

A CULTURAL HISTORY OF HIV/AIDS

JOANNA BOURKE

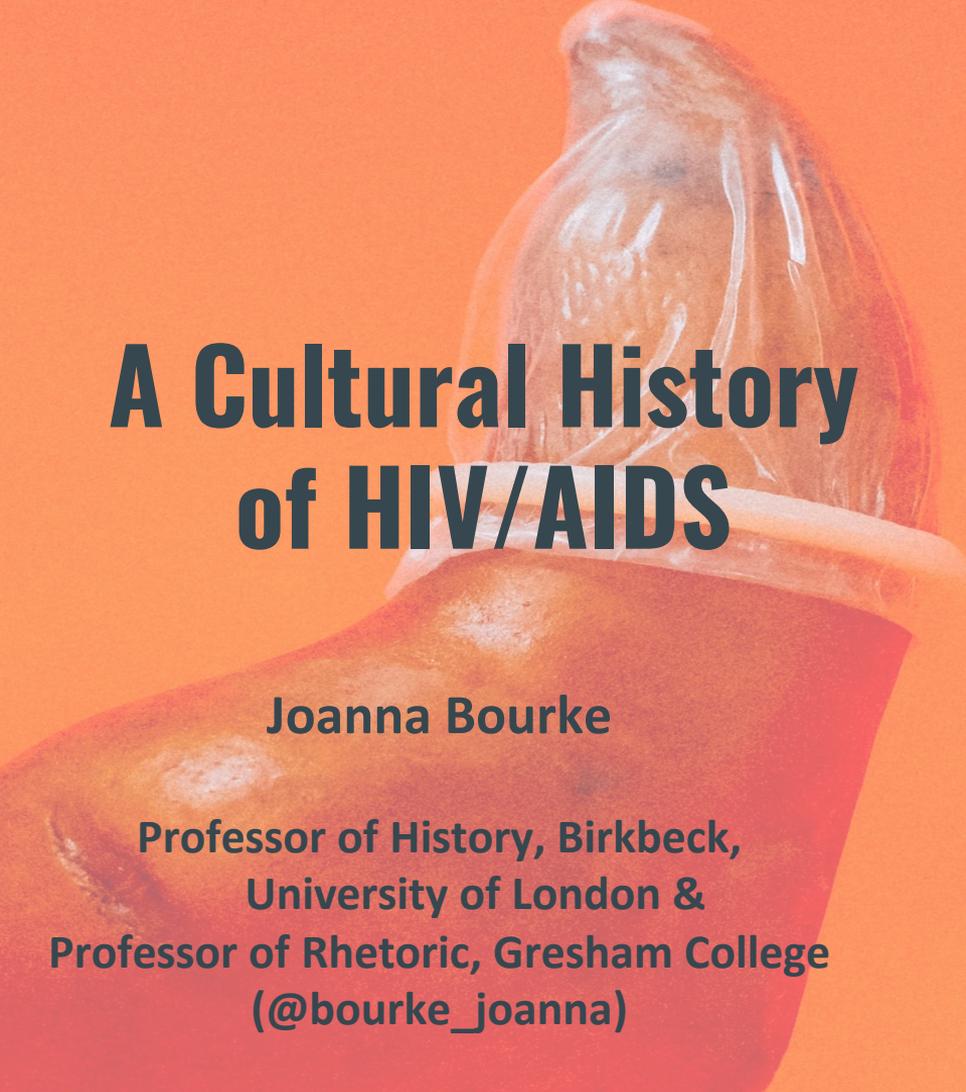
Joanna Bourke

Professor of History, Birkbeck, University of
London &

Professor of Rhetoric, Gresham College

(@bourke_joanna)

• LECTURE 4 OF 6



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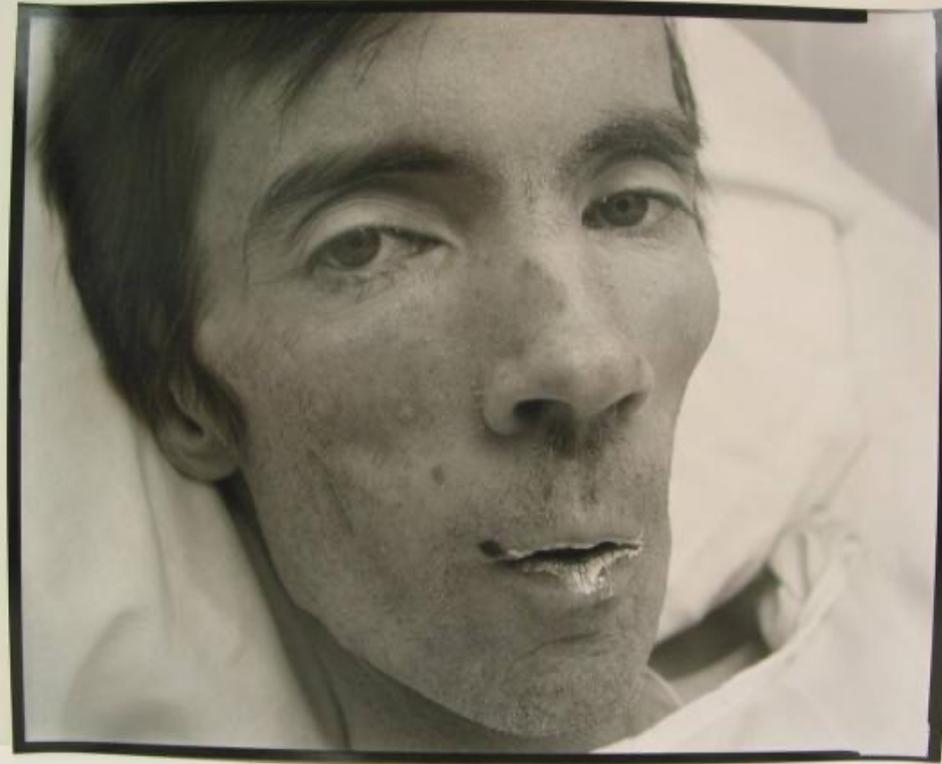
**Professor of History, Birkbeck,
University of London &
Professor of Rhetoric, Gresham College
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**25-40 million people have died
as a result of opportunistic
infections arising from AIDS
(Acquired Immunodeficiency
Syndrome).**

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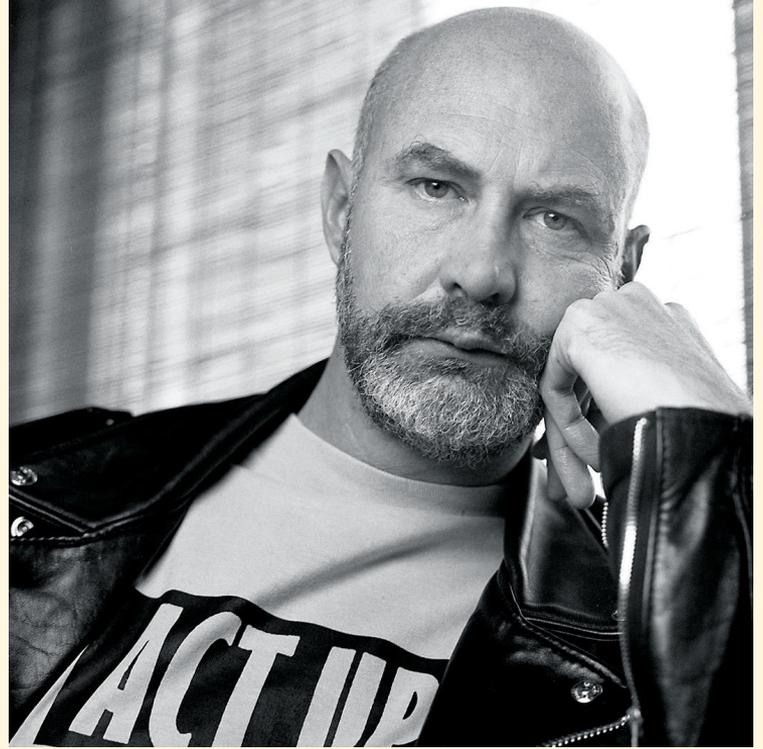


**Tom Moran, photographed by
Nicholas Nixon in 1988.**

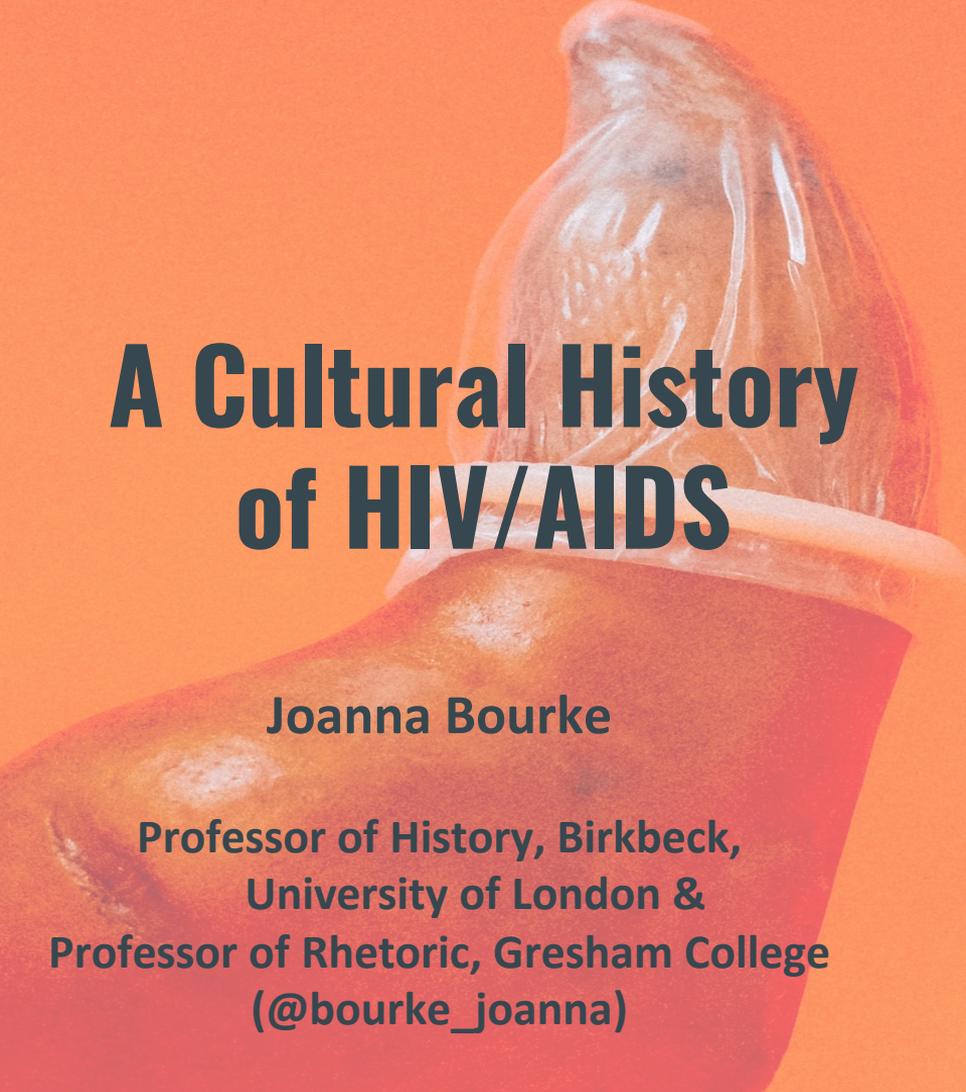
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Douglas Crimp, activist in ACT UP
(AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power,
1987+).



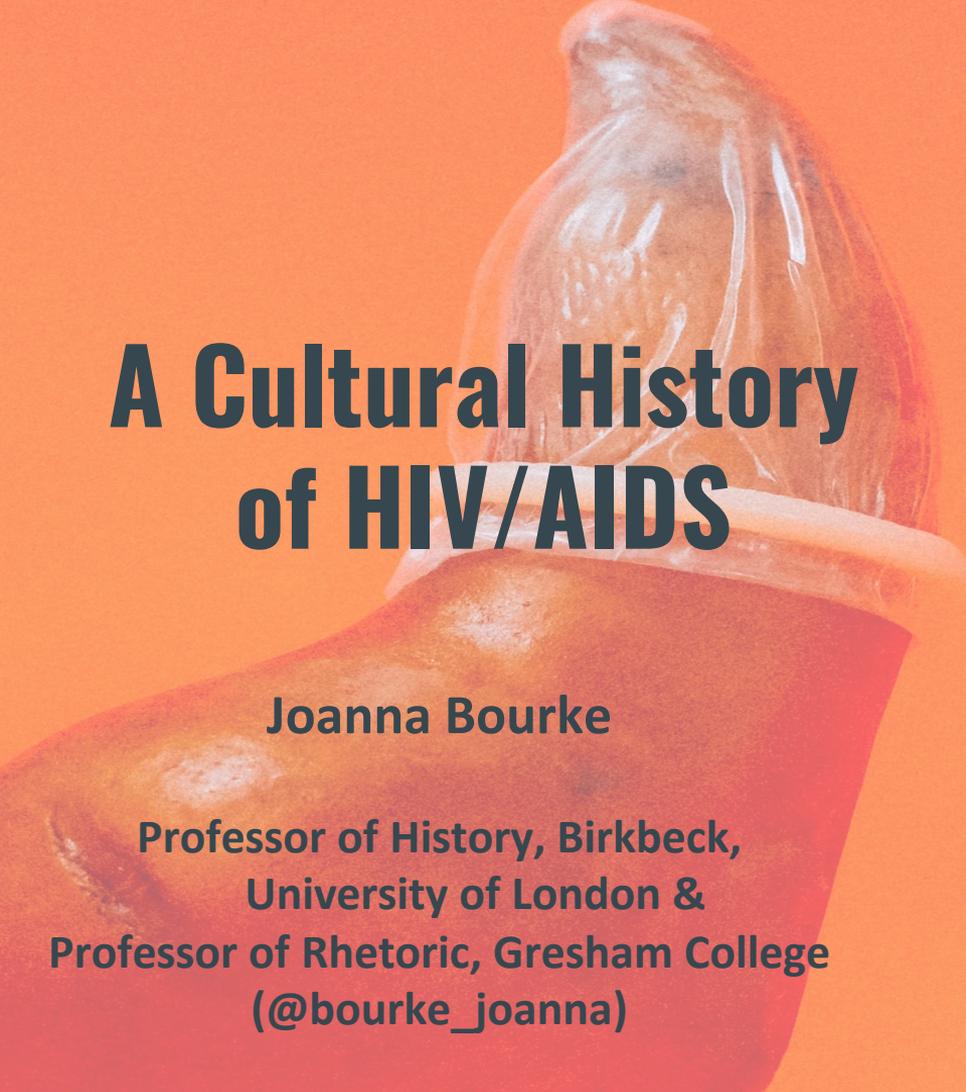
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Douglas Crimp:

**The photographs showed people
'ravaged, disfigured, and
debilitated by the syndrome;
they are generally alone,
desperate, but resigned to their
"inevitable" deaths'.**

A photograph of a clear latex condom resting in a red, cup-like container. The background is a solid orange color.

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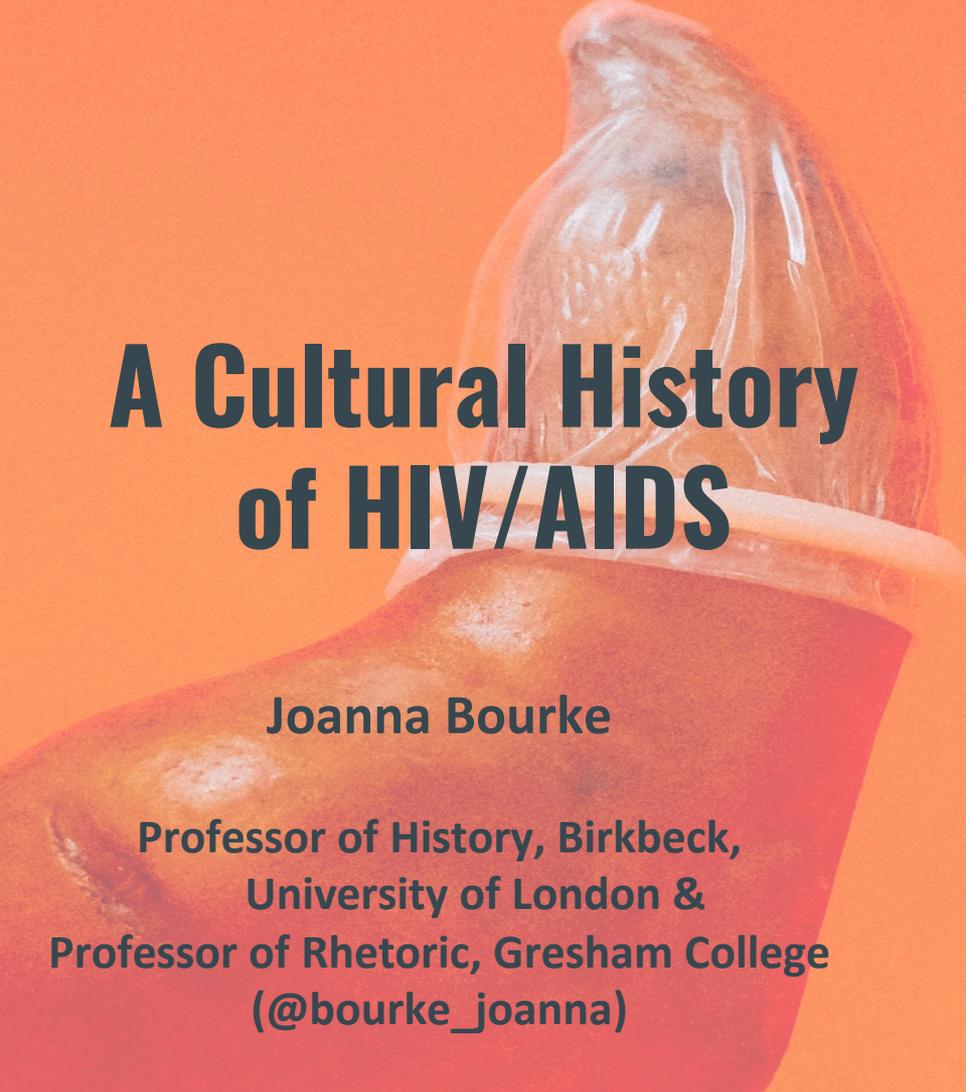
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CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

5 June 1981



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'Gay cancer'.

'Gay Related Immune-Deficiency' (GRID).

Summer of 1982:

**'Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome'
(AIDS).**

**1983: the human immunodeficiency virus
(HIV) was identified.**

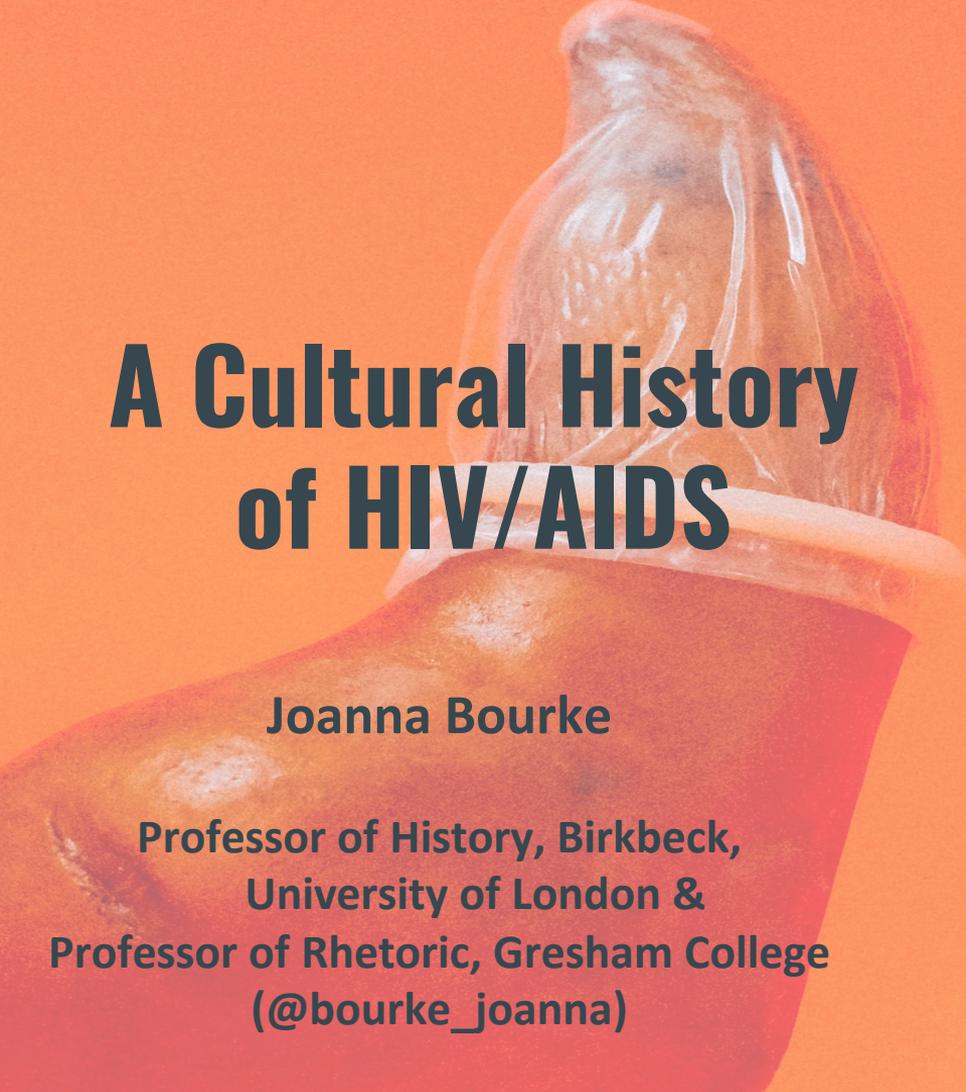
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Ryan White

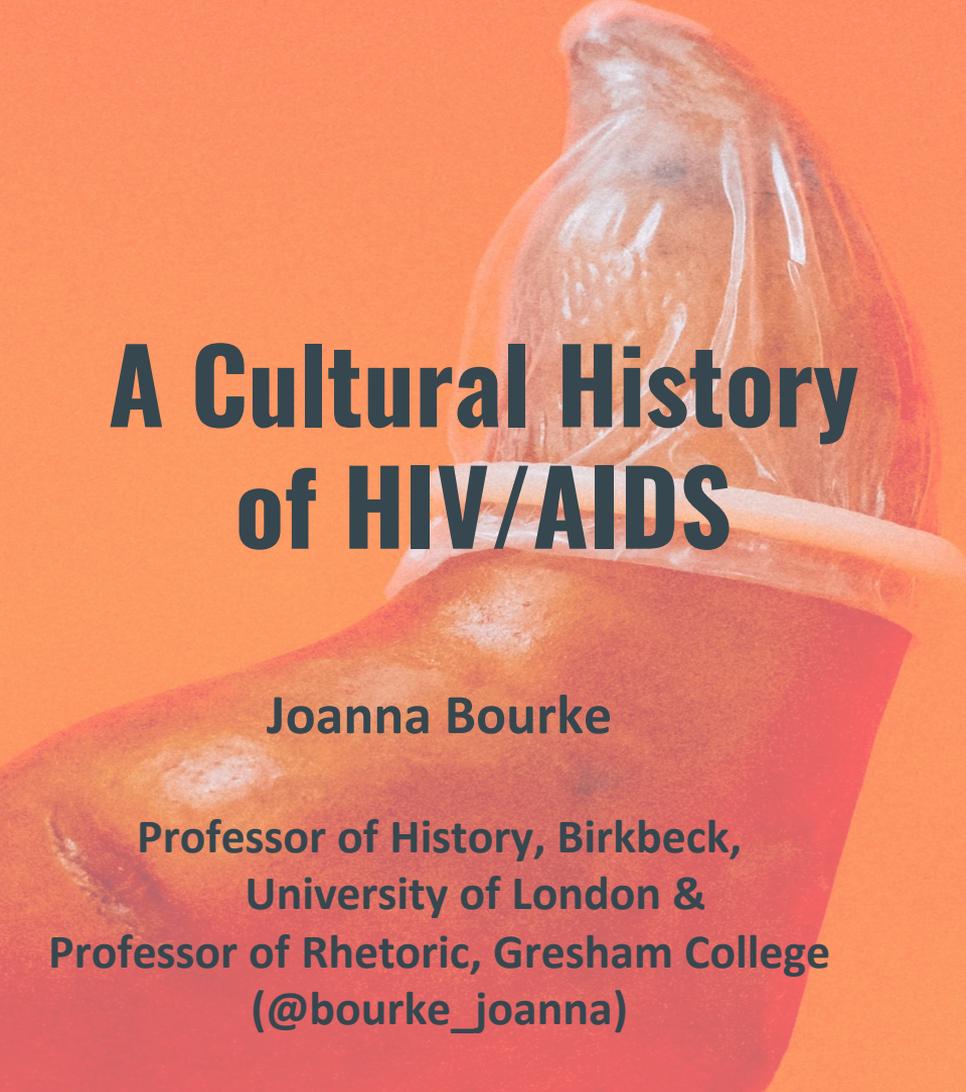


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**By 1994,
AIDS had become the
leading cause of death
for Americans aged 25 to 44.**

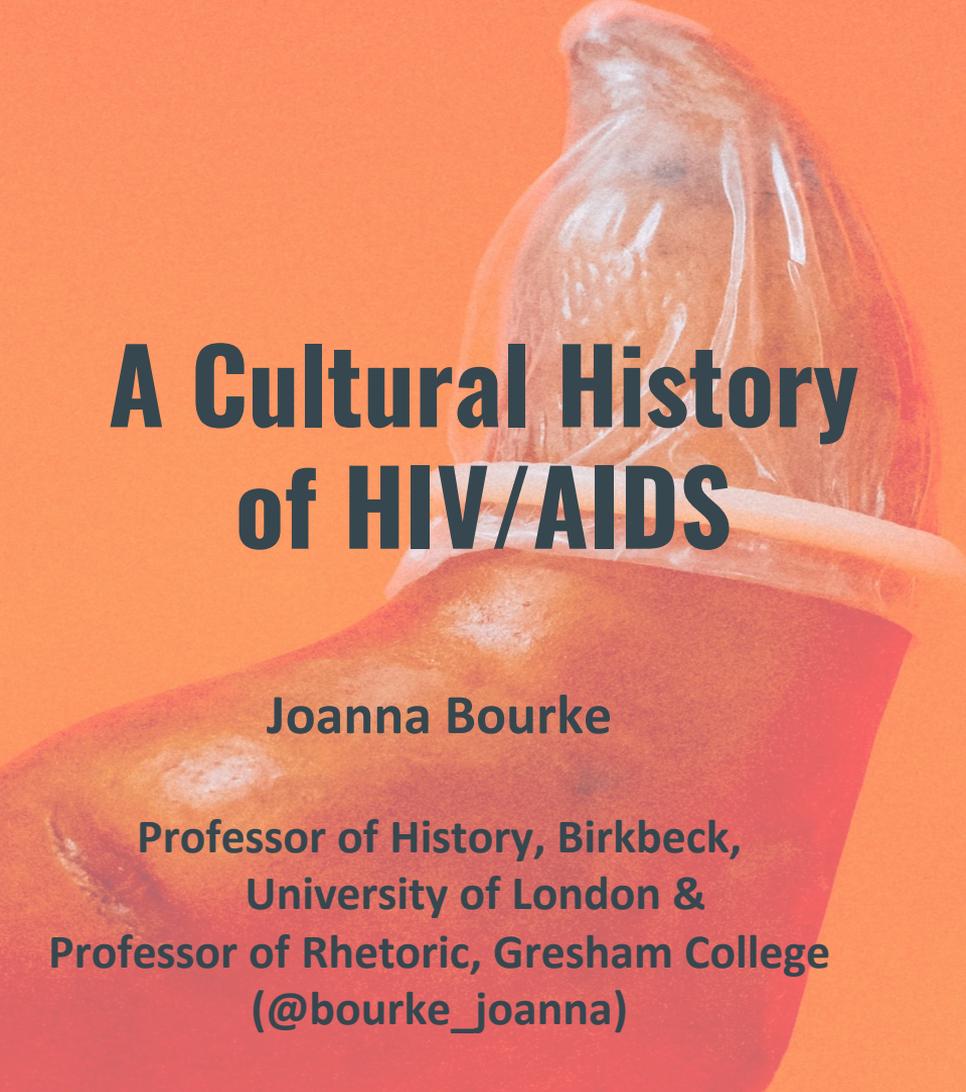


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AIDS and women



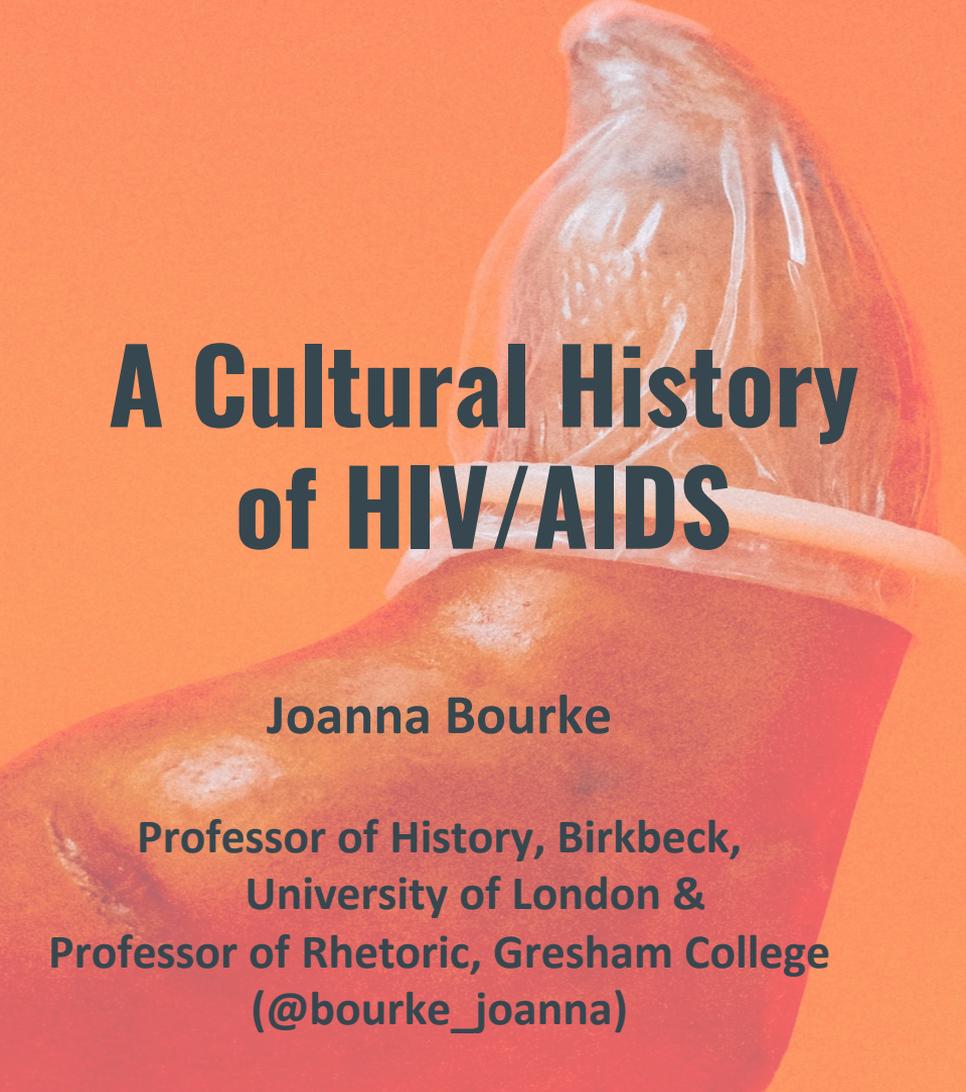
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AIDS and women

**By 1990, AIDS was the leading cause of
death for African American women.**



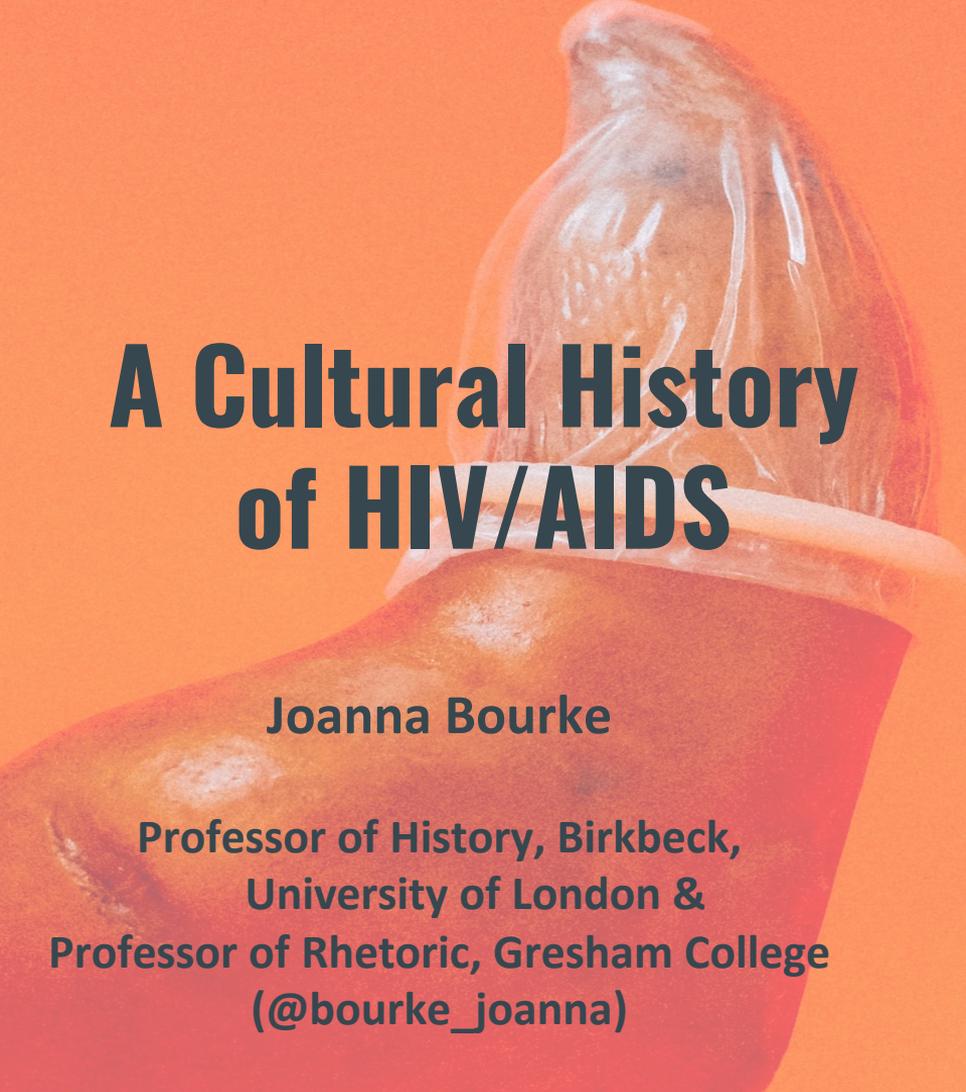
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**Today, 19% of new HIV infections are
among women, 54% of whom are
African American.**

**84 per cent are infected by the virus
through heterosexual contact.**



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**Minoritized people's illnesses &
deaths often don't 'count';

and so are 'uncounted'.**

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The first anti-retroviral drug to be approved
was AZT

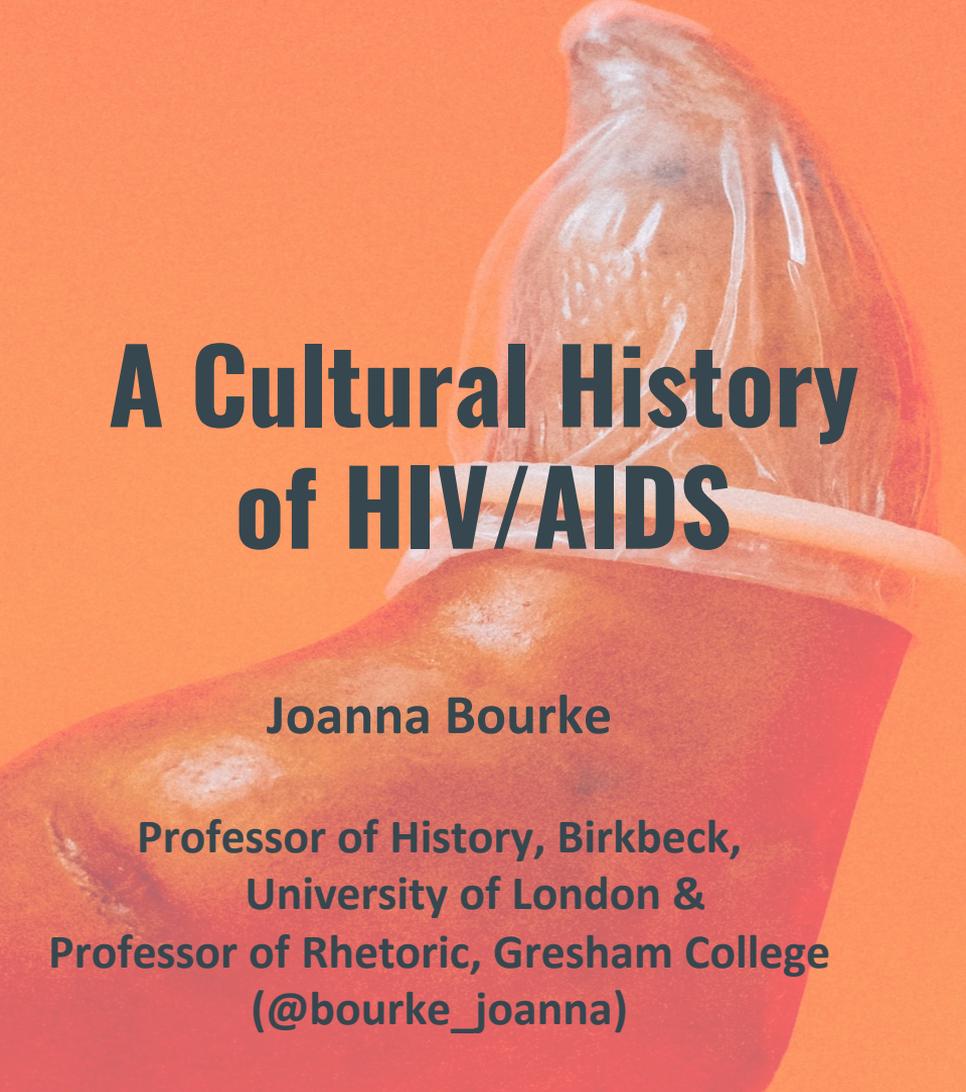
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1996: virologist David Ho announced that anti-retroviral drugs combined with protease inhibitors would fight off the virus.

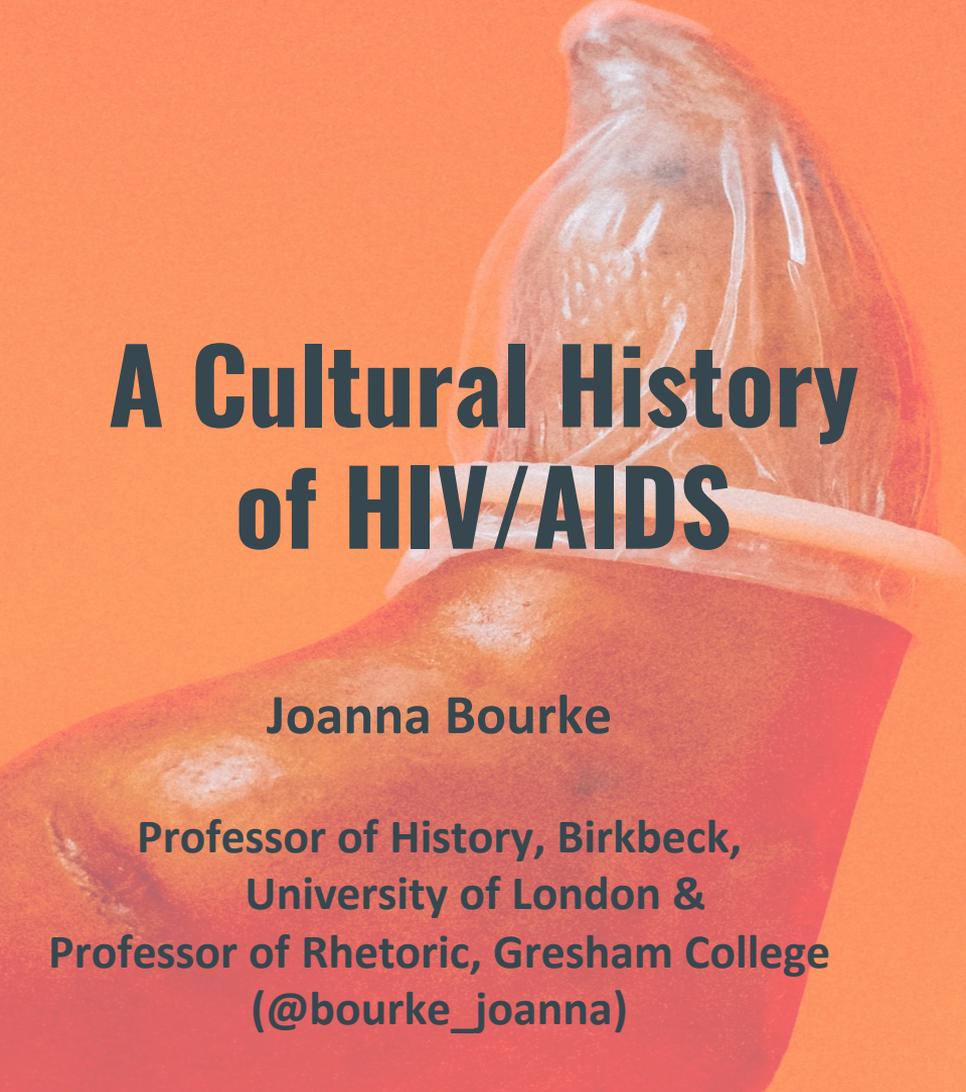


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**Shift of focus
from prevention to ‘adherence’.**



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**Cannot ignore the disproportionate
impact of homophobia, drug use,
colonialism, and discrimination in
employment, housing, and health care
for certain groups.**



WAY TO
THAT
SPIRI
MEN
AN
4YS

STONEWALL MEANS
FIGHT BACK! SMASH
GAY OPPRESSION!

GAY CAUCUS AGAINST WAR & FASCISM

Steig

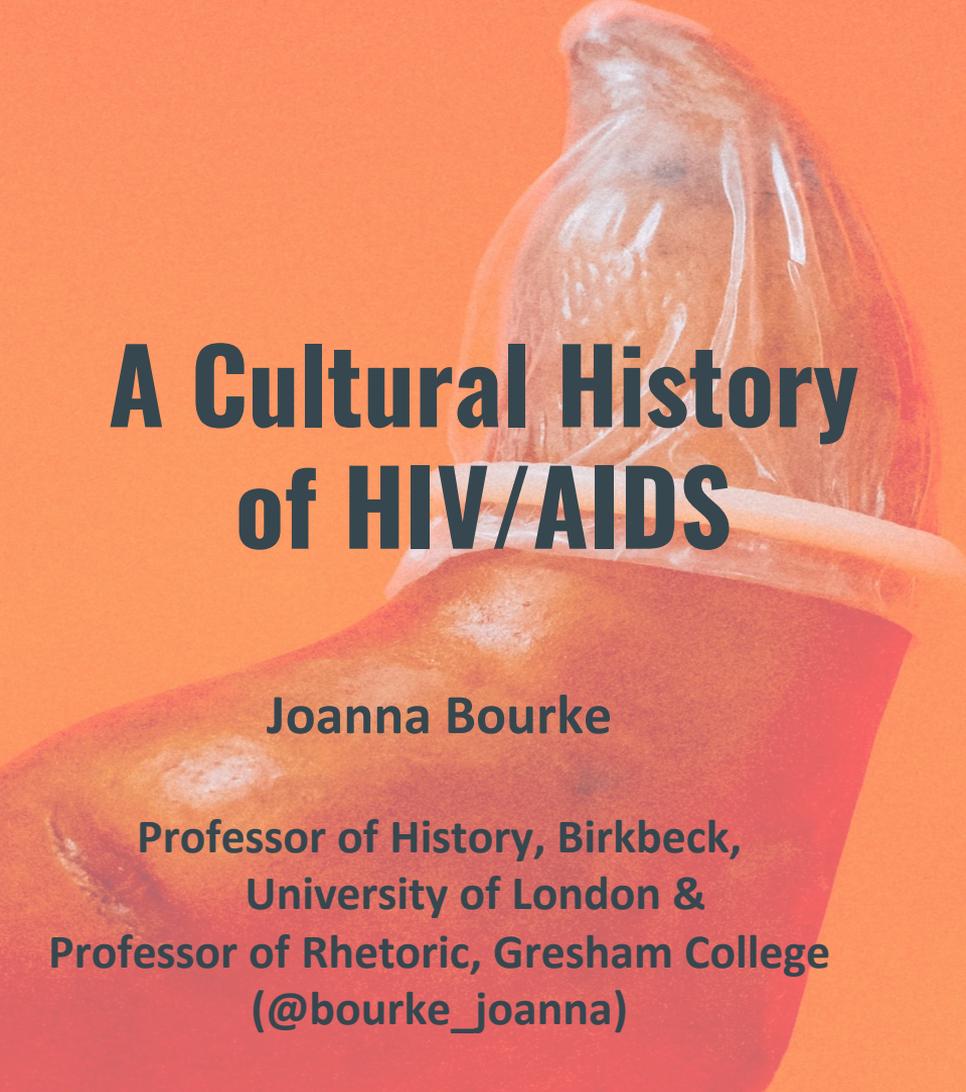
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By the mid-1970s, more than half of U.S. states
had decriminalized homosexuality in private.

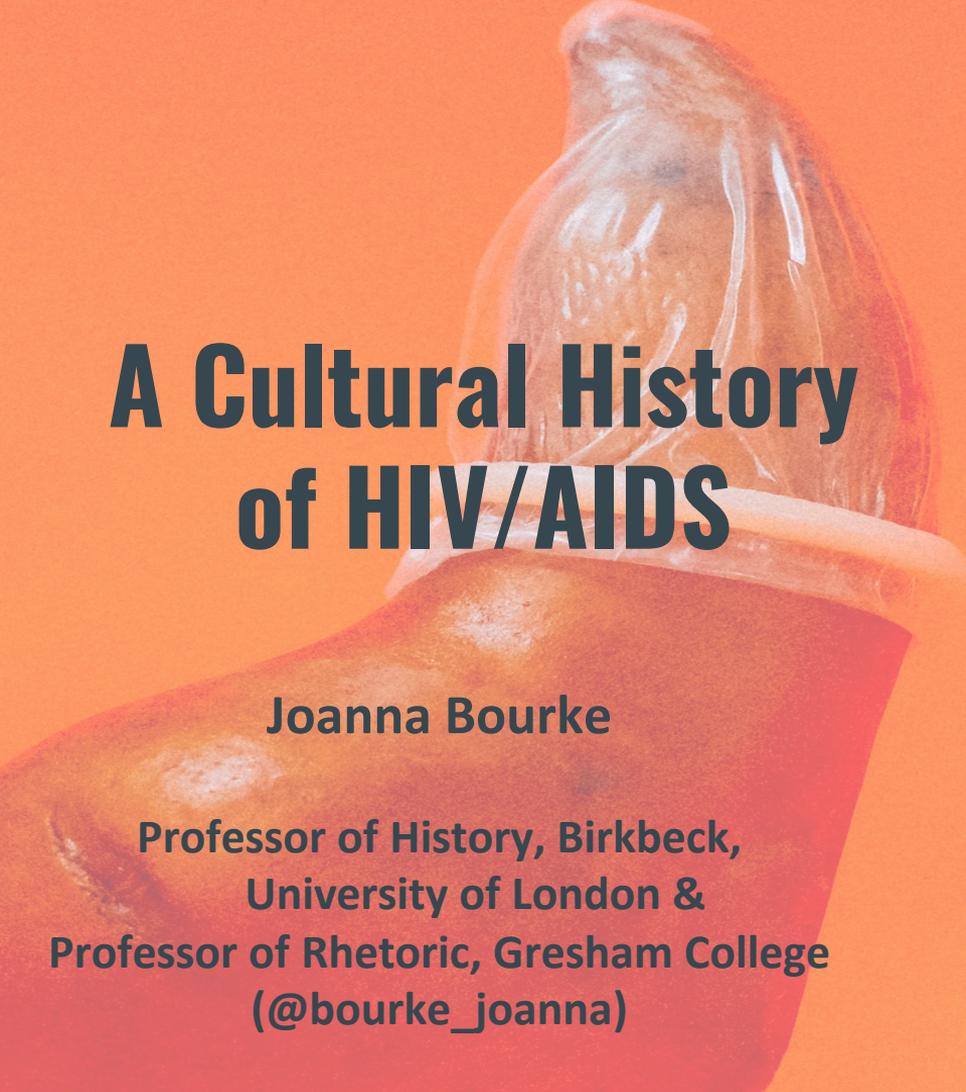


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**The HIV/AIDS epidemic both
coincided with and fuelled a
homophobic backlash.**



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**Calls for the
re-criminalization &
re-medicalization of
homosexuality.**

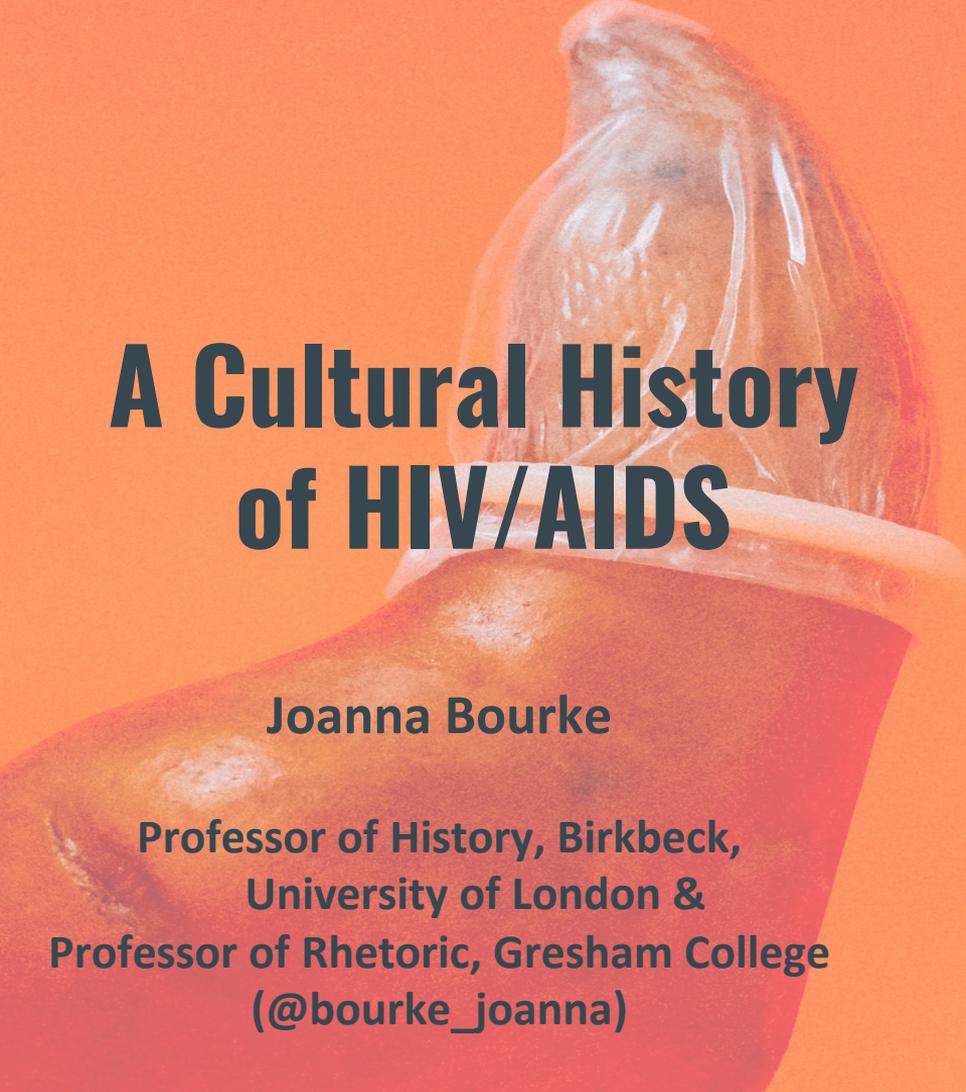
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Shift from 'social gospel' to 'morality police'



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1986 Gallup poll:

43% of Americans

**believed that HIV/AIDS were
'divine punishment for moral decline'.**



A.I.D.S.: WE NEED
RESEARCH,
NOT HYSTERIA!

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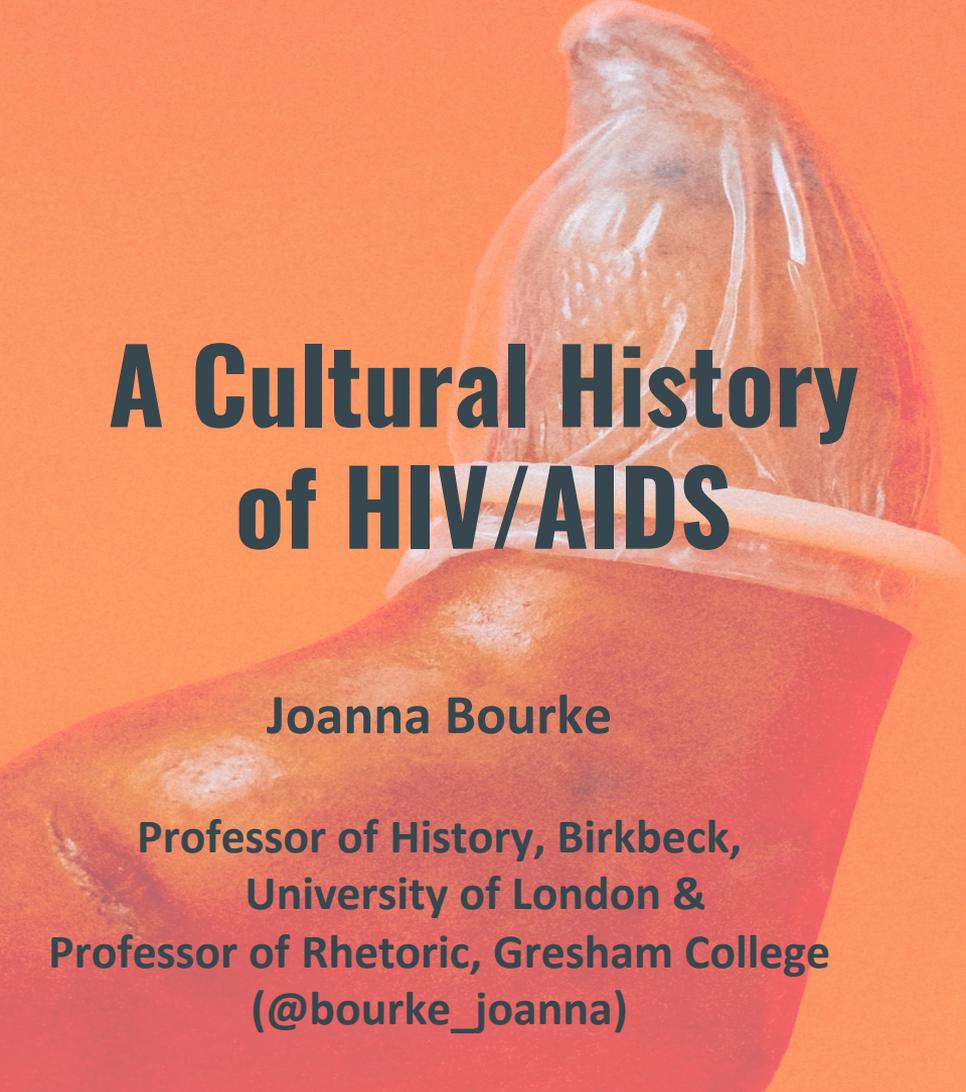
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Everyone detected with AIDS should
be tattooed in the upper forearm,
to protect common needle users,
and on the buttock, to prevent the
victimization of other homosexuals.

— *William F. Buckley* —



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1985

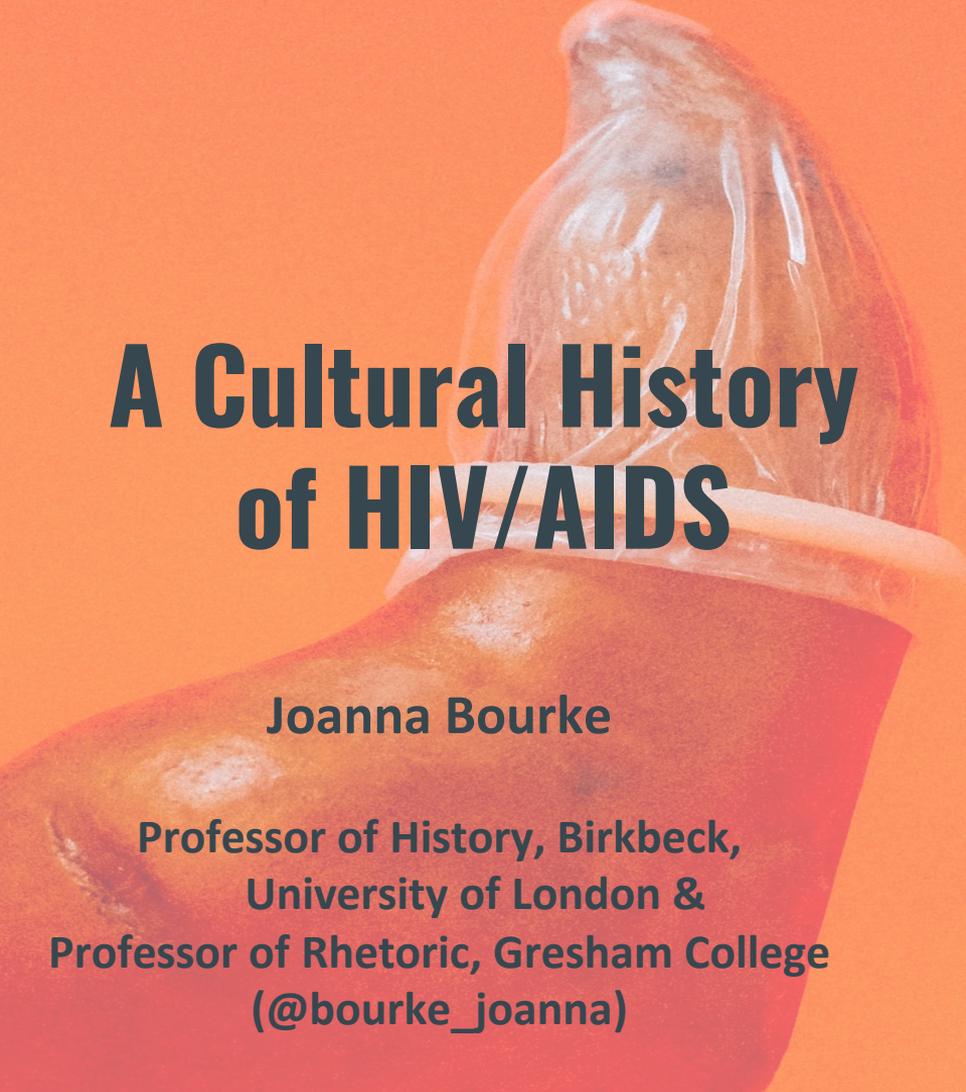
**Around half of Americans
supported:**

quarantining

criminalising

tattooing

ID cards, etc.



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SAFE SEX IN A DANGEROUS WORLD

UNDERSTANDING AND
COPING WITH THE
THREAT OF AIDS

Art Ulene, M.D.
Family Physician to the "Today" Show

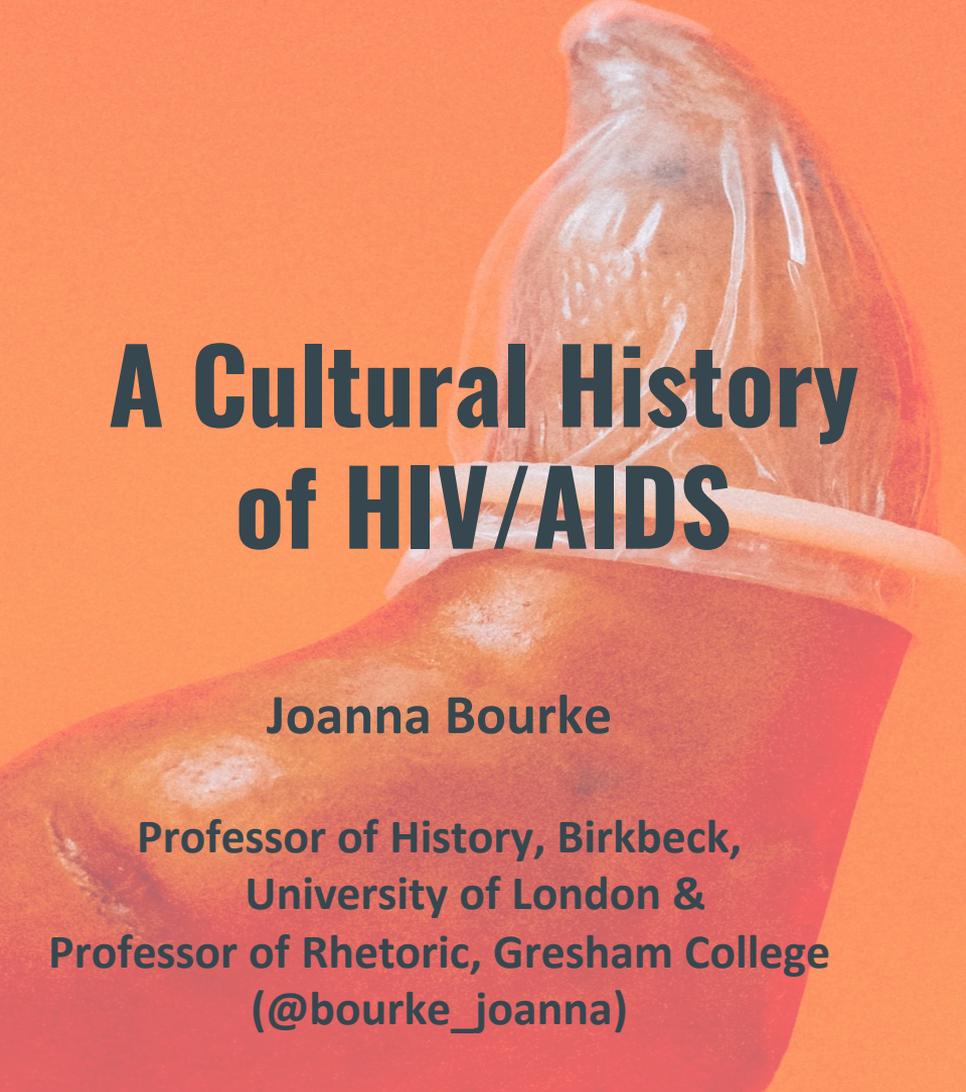
978-0-394-75625-8\$8

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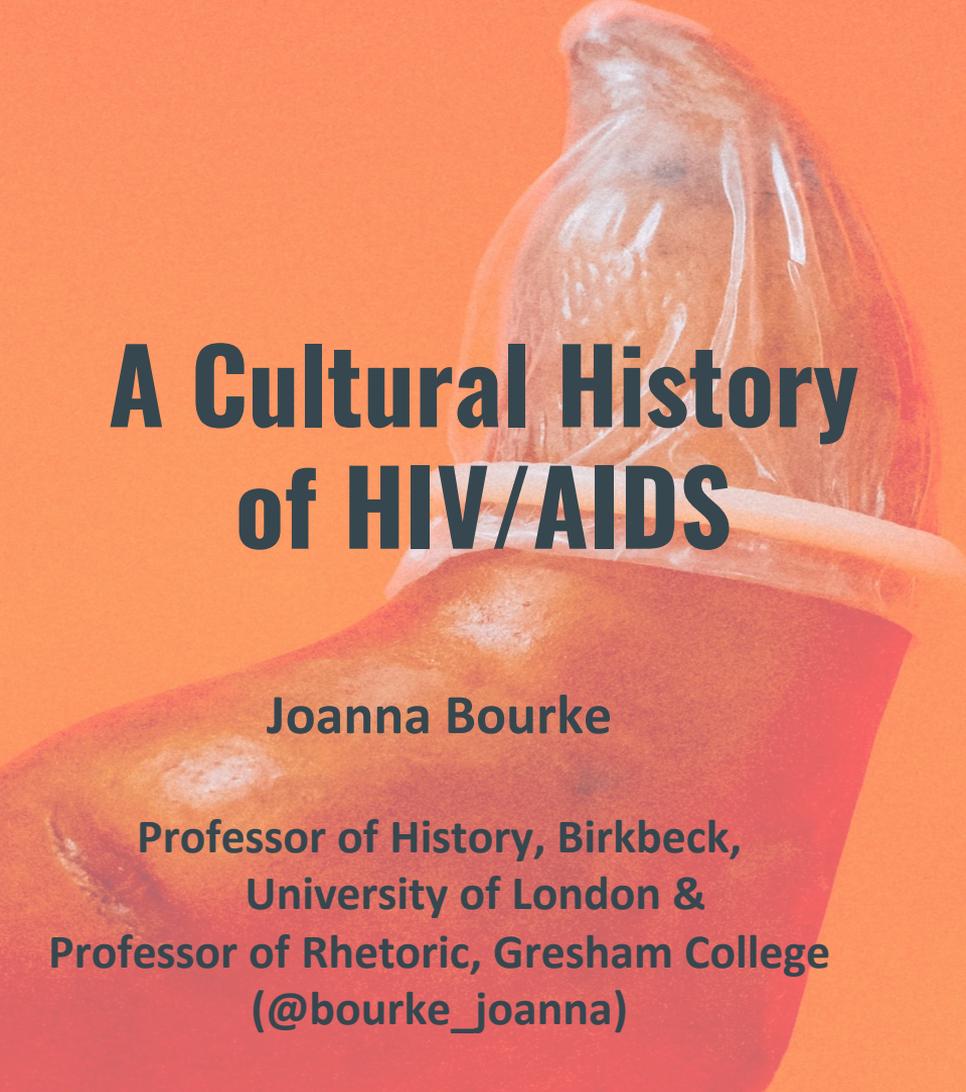


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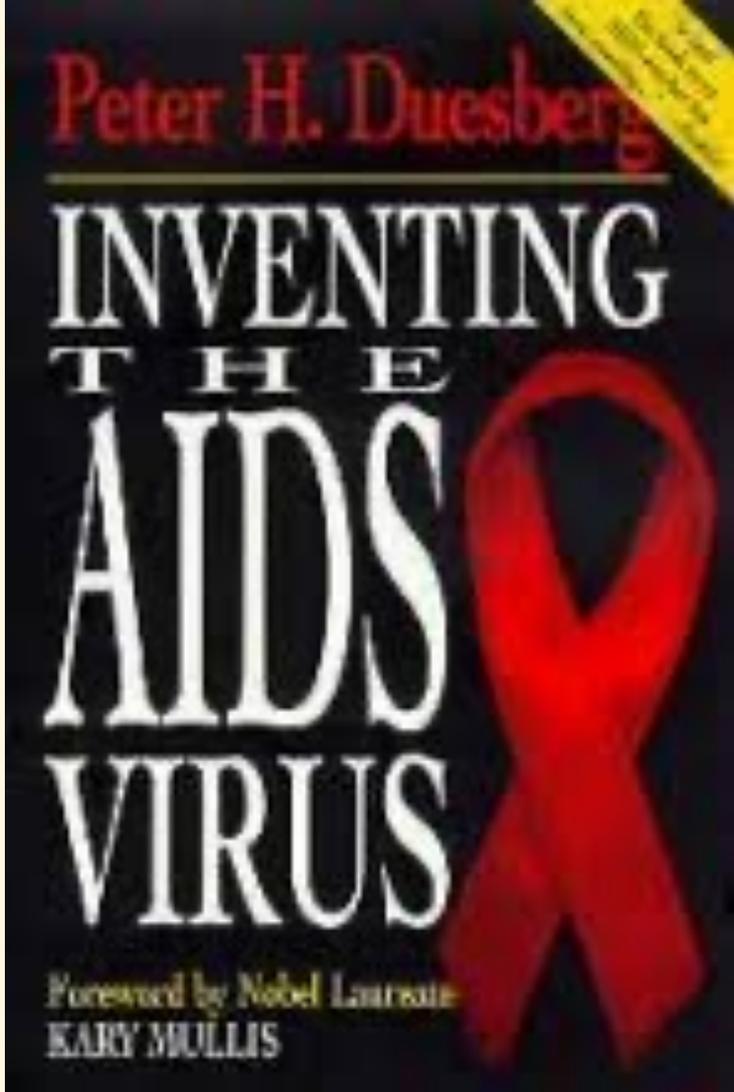
Conspiracy theories



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Peter H. Duesberg

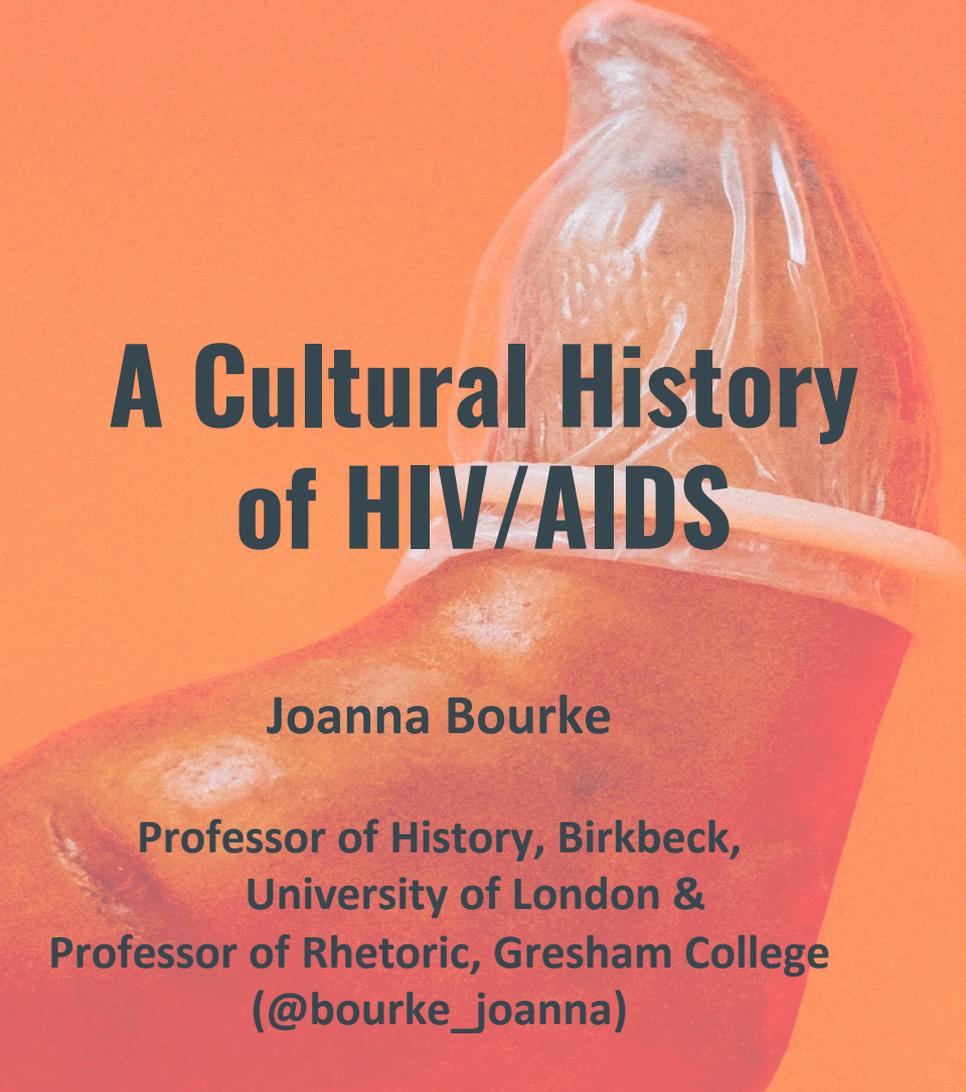
INVENTING

THE

AIDS

VIRUS

Foreword by Nobel Laureate
KARY MULLIS



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‘Cultropreneurs’:

**(Entrepreneurs who disregard science,
promote conspiracy theories,
& seek to profit from
‘alternative’ remedies.)**

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RANDY SHILTS 'A heroic work'
The New York Times

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON

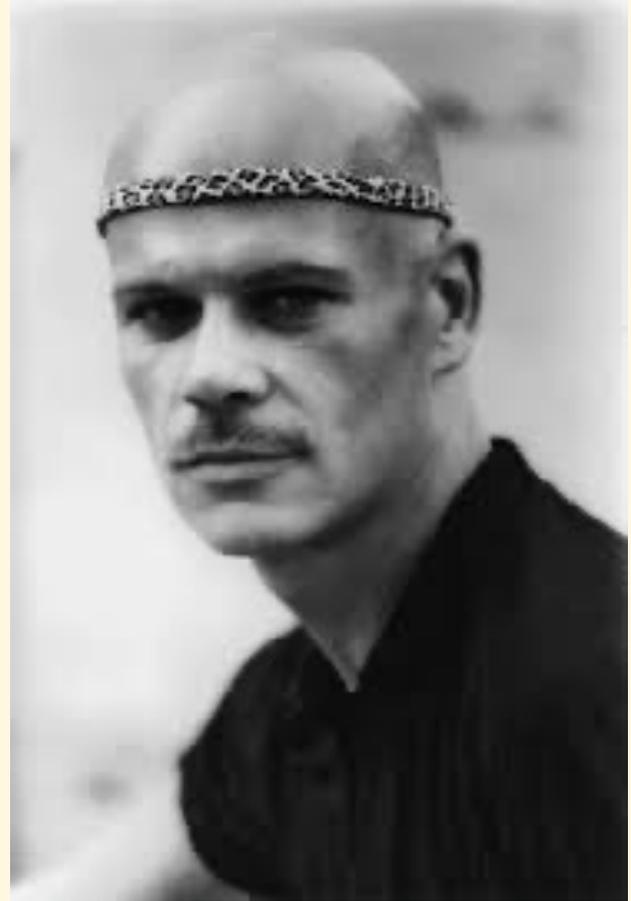
POLITICS,
PEOPLE
& THE AIDS
EPIDEMIC

THE BOOK THAT INSPIRED THE AWARD-WINNING FILM

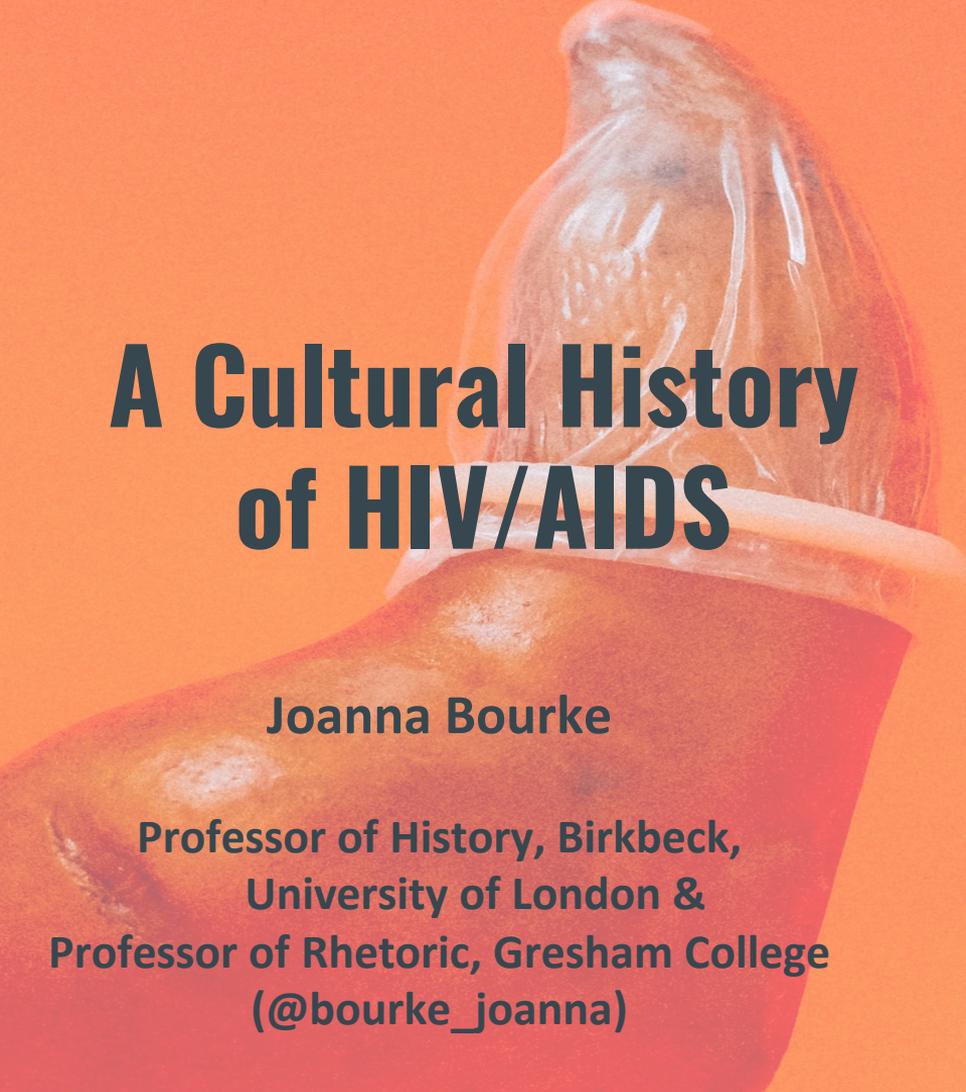
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**Gaëtan Dugas: 'Patient O' (outside of
California), not 'Patient 0' (zero)**



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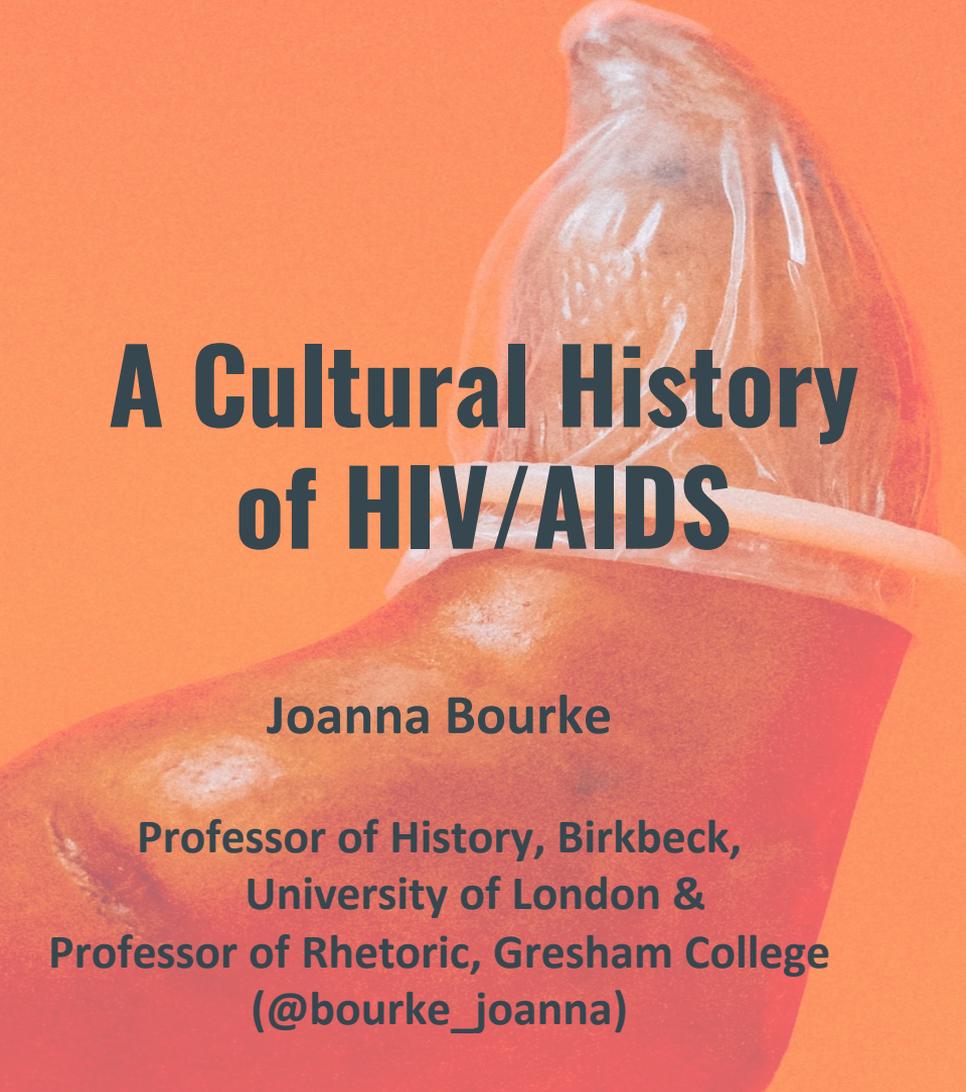
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‘Overload’ theory:

**Propagated by infectious diseases expert
Joseph Sonnabend.**

**The disease was the result of the collapse of
the immune system due to multiple
partners: if people restricted their number of
partners, their immune systems would
recover.**

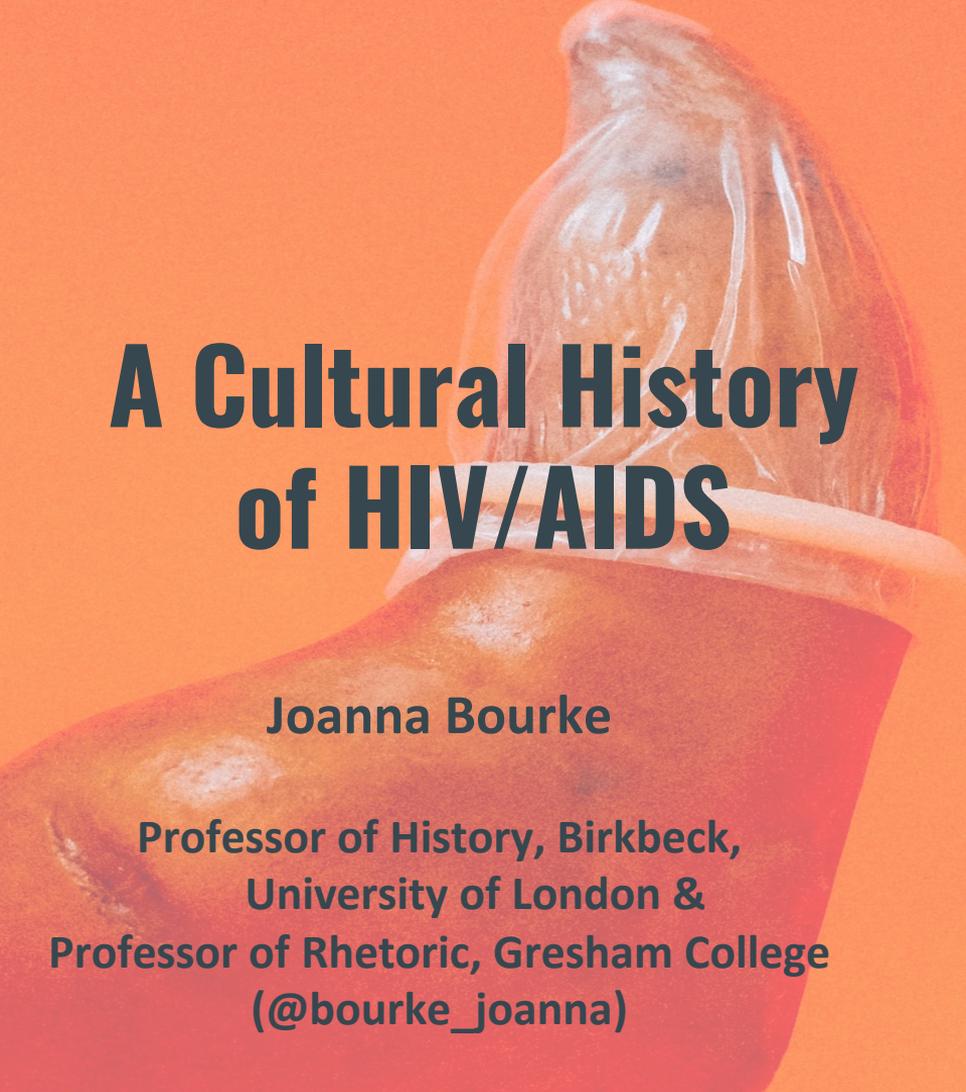


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**Criminalization of
virus transmission.**



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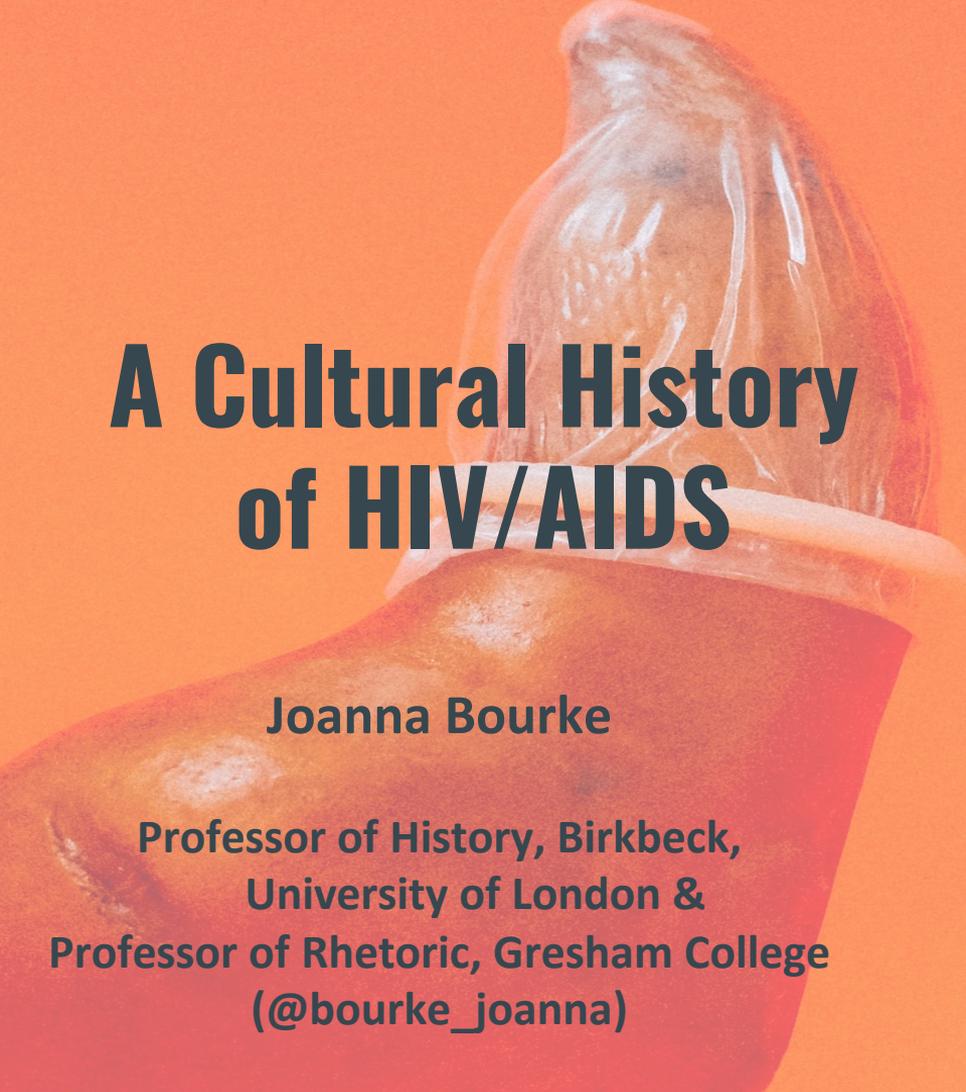
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Canada:

shift from ‘significant risk’
to
‘realistic possibility’.

(so person had to have *both*
low viral load *and* wear a
condom)



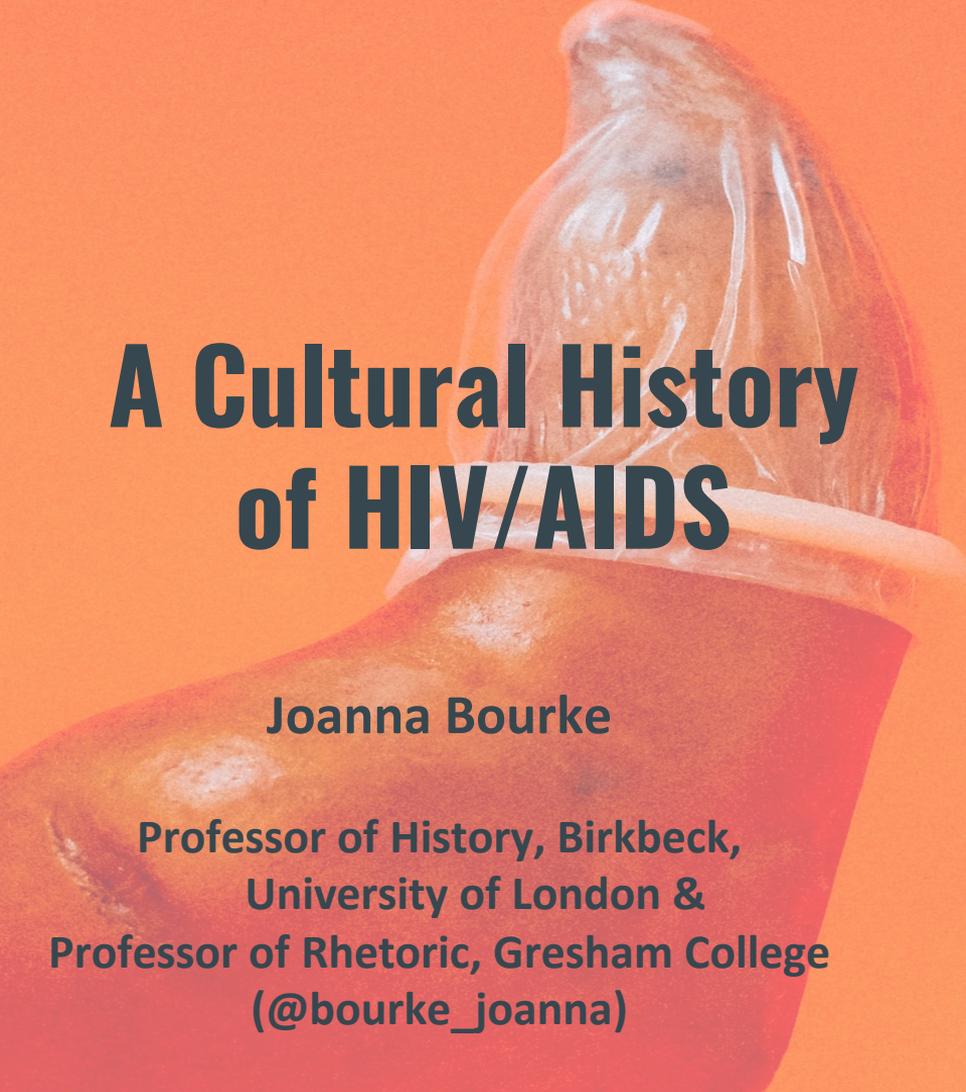
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**Carceral responses to public health
crises (aka as ‘public health
governance through criminal law’).**

Neoliberal economic policies.

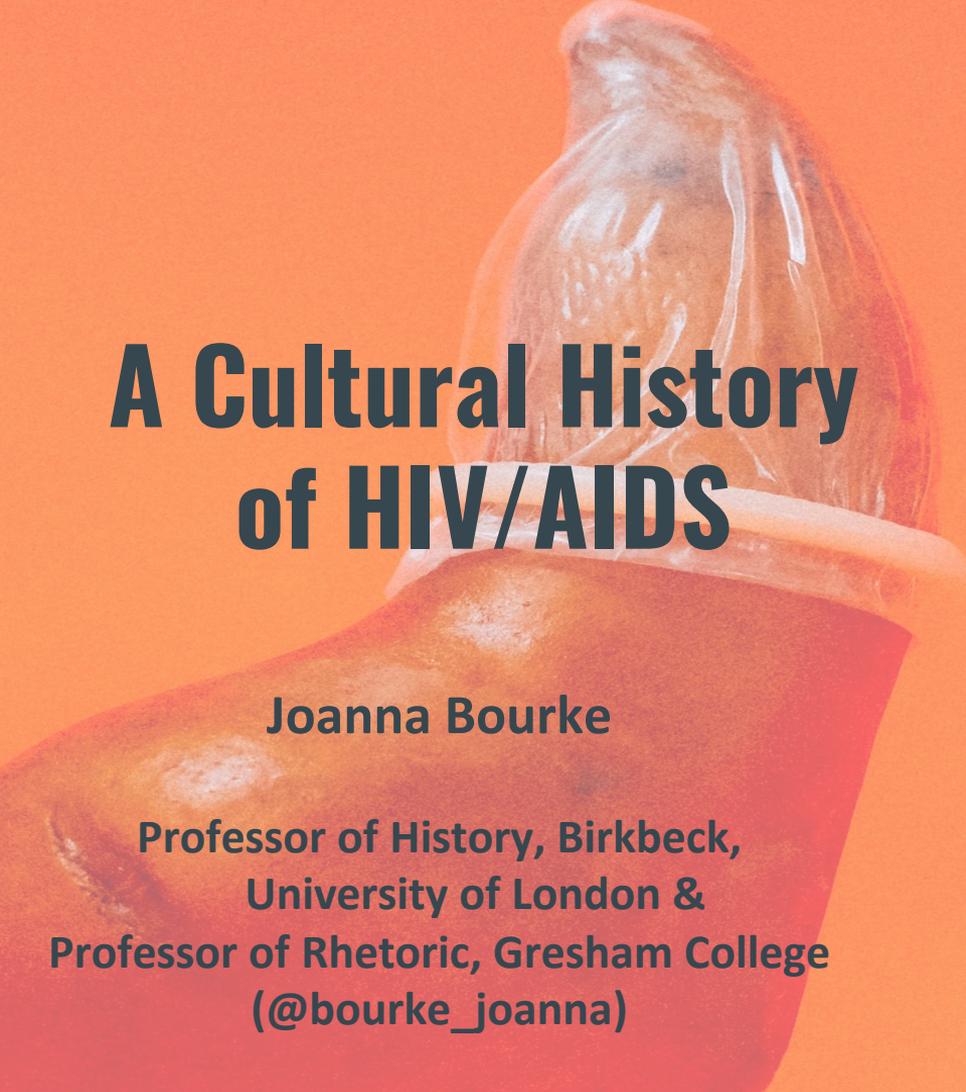


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**These forms of discrimination
disproportionately effect
minoritized communities.**

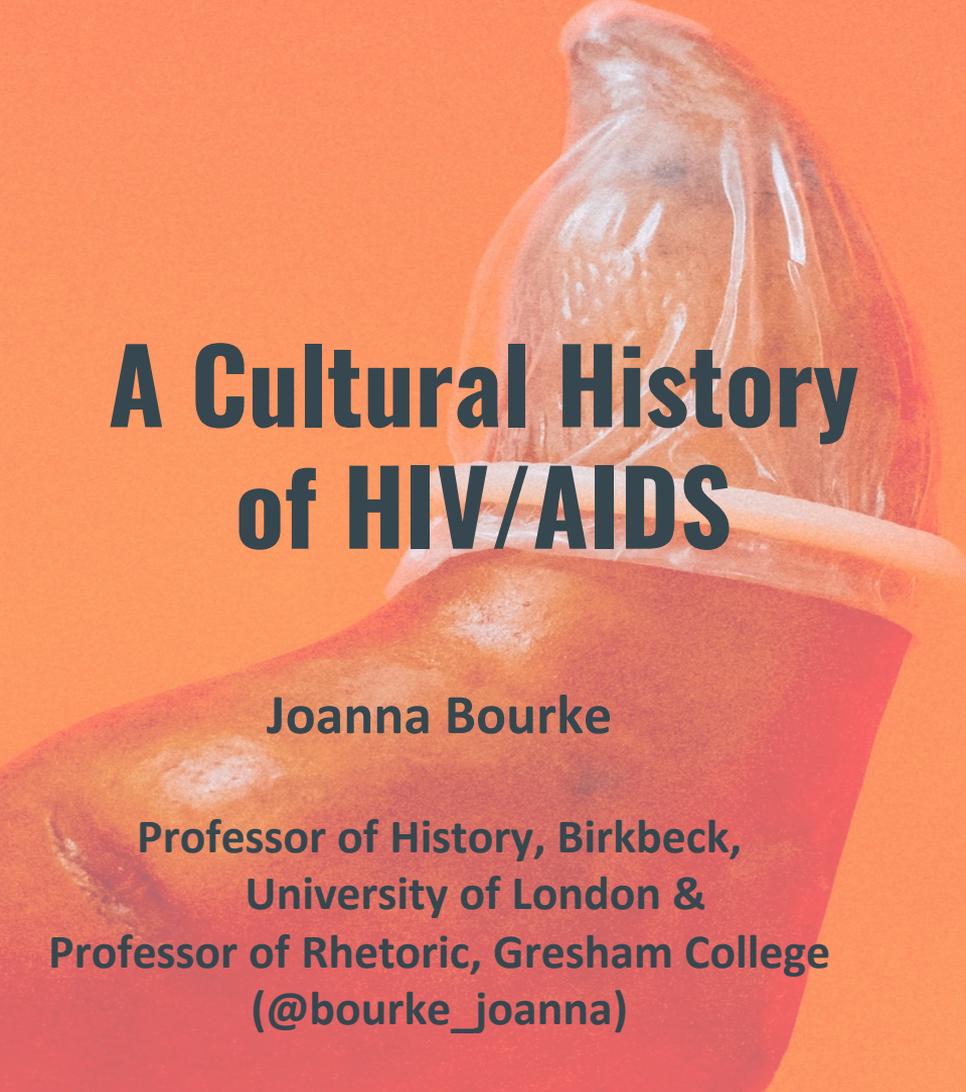


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Universal Rights-Based Model



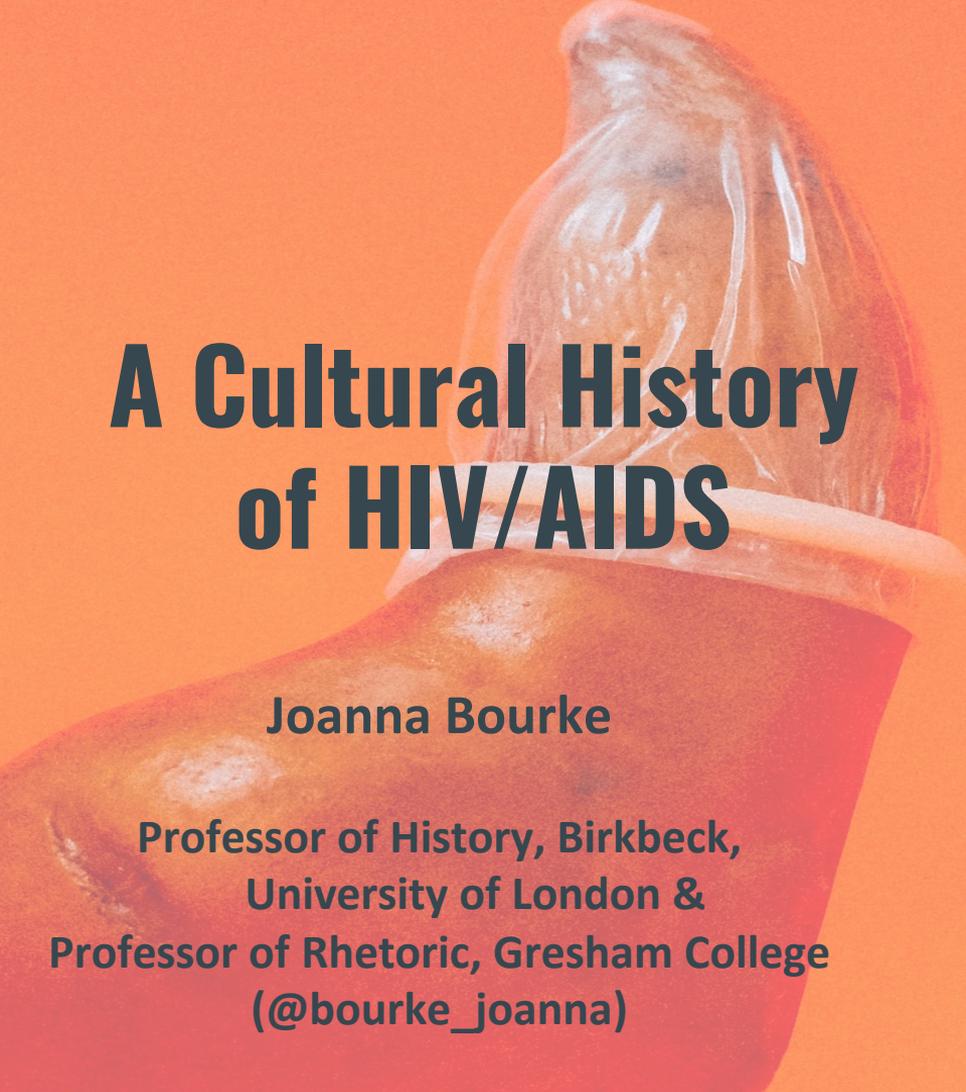
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Universal Rights-Based Model

**shifted to Risk Management
Model**

A hand holding a condom against an orange background. The hand is positioned at the bottom left, with the thumb and index finger gripping the edge of the condom. The condom is partially unrolled, showing its texture and the white latex material. The background is a solid, vibrant orange color.

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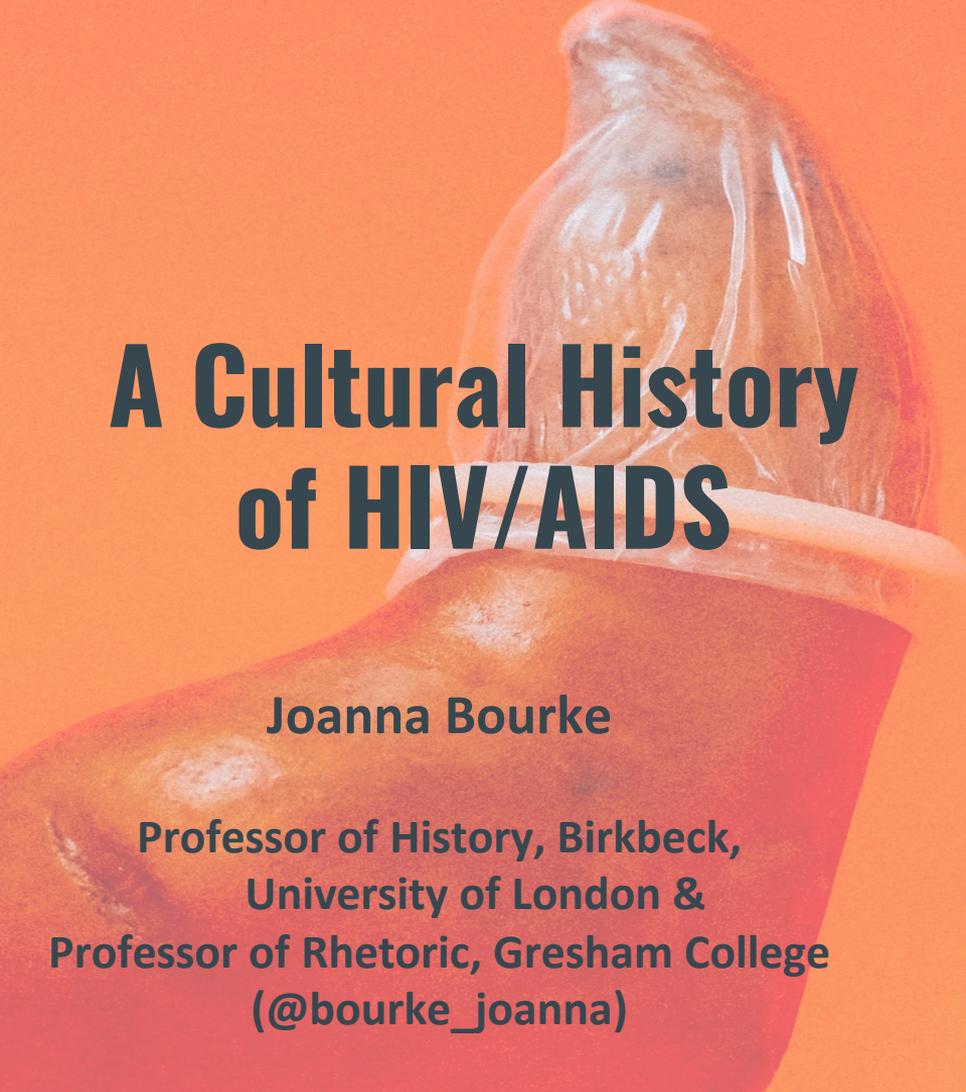
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**Shift from individual and community
needs**

to

**‘economic evaluation of the increment
net benefit’, ‘limiting economic burden’
and ‘cost effective strategies’**



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ACT UP!
AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power
ACT UP!

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photograph by Mark Thiessen
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Evelynn Hammonds, Linda Villarosa, Cathy
Cohen, Black AIDS Mobilization

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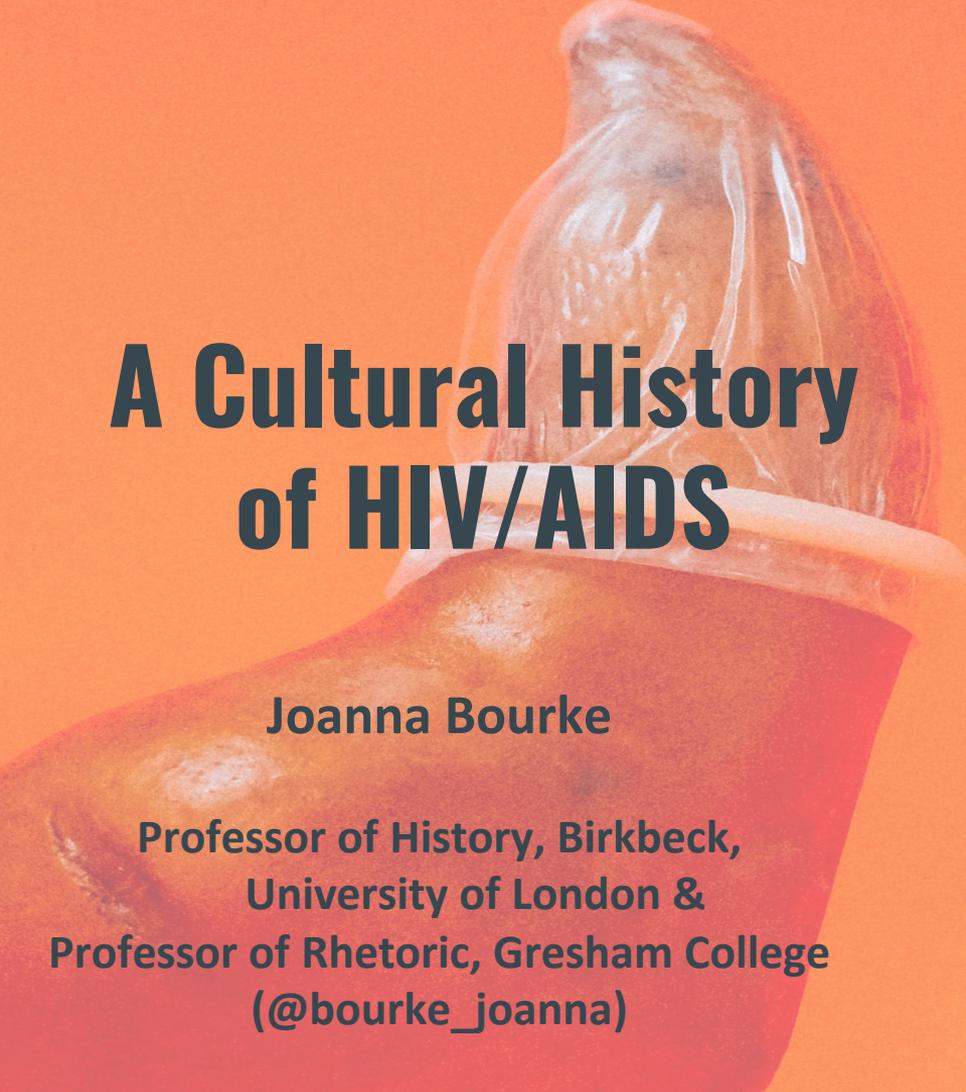


There's only one pullover
this photograph
should be used to sell.



SILENCE=DEATH. ACT UP.

Information and donations: ACT UP London, BM Box 2995, London WC1N 3XX



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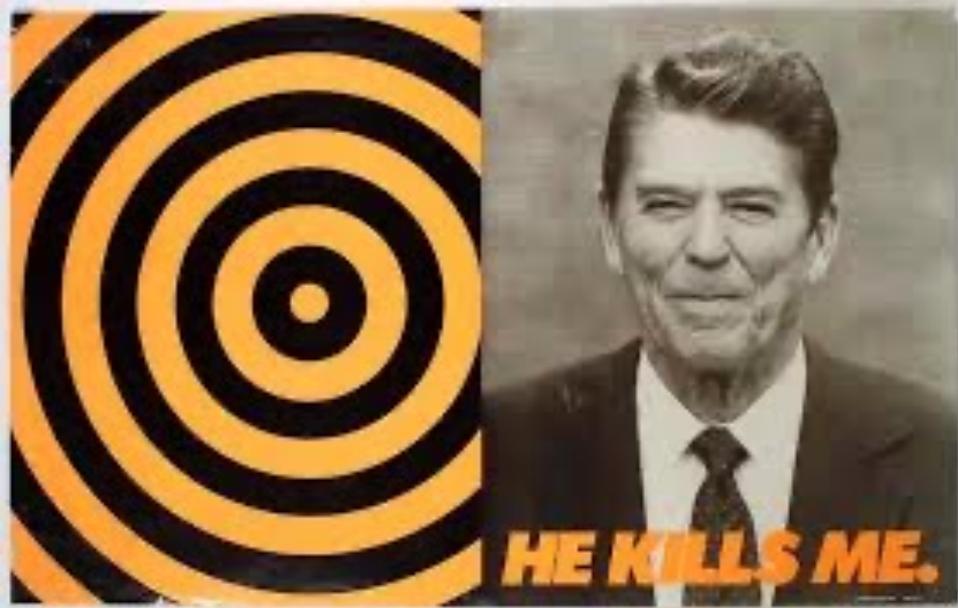
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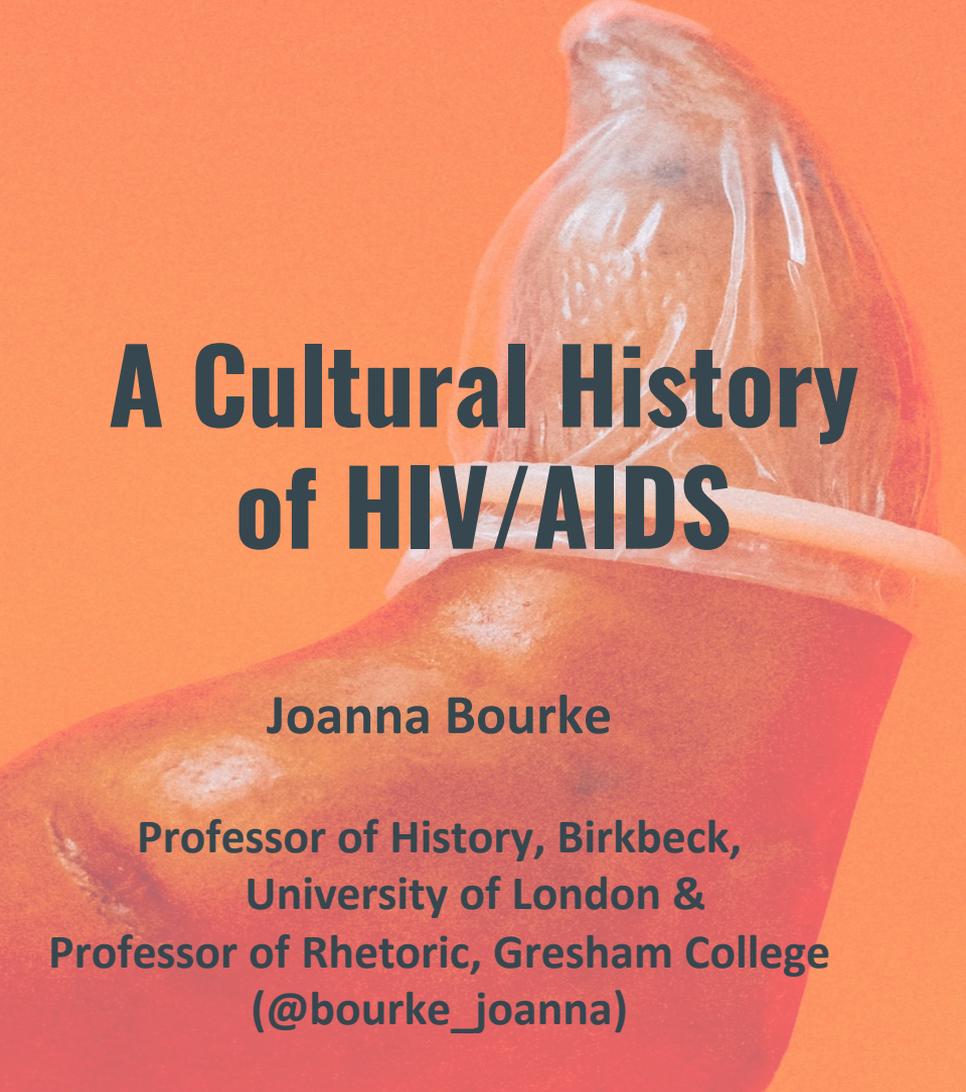
PENGUIN
BOOKS

THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY

VOLUME I

MICHEL FOUCAULT





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Divisions:

**activists who advocated condom use,
monogamy, or celibacy,**

vs.

**those who believed that such approaches
were ‘anti-sex’ or represented internalised
homophobia.**

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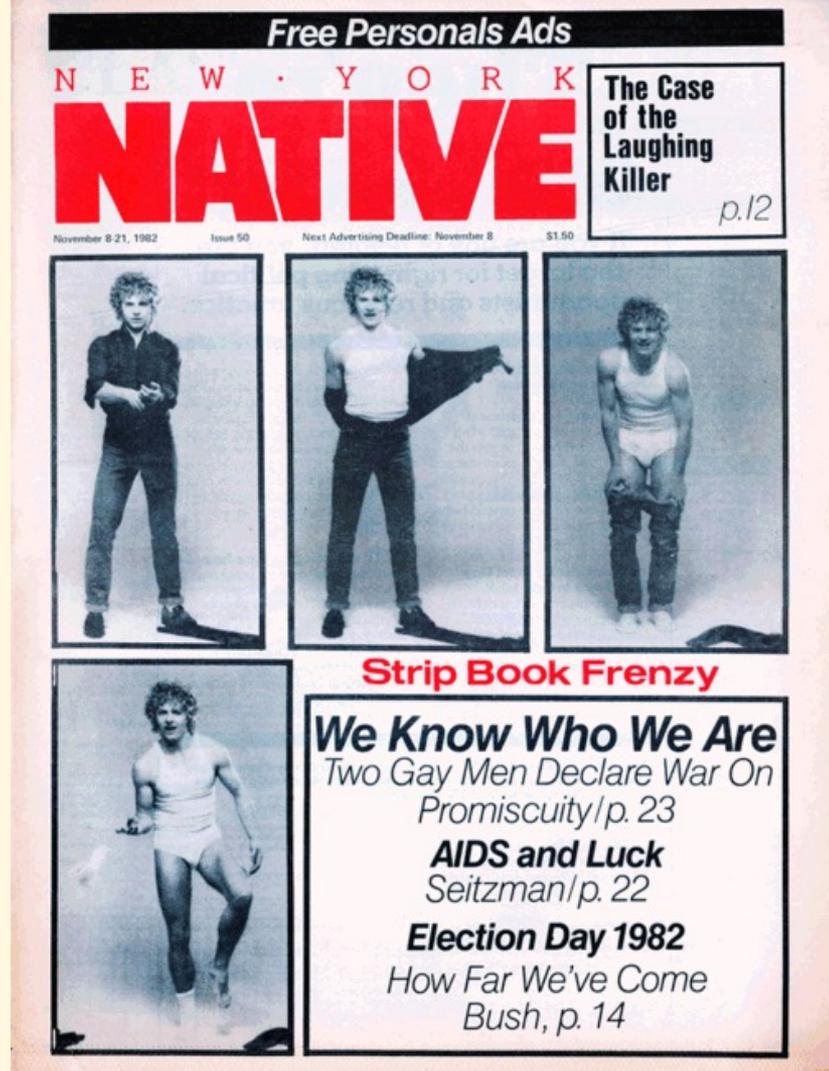


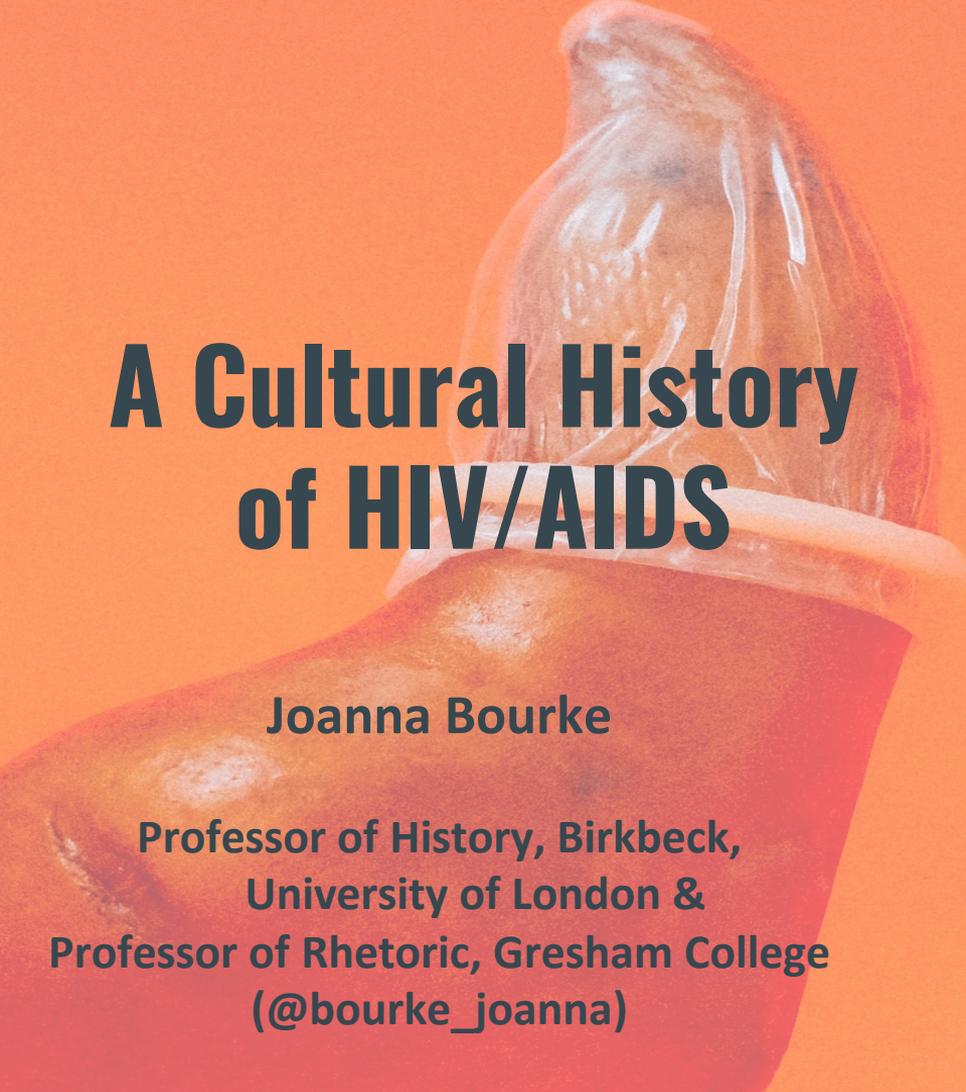
Michael Callen and Richard Berkowitz

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A photograph of a clear latex condom resting inside a red plastic cup. The background is a solid orange color.

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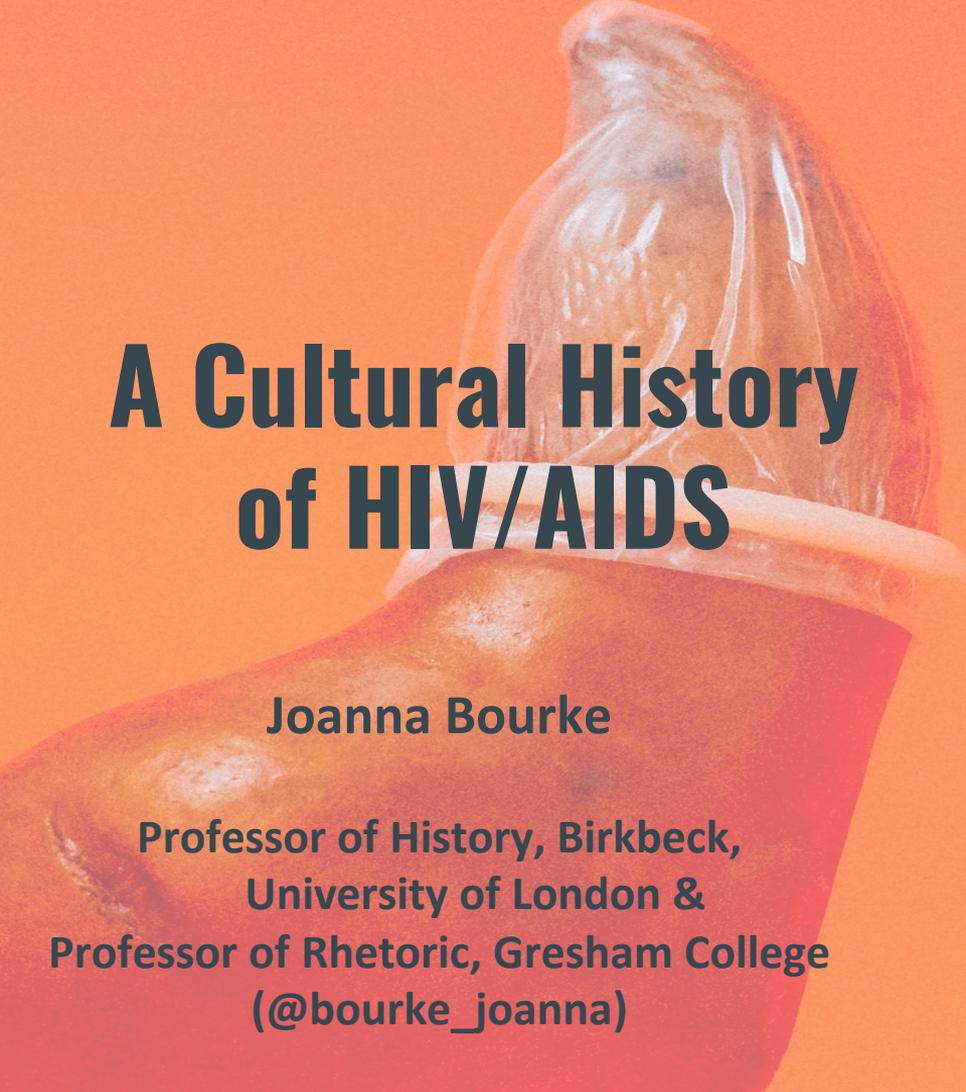
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MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANT:
JOSEPH SONNABEND, M.D.

Chairman, Scientific Committee,
AIDS MEDICAL FOUNDATION

**How to Have Sex
in an Epidemic:
One Approach**

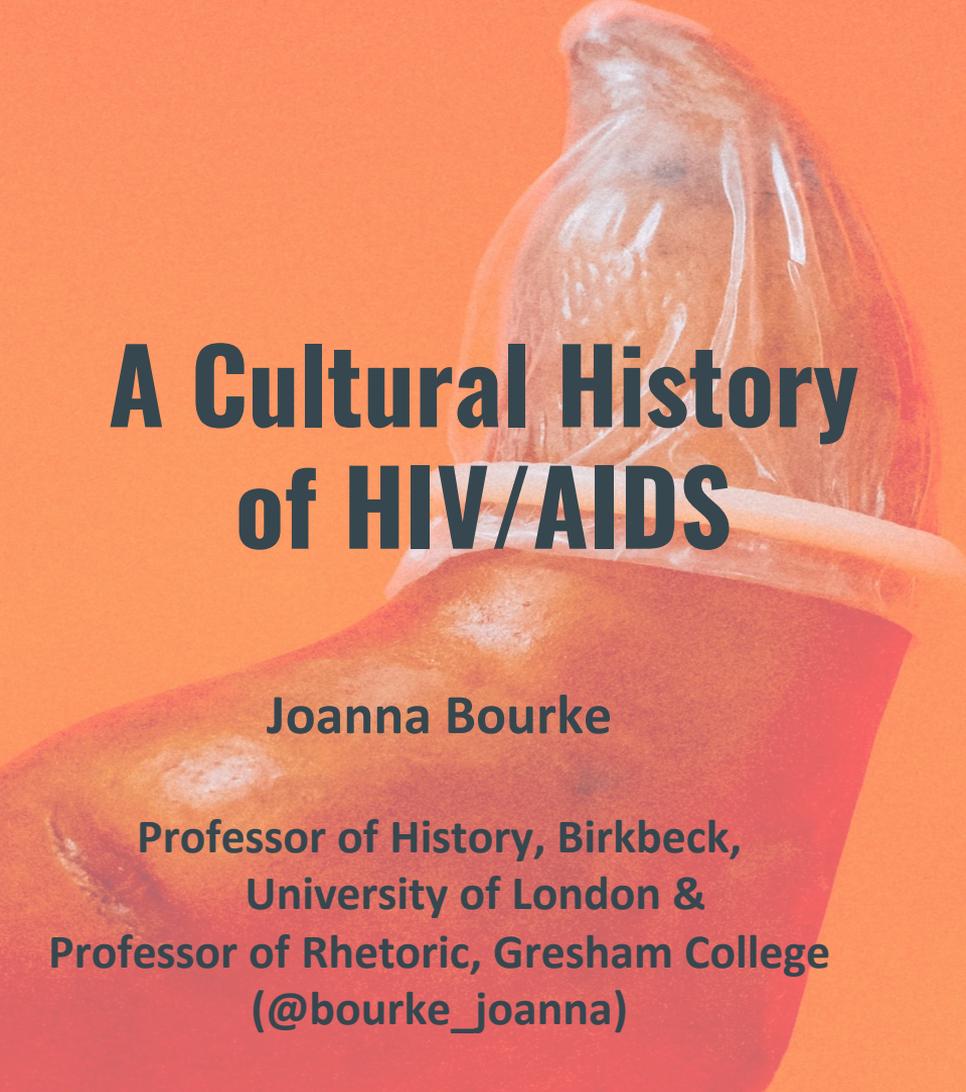


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**White, middle-class, gay male activists
vs
people of colour and women.**



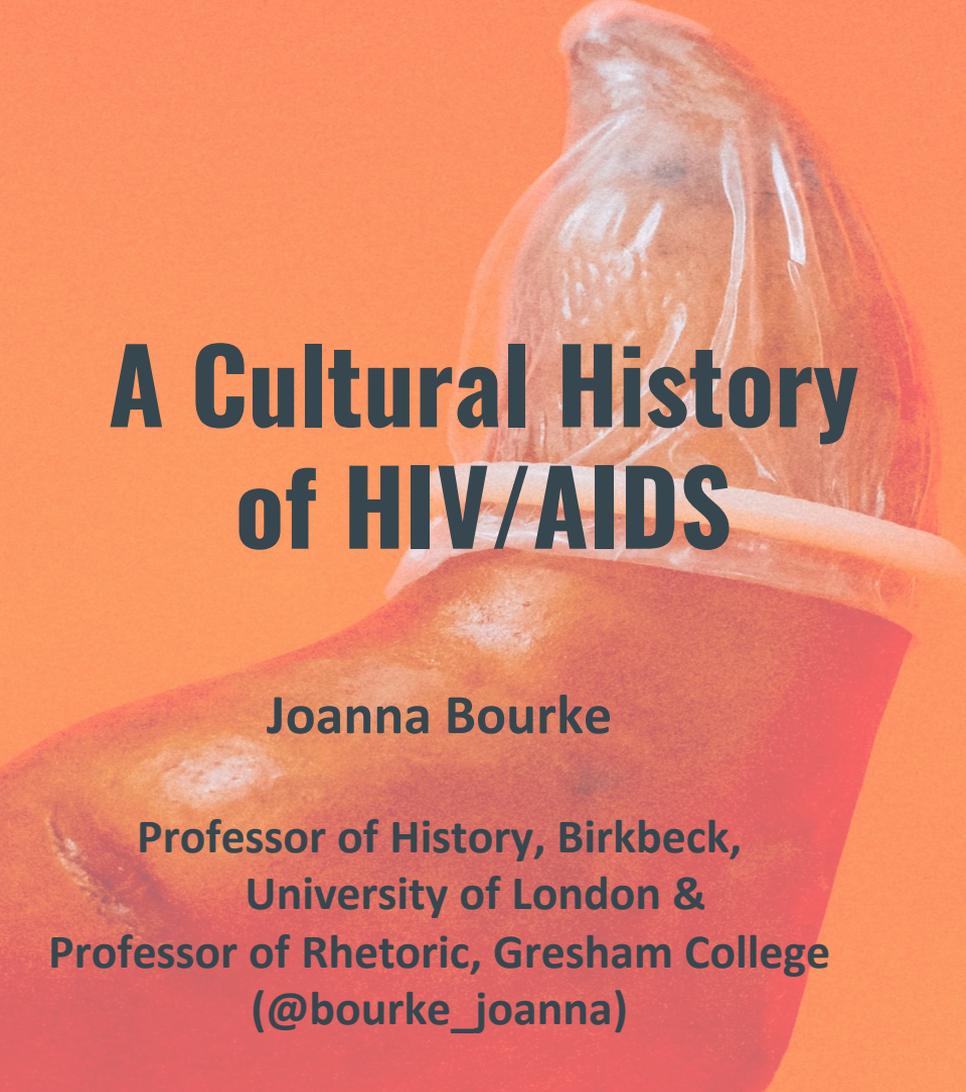
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Sarah Schulman:

**the problem is that ‘most people in power
were white males.... and this determined
which AIDS activists had the potential to be
Inside and which ones would be relegated to
Outside’.**



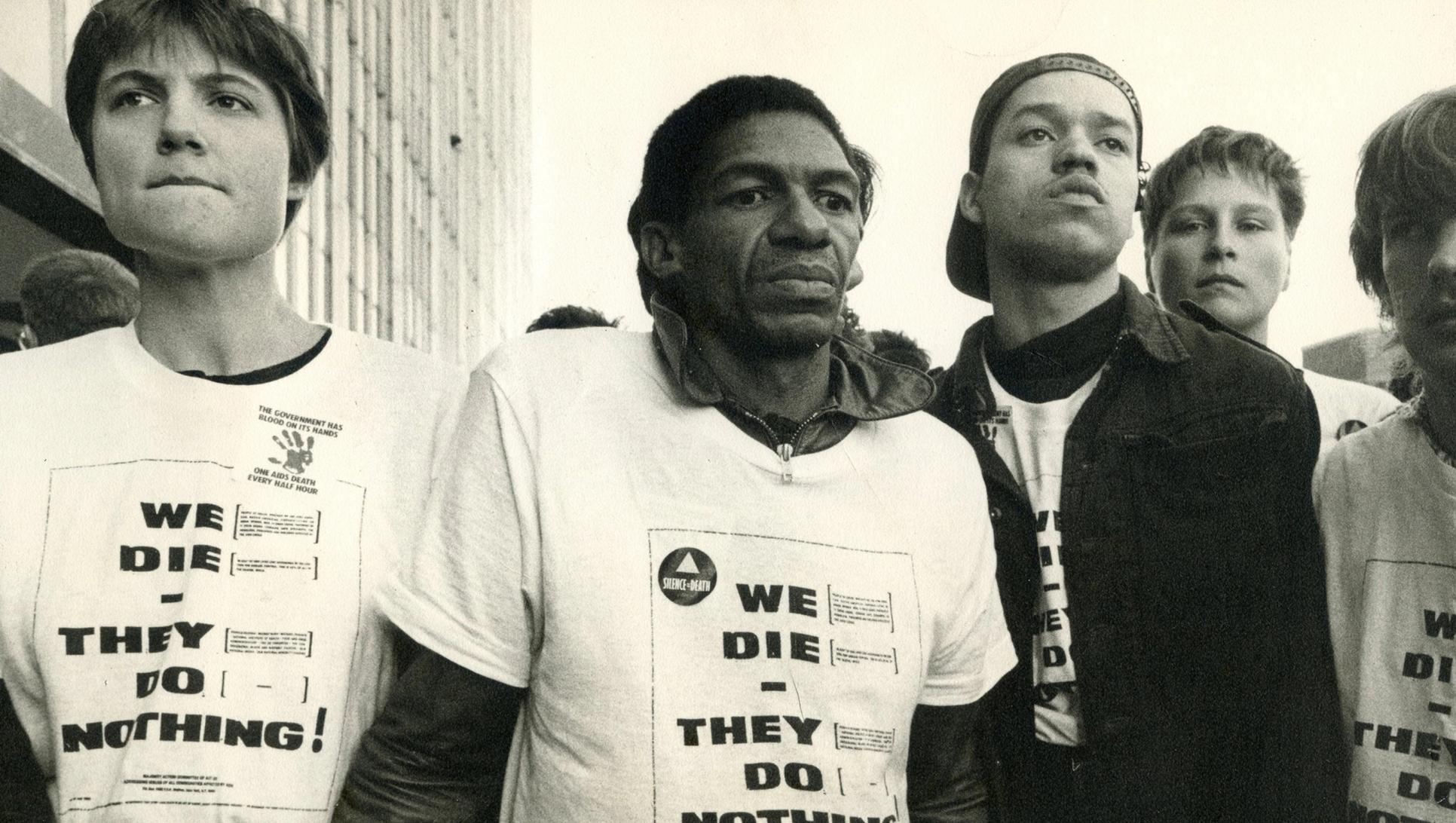
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Alexandra Judasz:

**‘when ACT UP is remembered...
other places, people, and forms of
AIDS activism are disremembered’.**



THE GOVERNMENT HAS
BLOOD ON ITS HANDS



ONE AIDS DEATH
EVERY HALF HOUR

**WE
DIE
-
THEY
DO [-]
NOTHING!**

REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF ACT UP
NATIONAL OFFICE OF 100 GREENWICH AVENUE NEW YORK NY 10036
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**WE
DIE
-
THEY
DO [-]
NOTHING!**

ACT UP! IS A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE
WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE AIDS EPIDEMIC.
WE ARE NOT A POLITICAL PARTY. WE ARE NOT
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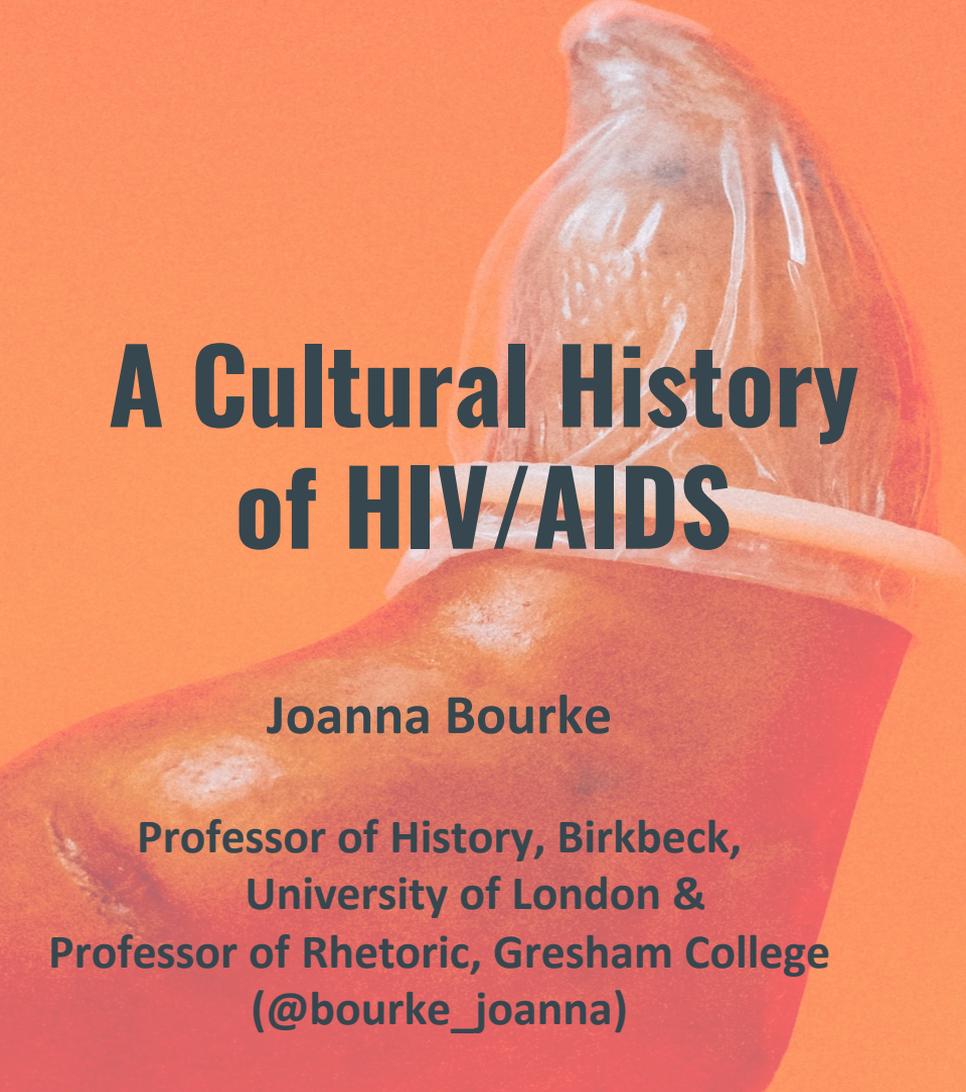
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A Cultural History of HIV/AIDS

Joanna Bourke

Professor of History, Birkbeck,
University of London &
Professor of Rhetoric, Gresham College
(@bourke_joanna)





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‘Homonormativity’

replicates some of the same hierarchical
ideals found in *heteronormativity*
in terms of race, class, gender,
and nation-state.

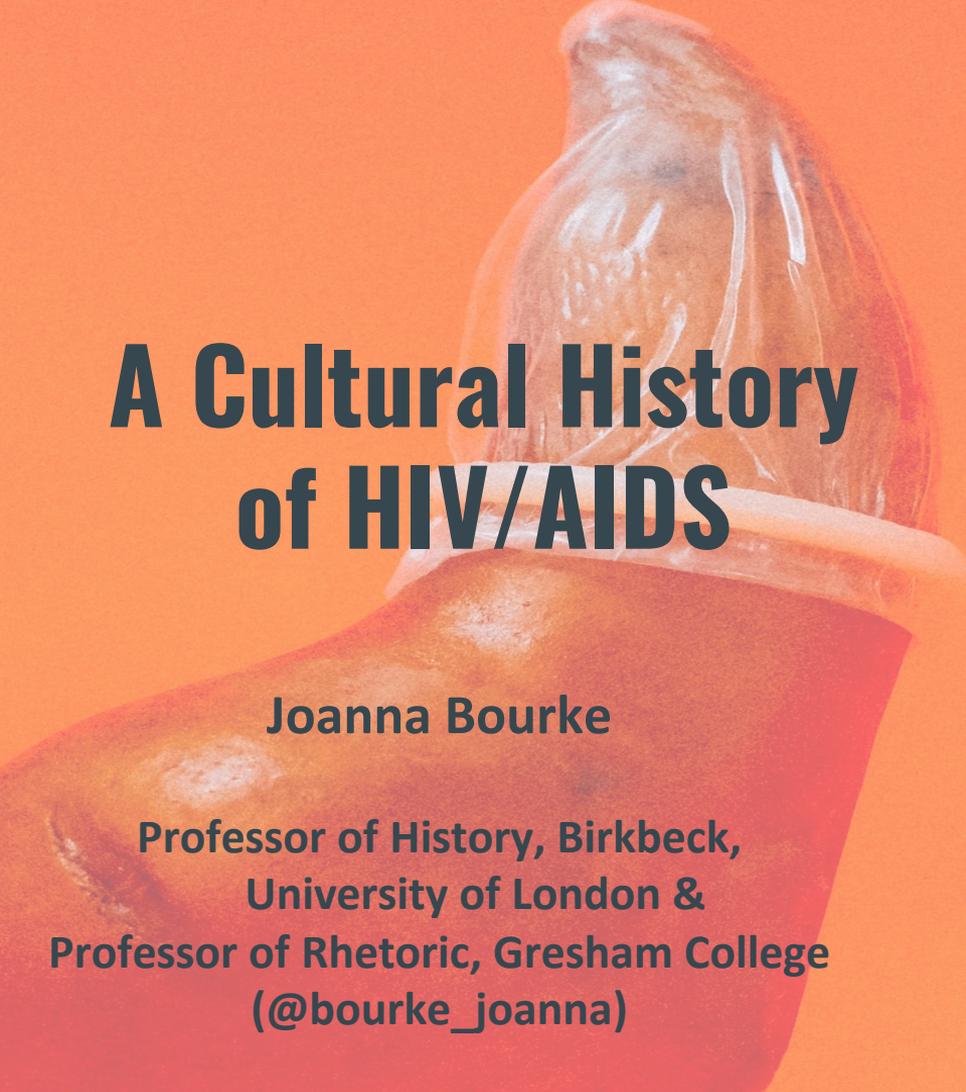
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In 2019, 38 million people were living
with HIV.



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Tom Moran (1987)



A CULTURAL HISTORY OF HIV/AIDS

JOANNA BOURKE

• **LECTURE 4 OF 6**