

The International Network on Religion and AIDS in Africa

CONFERENCE

“Religious engagements with AIDS in Africa”

Copenhagen, 28 & 29 April, 2008

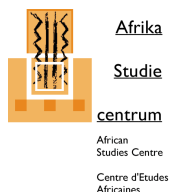
Venue: *room 118 at the Trinitatis Annex, Koebmagergade 50, Copenhagen*

Convened & organized by:

Rijk van Dijk	(ASC, Leyden)
Ruth Prince	(CAS, Cambridge)
Philippe Denis	(Sinomlando Centre, University of KwaZulu Natal)
Catrine Christiansen	(Dept. of Anthropology, Copenhagen),
Lise Rosendal Østergaard	(Aidsnet, Copenhagen)
Louise Rasmussen	(CAS, Copenhagen)

Sponsored by:

**African Studies Centre (Leyden), Centre for African Studies (Copenhagen),
Dept. of Anthropology (Copenhagen), Aidsnet (Copenhagen)**



PROGRAMME

DAY ONE, APRIL 28th

9.00 – 9.30 Registration and coffee

9.30– 9.45 Welcome and opening remarks

Rijk van Dijk (African Studies Centre, Leyden)

&

Ruth Prince (Centre for African Studies, Cambridge)

9.45 – 12.15 Session 1. The use of tradition and Christianity, past and present

Chair: Rijk van Dijk (African Studies Centre, Leyden)

9.45 – 10.05 **Victor Igreja** (NIAS, The Netherlands)

*The unintended consequences of the influence of African traditions on
Christian Religions: Preventive Practices against Fatal Diseases in
Gorongosa*

10.05 – 10.25 **Alessandro Gusman** (University of Turin)

HIV/AIDS and the “FBOisation” of Pentecostal churches in Uganda

10.25 – 10.45 **Hansjoerg Dilger** (Free University, Berlin)

*Tradition in Disguise: Contesting the Past and the Present in Neo-
Pentecostal Healing in Urban Tanzania*

10.45 – 11.15 COFFEE

11.15 – 12.15 Discussion

12.15 – 13.00 Session 2. History of religious engagements with AIDS

Chair: Ruth Prince (Centre for African Studies, Cambridge)

12.15 – 12.35 **Philippe Denis** (Sinomlando Centre, University of KwaZulu Natal)

AIDS and religion in an historical perspective

12.35 – 13.00 Discussion

13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 – 15.20 Session 3. Pentecostalism and HIV/AIDS

Chair: Philippe Denis (Sinomlando Centre, University of KwaZulu Natal)

14.00 – 14.20 **Eliot Tofa** (University of Swaziland)

Combating HIV/AIDS: A Case of New Religious Movements in Swaziland.

14.20 – 14.40 **Daniel Jordan Smith** (Brown University, USA)

Winners, Overcomers and Prayer Warriors: Pentecostal Christianity and HIV/AIDS in Southeastern Nigeria

14.40 – 15.20 Discussion

15.20 – 15.50 COFFEE

15.50 – 17.10 Session 4. Religion, ritual, HIV/AIDS and education

Chair: Catrine Christiansen (University of Copenhagen)

15.50 – 16.10 **Jan Ketil Simonsen** (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

Engagement with disease in the Chisungu female initiation ceremony

16.10 – 16.30 **Jonas Svensson** (Lund university/Halmstad University)

“Madam, we are flowers” - Islam, HIV/AIDS and the construction of gender

16.30 – 17.10 Discussion

DAY TWO, APRIL 29TH

10.00 – 13.10 Session 5. Moral regimes/regimes of care

Chair: Lise Rosendal Østergaard (Aidsnet Copenhagen)

10.00 – 10.20 **Marian Burchardt** (University of Leipzig)

“We want to be relevant and see them grow”: Christian AIDS pedagogy and Global Modernity in South Africa

10.20 – 10.40 **Frederick Klaitz** (Duke University)

Faith as Intersubjectivity: Politics of Care in Botswana

10.40 – 11.20 Discussion

11.20 – 11.40 COFFEE

11.00 – 13.00 Session 6. Salvation & Representation

Chair: Susan Reynolds Whyte (University of Copenhagen)

11.40 – 12.00 **Ippolytos Kalofonos** (University of California)
*“Prayer is Medicine”: HIV Evangelization in Urban Central
Mozambique*

12.00 – 12.20 **Lisa Ann Richey** (Roskilde University)
The Lazarus Effect: Fair Vanity and Virtual Salvation

12.20 – 13.00 Discussion

13.00-14.00 LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION, Tuesday 29 April 2008, 14.00 – 17.00

Roundtable debate

Theme: Is church based prevention of HIV and care for AIDS patients better?

Presentations from civil society organizations working in Africa

Venue: room 118 at the Trinitatis Annex, Koebmagergade 50, Copenhagen

Moderators: Birthe Juel Christensen (DanChurchAID) and Catrine Christiansen (Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen)



Is church based HIV prevention more effective? Can churches provide more decent care to people living with HIV? It takes more than a condom to halt the spread of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. Recent research on Uganda has emphasized the role of local communities in what appears to be a sustained decrease in HIV incidence partly due to a change in behaviour. What can church based development organizations with their long history of presence in local communities do to play a positive role in HIV prevention in addition to addressing issues of sexuality in a context of every day life and spirituality? As ARV therapies become increasingly accessible in Africa the number of HIV positive individuals will grow, yet so will the need for counseling and support to their spiritual, health and social problems. How can churches address stigma and discrimination? These are some of the issues that the panel of distinct speakers will address in this session.

Speakers

- Ted Karpf, Partnerships Officer, Department of HIV, WHO Geneva and reverend; “Appreciating Religious Health Assets (RHAs) and making connections to save lives”
- Edward Baralemwa, Panafrican Christian AIDS Network; “How the responses of the Church to AIDS are changing – what of the future?”
- Damaris Parsitau, Egerton University, Nairobi; “Keep Holy Distance and Abstain till He comes’: Interrogating Pentecostal church discourses and engagements with HIV/AIDS and youth in Kenya”
- Ravi Chandran, project manager (Cross Over) and reverend; “How can NGOs and health workers help religious leaders to fight HIV and AIDS?”