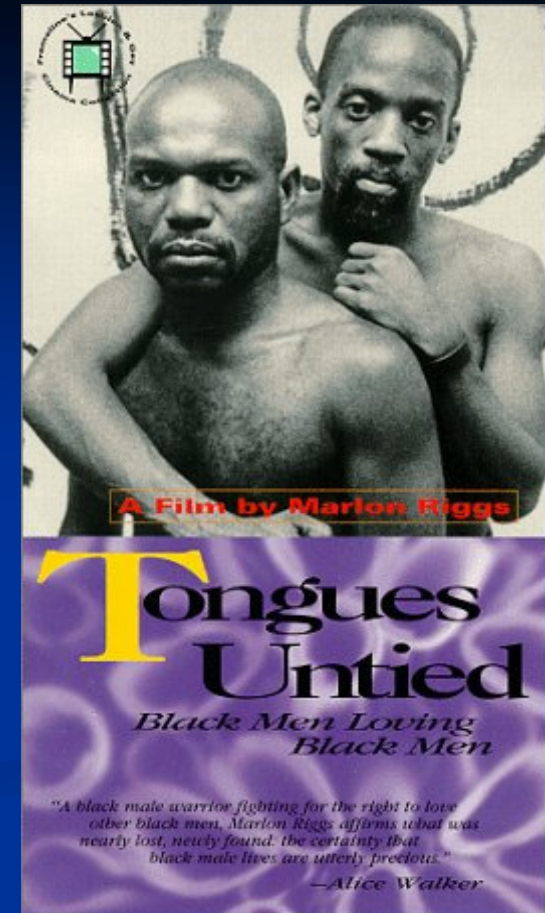
# INTRODUCTION

- AIMS:

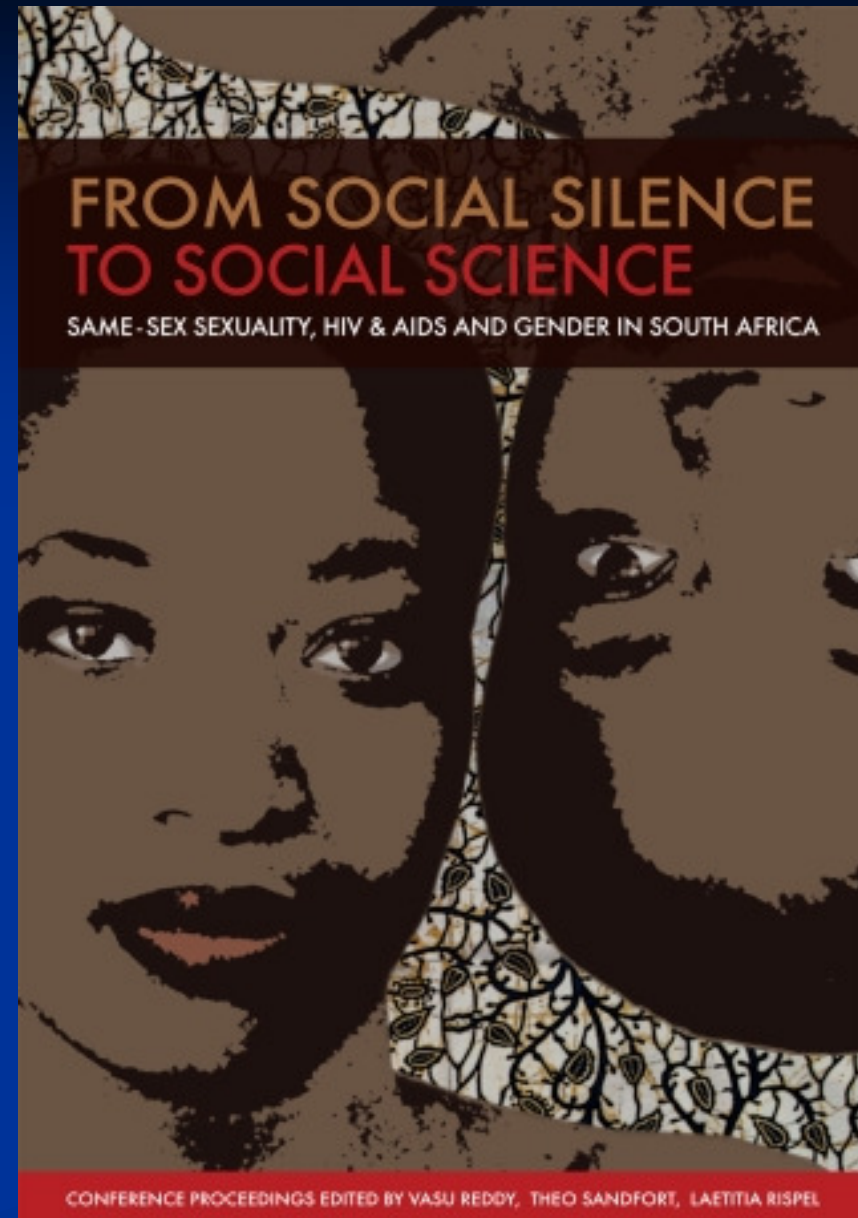
- To better understand the socio-cultural contexts of stigma, marginalization, and structural inequalities that have had an impact on the disparate HIV/STI infection rates in Black same-gender men's communities.
- To examine the dire need for the development of and sustained emphasis on culturally grounded HIV prevention research efforts in Black same-gender men's communities.

# Marlon Riggs

- *Tongues Untied*
- “Shatter the nation’s brutalizing silence on matters of sexual and racial difference.”
- Challenges Notions of Silence.
- Black men’s racial, gender, and sexual identities.
- Narratives of Generational Loss to AIDS.



“ . . . If ‘social silence’ implies that homosexual transmission is absent from epidemiological studies, then the ‘social science’ envisaged in this book offers a corrective to that erasure. The title therefore signifies the recognition that there are shifts, movements and developments in the way knowledge is made and remade . . . ”



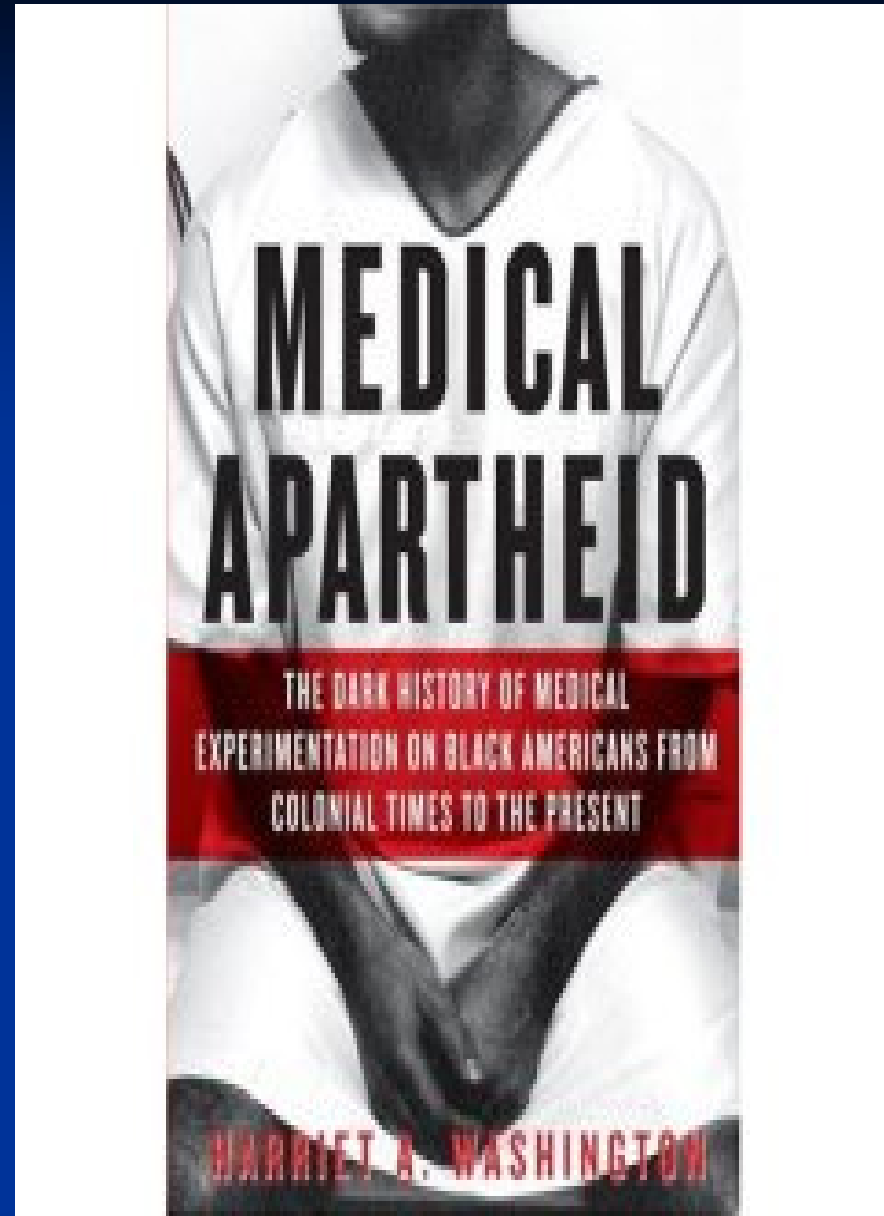
Impact of Scientific  
Racism on Medicine

History of Medical  
Abuse, Experimentation,  
and Exploitative Research  
in Black Communities

Tuskegee Syphilis  
Experiment

Guinea Pig Kids

Cultural Distrust in Black  
Communities about the  
Medical Establishment



# Socio-Historical and -Political Contexts

- Race is a core determinant of health and health care.
  - How is Knowledge Developed?
  - Production of Knowledge
  - What constitutes “legitimate” knowledge?
  - Influence of Racism

# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

- In the field of public health, the building of knowledge in HIV/STI prevention research has been based, in part, on epistemological/theoretical frameworks in biomedical and social science research.
- These conceptual frameworks have not incorporated interdisciplinary and intersectional approaches in the study of HIV/STI-related health disparities in a substantive way with a focus on Black same-gender practising men.

# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

- Interdisciplinary Conceptual Approaches
  - Moving beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries with an incorporation of multiple bases of relevant knowledge
- Intersectional Conceptual Approaches
  - Intersectional theory holds that racism, including other forms of oppression (e.g., gender, sexuality, social class), work simultaneously to create and maintain inequalities



# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

- Cathy Cohen (Boundaries of Blackness)
- Concepts of stigma, marginalization, and structural inequalities provide a conceptual framework for addressing asymmetrical power relationships in Black communities, including those that incorporate socio-historical and-political experiences of “exclusion and marginalization.”
- Duality of examining macro- and –micro level processes.

# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

- Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Approaches
  - Cultural Studies (African Diaspora Studies), gender studies, queer/gay/lesbian/bisexual studies, sexuality studies
  - Better understand and build knowledge and theory that provide the basis of incorporating socio-historical, -political, -economic, and –cultural contexts that have been integral in the lives of Black same-gender practising men.

# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

- Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Approaches
  - Provides a critical approach to the work on health disparities that engage a critique of micro- and macro-level processes that influence structural inequalities in the lives of Black same-gender practising men.
  - A key element in addressing HIV/STI-related health disparities for Black same-gender practising men's communities relates to the development of theoretical approaches that are grounded within culturally relevant conceptualizations.

# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

- A critical analytic framework for HIV/STI prevention research—including theory, methodologies, and praxis—incorporates a connection to racial, gender, and sexual politics.
- A major part of this work calls for a paradigm shift that links HIV/STI prevention within intersectional and interdisciplinary approaches that are relevant to the life experiences of Black same-gender practising men.
- Integration of transformative discourses in the age of AIDS that provide intersectional and interdisciplinary analyses serve as significant interventions in the field of public health.

# TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

- Critical need for the development of and sustained emphasis on culturally grounded HIV/STI prevention research efforts in Black same-gender men's communities.
- Culturally grounded HIV/STI prevention research efforts must address stigma, marginalization, and structural inequalities that increase Black MSM vulnerabilities to HIV/STI infections.

# TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

- Address the significant void in scientific research on Black same-gender practising men and their communities.
- Develop a cadre of research scientists and prevention experts that are reflective of Black same-gender men's communities.
- This paradigm shift provides a context for the incorporation of culturally relevant approaches at the ground level from Black same-gender practising men's perspectives in addressing the complexities of the AIDS epidemic for Black same-gender practising men, as situated in the everyday, lived experiences of Black same-gender men's communities.

The field of public health has been at a crossroads in the development of culturally-grounded HIV/STI prevention strategies for Black same-gender practising men.

The CRIBB (Creating Responsible Intelligent Black Brothers) is a US-based program for younger Black same-gender practising men that was developed by a community based organization in Atlanta, GA.



CRIBB program as a culturally grounded model for addressing HIV/STI-related health disparities in Black same-gender men's communities

CRIBB focuses on the development of a new generation of community practitioners and researchers that undertake the work of transformative leadership in addressing the impact on the AIDS epidemic in Black same-gender men's communities.





CRIBB members participate in culturally grounded institutes and seminars that focus on aspects of the current state of the AIDS epidemic for Black same-gender practising men.

Each CRIBB member participates in the development and implementation of a selected community project that focuses on HIV prevention in Black same-gender men's communities.

