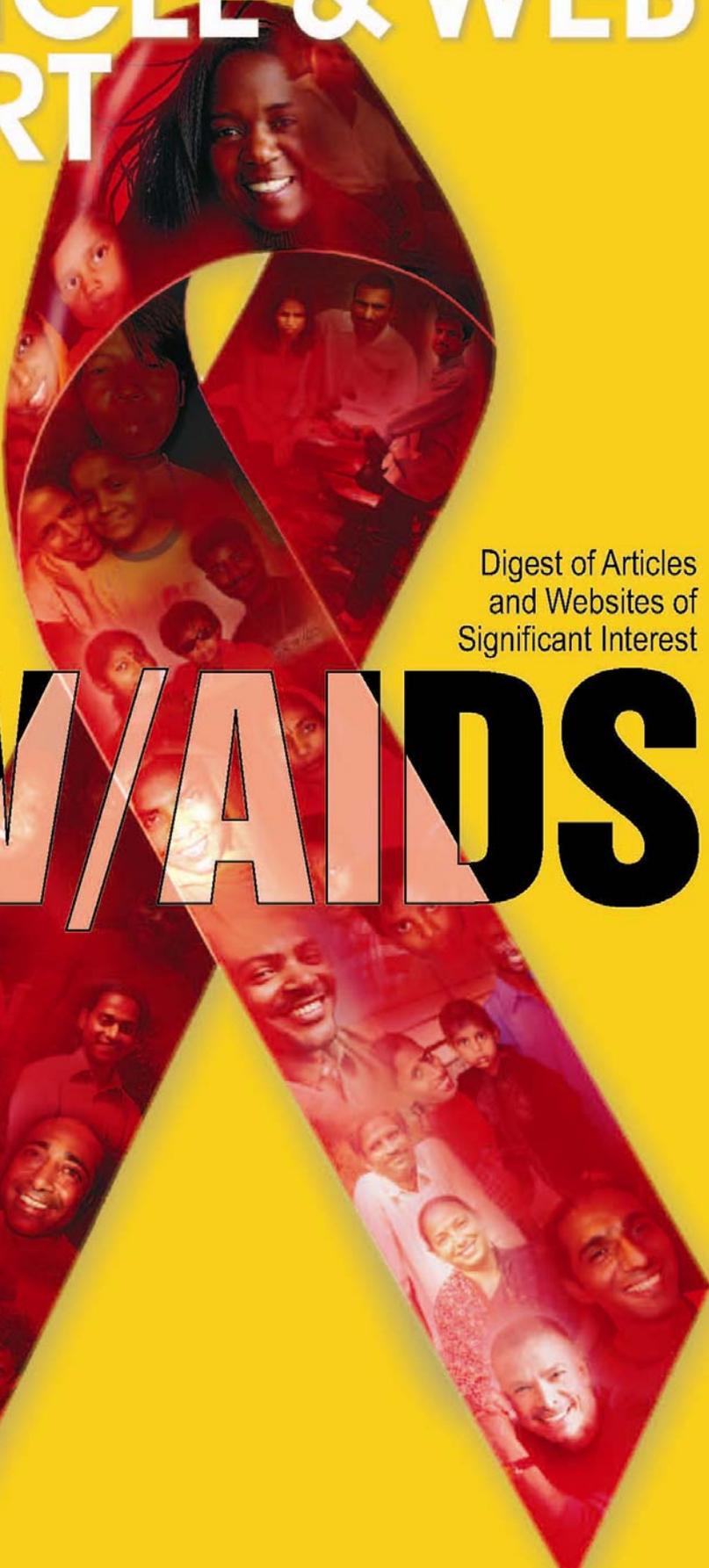


November/December 2011

# ARTICLE & WEB ALERT

Digest of Articles  
and Websites of  
Significant Interest

# HIV/AIDS



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Articles listed in *Article & Web Alert* are available at The American Library nearest to you. Should you wish to receive photocopy of any of the articles, please fill in the attached reply-paid card with your request and mail it to us. We shall mail you the requested articles. For your convenience, addresses of the four American Libraries in India are given on the inside front cover.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send your feedback to Ms. Linda K. Parker, Information Resource Officer, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, The American Center, 24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001.

*Note: Internet sites included in this publication, other than those of the U.S. government, should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.*

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*Researched, compiled and edited by Sanjay Kumar Bhagat,  
Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi.  
Email: BhagatSK@state.gov*

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## HIV/AIDS

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In 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the first cases of AIDS in the United States where a rare pneumonia in young gay men was found to have resulted from infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Soon HIV/AIDS emerged as a global pandemic that still continues to demand urgent attention. According to World Health Organization (WHO), HIV is one of the world's leading infectious killers, claiming more than 25 million lives over past three decades. There were approximately 34 million people living with HIV in 2010. CDC estimates 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV infection. One in five (20%) of those people are unaware of their infection. The situation is far worse in India where an estimated 2.4 million people are infected with HIV and about 40% of these people don't know that they are infected. Hence, it is important for all people who may have been exposed to HIV to be tested, to know their status and get requisite medical care, if warranted. According WHO, most people living with HIV or at risk for HIV do not have access to prevention, care, and treatment.

AIDS is an HIV-induced deficiency of cellular immunity characterized by opportunistic diseases like Pneumonia, Kaposi Sarcoma, tuberculosis and others. Although HIV is a lot like other viruses, including those that cause flu or common cold, there is a vital difference. While the human immune system can clear most viruses over time, it isn't the case with HIV. The virus primarily attacks CD4 or T-cells in the human body. It uses them to make copies of itself and then destroys them. The progressive decline of CD4 reaches a stage where the body cannot fight infections anymore leading to what is diagnosed as AIDS.

To date, there is no cure for AIDS. It is critical to understand and restrict HIV/AIDS from further transmission. HIV is primarily transmitted through a variety of body fluids of infected individuals, such as blood, breast milk, semen and vaginal secretions. The possible means of HIV transmission are unprotected sexual intercourse (anal or vaginal), transfusion of contaminated blood, sharing of contaminated needles, and between a mother and her infant during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. However, HIV does not spread through ordinary day-to-day contact such as kissing, hugging, shaking hands, or sharing personal objects, food or water.

Despite multiple challenges, there have been successes and promising signs for better management of HIV/AIDS. Once considered to be terminal illness, HIV/AIDS is now viewed as a chronic incurable disease. The advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAAT) has increased the life-expectancy of HIV-infected people to a significant extent. Antiretroviral treatment reduces the viral load of the HIV-infected person. While treatment with antiretroviral (ARV) medicines improves the health of those infected with HIV, it also significantly reduces the risk of transmitting HIV to an uninfected sexual partner. Early this year, HPTN-052, a large-scale clinical trial sponsored by the U.S. Government confirmed that treating an HIV-infected individual with antiretroviral drugs can significantly reduce the risk of sexual transmission to an uninfected partner, by about 96%.

The increased longevity of the HIV-infected people comes with another set of social problems since they now need to go back to work, look for career options, and support themselves. The common concerns are workplace discrimination, managing medical needs at the workplace, psychological impact, social stigma, and suicidal tendency in many cases. We all need to understand that people with HIV are part of society. They can continue to live and do their jobs as well as they could before they were infected. We all need to learn to live with HIV. This involves understanding people with HIV, respecting their privacy by not divulging their status to others, and giving them support.

The United States supports a wide range of activities—from research and development to technical assistance and financial support to other nations—to combat the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) initiative, the U.S. has made enormous progress in responding to the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, working with countries heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS to help expand access to treatment, care, and prevention. PEPFAR is the cornerstone and largest component of the U.S. President's Global Health Initiative.

On July 13, 2010, the Obama administration released the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). This ambitious plan is America's first-ever comprehensive coordinated HIV/AIDS roadmap with clear and measurable targets to be achieved by 2015. NHAS has three primary goals—reducing HIV incidence, increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes, and reducing HIV-related health disparities. The ultimate vision for President Obama's NHAS is to make the United States a place where new HIV infections are rare and when they occur, every

person regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstance, has unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.

The articles included in this section are intended to provide general awareness about HIV/AIDS so that informed choices can be made in light of scientific research and risk behaviors.

For additional information, a webliography is presented here for your use. The inclusion of Internet sites other than those of the U.S. government should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein. The websites are current as of publication date and are subject to change at any time.

## Webliography

The AIDS Beacon

<http://www.aidsbeacon.com/>

AIDS Healthcare Foundation

<http://www.aidshealth.org>

AIDS.gov

<http://www.aids.gov>

AIDSinfo -- Information on HIV-AIDS Treatment,  
Prevention and Research

<http://aidsinfo.nih.gov>

The Body -- The Complete HIV/AIDS Resource

<http://www.thebody.com>

Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)

<http://caps.ucsf.edu/>

Center for HIV Information

<http://chi.ucsf.edu/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- HIV/AIDS

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>

eMedicineHealth -- HIV/AIDS

[http://www.emedicinehealth.com/hiv/aids/article\\_em.htm](http://www.emedicinehealth.com/hiv/aids/article_em.htm)

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
<http://www.theglobalfund.org>

Global Health Council -- The Impact of HIV/AIDS  
[http://globalhealth.org/view\\_top.php3?id=227](http://globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=227)

Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-1-Infected Adults and Adolescents  
[http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/contentfiles/AdultandAdolescentGL\\_PDA.pdf](http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/contentfiles/AdultandAdolescentGL_PDA.pdf)

Health Resources and Services Administration -- HIV/AIDS Programs  
<http://hab.hrsa.gov/>

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)  
<http://www.iavi.org>

Kaiser Family Foundation: HIV-AIDS Policy Research, Analysis, Media & Public Health Partnerships  
<http://www.kff.org/hivaids/>

National HIV and STD Testing Resources  
<http://hivtest.org>

National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS)  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/onap/nhas>

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) -- HIV/AIDS  
<http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/research/topics/HIV>

National Institute of Health -- AIDS  
<http://health.nih.gov/topic/AIDS>

National Prevention Information Network (NPIN) -- HIV/AIDS  
<http://www.cdcpin.org/scripts/hiv/>

NIH Office of AIDS Research (OAR)  
<http://www.oar.nih.gov>

Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP)  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/onap>

TeensHealth -- HIV and AIDS  
[http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/infections/stds/std\\_hiv.html](http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/infections/stds/std_hiv.html)

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

<http://www.hhs.gov/>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) -- HIV and AIDS Activities

<http://www.fda.gov/oashi/aids/hiv.html>

U.S. Global Health Initiative

<http://www.ghi.gov>

UNAIDS

<http://www.unaids.org>

UNITAID: HIV/AIDS

<http://www.unitaid.eu/en/projects-mainmenu-3/hivaids-main-menu-28>

United Nations Development Programme -- HIV/AIDS

<http://www.undp.org/hiv>

The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

<http://www.pepfar.gov>

University of Illinois Medical Center -- HIV/AIDS

[http://uimc.discoveryhospital.com/main.php?t=symptom&p=hiv\\_aids](http://uimc.discoveryhospital.com/main.php?t=symptom&p=hiv_aids)

USAID Health -- HIV/AIDS

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/global\\_health/aids](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/aids)

Veterans Aging Cohort Study (VACS)

<http://www.vacobort.org>

WebMD -- AIDS and HIV Health Center - WebMD

<http://www.webmd.com/hiv-aids/default.htm>

World Health Organization -- HIV/AIDS

[http://www.who.int/topics/hiv\\_aids/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/topics/hiv_aids/en/index.html)

## **1. ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTIONS OF VIOLENCE AND HIV/AIDS: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF SERVICE PROVIDERS**

*By Anthony S. DiStefano and Randolph D. Hubach. Violence and Victims, v. 26, no. 1, 2011, pp. 33-52.*

The intersections of HIV/AIDS and several types of violence including intimate partner violence (IPV), child sexual abuse (CSA), and gender-based violence (GBV) have extensively been documented in literature. This research indicates that such violence can subsequently increase the risk of HIV infection and that perpetrating sexual assault and being suicidal are also independently associated with increased risk of HIV infection and transmission. The connection between violence and HIV/AIDS has prompted researchers and health agencies to address violence-HIV/AIDS intersections, especially those involving IPV/IGL against women and sexual assault.

## **2. ADVANCING HIV/AIDS DOMESTIC AGENDA: SOCIAL WORK AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS UNITE**

*By Darrell P. Wheeler. Health & Social Work, v. 36, no. 2, May 2011, pp. 157-158.*

The Obama administration's significant initiative to address HIV/AIDS has been highly appreciated by social workers engaged in HIV/AIDS efforts. Community health worker (CHW) practice models could be highly effective in identifying problems and mobilizing resources. Wheeler discusses CHW and social work models of practice and states that both are built on a commitment to social justice and empowerment and strive for culturally anchored and long-lasting change for vulnerable groups. The author suggests integrating efforts of CHWs and social workers in a revitalized domestic U.S. agenda.

## **3. BATTLING AIDS IN AMERICA: AN EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY**

*By Baligh Yehia and Ian Frank. American Journal of Public Health, v. 101, no. 9, September 2011, pp. e4-e8.*

Responding to the viral growth of HIV/AIDS in the United States since its first occurrence three decades ago, the Obama administration came forward and released the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). NHAS is the most comprehensive federal response to the domestic HIV

epidemic to date. Its goals are focused around three areas—reduce the number of new HIV infections, improve access to care and health outcomes, and reduce HIV-related health disparities. The new strategy has been much praised for its sharp focus, its detailed implementation plan, and its enhanced monitoring process. However, the real challenge lies in seeking adequate fiscal investment and effectively implementing the strategy's objectives within target populations within the next five years.

#### **4. CAREER ISSUES AND CONCERNS FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS**

*By David T. Dahlbeck and Suzanne H. Lease. Career Development Quarterly, v. 58, no. 4, June 2010, pp. 359-368.*

The advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAAT) has shifted the general perception of HIV/AIDS from a terminal illness to a manageable disease. This has brought new hopes to the life of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs). Because PLWHAs are now living longer, career issues corresponding to this increased longevity have surfaced up. These people can now re-enter the workforce or retain their current jobs for a longer period. This raises many career concerns like how their work may be affected, discrimination in the workplace, and managing medical needs at the workplace. Career counselors working with these people have to be cognizant of such factors. This paper offers some suggestions for working with PLWHAs.

#### **5. CHASING THE AIDS VIRUS**

*By Thomas Lengauer. Communications of the ACM, v. 53, no. 3, March 2010, pp. 66-74.*

The critical challenge in clinically addressing AIDS patients with anti-HIV drugs is that the virus almost always develops resistance to the administered drug. Physicians treating AIDS patients encounter this problem very often and need to change the therapy regimen accordingly. This study discusses the use of underlying clinical-resistance databases and statistical-learning methods in supporting choice of an effective therapy.

## **6. CONNECTING DISCOVERY AND DELIVERY: THE NEED FOR MORE EVIDENCE ON EFFECTIVE SMOKING CESSATION STRATEGIES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS**

*By Jenine K. Harris. American Journal of Public Health, v. 100, no. 7, July 2010, pp. 1245-1249.*

Statistics reveal that smoking is more prevalent in Americans living with HIV/AIDS than in the general population. Several studies have been conducted to assess the health risks related to smoking among HIV infected people, but less has been done to evaluate the delivery of smoking cessation interventions for this population. The author suggests that increasing collaborations among discovery and delivery researchers and linkage between discovery and delivery literature. This will not only facilitate more efficient synthesis of new evidence but will also result in faster transition from discovery of health risks to delivery of effective interventions.

## **7. THE END OF AIDS**

*By Jill Neimark. Discover, v. 32, no. 8, October 2011, pp. 42-50.*

Science journalist and contributory editor of Discover Jill Neimark presents a simplified synopsis of how the advances in addressing HIV/AIDS have brought new hope in combating this fearful disease. She talks about various clinical trials and current approaches in treating HIV and AIDS. Neimark discusses how gene therapy trials run by Jay Lalezari could be seen as a potential cure for AIDS. She also talks about combination theory developed by David Ho of Rockefeller University, which can render the virus undetectable in blood bringing hope of years of health for HIV victims. Contributions of Gero Hütter, Jay Lalezari, and David Margolis are also discussed.

## **8. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

*By Caryn Anne Peiffer and Constantine Boussalis. Journal of Development Studies, v. 46, no. 3, March 2010, pp. 556-573.*

The role of international HIV/AIDS aid in developing countries' response to this global epidemic is significant and cannot be ignored. Studies have been conducted to systematically explain the variation in HIV/AIDS policy coverage across countries. Most studies, however, tend to focus

exclusively on the impact of domestic characteristics on policy ignoring the role of foreign aid for HIV/AIDS control. It is surprising that this vital component has often been left out of the equation especially at a time when foreign aid for HIV/AIDS is at all time high. This study attempts to fill this gap in literature by assessing the impact of foreign financing on effective HIV/AIDS responses.

## **9. HEALTH CARE POLICY AND THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS**

*By Paul J. Flaer. Journal of Health Care Finance, v. 36, no. 4, Summer 2010, pp. 75-79.*

This paper explores and discusses the implementation of an ecological model to global policy against HIV/AIDS. The application of public policy in providing medications to a target population, particularly the developing countries, requires accurate assessment of needs, access costs, and avenues of distribution. Some of the key factors in such programs include adherence of prescribed medications, knowledge of side effects, and the use of advanced drug regimes like combination drug therapy or HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy). Public programs are targeted to access ARV (antiretroviral drugs) for the developing world which is considered to be an effective way to access and treat the high morbidity and mortality of HIV/AIDS in these countries.

## **10. HIV TESTING, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GLOBAL AIDS POLICY: EXCEPTIONALISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS**

*By Ronald Bayer and Claire Edington. Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, v. 34, no. 3, June 2009, pp. 301-323.*

The initial phase of HIV antibody testing, after it first became available in 1985, has been associated with the fear of discrimination, stigma, and social exclusion. This fear and the limits of clinical medicine led to clashes of perspectives over HIV testing. The World Health Organization (WHO) advocated screening of blood. By 1992 there was a broad international consensus about ethical and human rights standards on HIV testing, but it faced increasing challenges from clinicians and public health officials. In 2007, two United Nations agencies UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) and WHO issues fresh guidelines to meet the demands of the AIDS pandemic and to extend the benefit of antiretroviral therapy to all regions. Although the decision about HIV testing

is ultimately taken by individual nations, an assessment of the history and dynamics of the recent controversies and their outcome will be helpful while making policy choices.

## **11. HIV, AIDS AND SECURITY: WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

*By Colin McInnes and Simon Rushton. International Affairs, v. 86, no. 1, January 2010, pp. 225-245.*

HIV/AIDS has surfaced as one of the greatest single causes of death and suffering during the past three decades. Apart from millions of HIV victimized individuals and their families, the disease has greatly affected our society. The disease has been widely discussed in terms of national and international security. In a retrospective assessment, this article suggests that HIV/AIDS was only partially securitized and the strength of international consensus over HIV/AIDS as a security issue was overstated. It finds that although the links between HIV/AIDS and security do exist, they are more complex than they appeared earlier. Further, the consequences of its securitization are not homogenous and are difficult to generalize. Although securitization may not be the most effective way of capturing the attention of the policy-makers, the human and social cost of the disease stipulate keeping AIDS firmly on the radar.

## **12. HIV/AIDS INTERVENTIONS IN AN AGING U.S. POPULATION**

*By Stephanie A Jacobson. Health & Social Work, v. 36, no. 2, May 2011, pp. 149-156.*

Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reveal that a significant percentage of HIV infected people in the United States are aged 50 and over. There is also some evidence that the infection rate for adults over the age of 50 may be rising. Scholarly research has indicated the need for HIV/AIDS interventions in the older adults. This has shaken the commonly held earlier notion about the prevalence of HIV in older adults. New interventions are being proposed for preventing HIV/AIDS in older adults. New agenda for future research and interventions is also considered.

### **13. HIV/AIDS, COMORBIDITY, AND ALCOHOL: CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

*By Amy Justice, Lynn Sullivan and David Fiellin. Alcohol Research and Health, v. 33, no. 3, 2010, pp. 258-266.*

Even though alcohol use complicates HIV infections and contributes to comorbid diseases, it is very common among those infected with HIV. The multifaceted impact of alcohol on these patients necessitates a deeper understanding of these interactions and to integrate alcohol treatment with that of HIV infection. Researchers are seeking to develop methods of prioritizing, integrating, and coordinating treatment for alcohol, HIV, and associated comorbid conditions.

### **14. HOW TO KEEP PROMISES: A WAY FORWARD FOR OPTIMIZING HIV/AIDS CARE**

*By Sophie DeLaunay and Christophe Fournier. Harvard International Review, v. 32, no. 2, Summer 2010, pp. 12-15.*

The international community has always been compassionate for and has solidarity with issues related to global health. However, some governments renege on their commitments on grounds of cost-efficiency. This appears to be more significant in the international response to HIV/AIDS. Ezekiel Emmanuel, an architect of President Obama's Global Health Initiative, has used cost-effectiveness arguments to promote mother and child health care over access to treatment for HIV/AIDS. But despite significant improvements both at clinical and public health levels, the epidemic is far from over. The international community is facing two major challenges. First, where to find the resources to address the health needs of HIV patients? And second, how to ensure that the resources are invested in a way that guarantees the best possible health outcome, while remaining cost-efficient?

### **15. RETHINKING GENDER, HETEROSEXUAL MEN, AND WOMEN'S VULNERABILITY TO HIV/AIDS**

*By Jenny A. Higgins, Susie Hoffman, and Shari L. Dworkin. American Journal of Public Health, v. 100, no. 3, March 2010, pp. 435-445.*

Traditionally women have been portrayed most vulnerable victims and transmitters of HIV/AIDS by virtue of their biological differences in susceptibility, reduced sexual autonomy, and men's sexual power and privilege. However, over more than 25 years, this

depiction of women in the scientific and political discourse of HIV/AIDS has undergone significant transformation. This study considers the etiology and evolution of what has been termed the vulnerability paradigm—a model that has been latent within the research literature and policy lexicon. It also explores gender inequality and HIV risk for heterosexual women and men.

## **16. TACKLING VIOLENCE AND HIV/AIDS: GLOBAL HEALTH IMPERATIVES**

*By Sofia Gruskin. American Journal of Public Health, v. 101, no. 6, June 2011, pp. 968.*

Sofia Gruskin, associate editor of *American Journal of Public Health*, discusses the complex relationship between violence and HIV and highlights how this has raised significant public health and human rights concerns across all social classes, genders, cultures, and communities. She expresses concern over the expanding intersection of violence and HIV and offers her opinion on this. According to her, as members of the global health community, we cannot afford to shy away from the issue. Gruskin advocates the need for policy research in this direction to avert HIV and violence.

## **17. UNDERSTANDING BLAME AND BURNOUT IN HIV/AIDS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE**

*By Amandia Speakes-Lewis. North American Journal of Psychology, v. 13, no. 1, March 2011, pp. 133-140.*

HIV, which has emerged as a chronic disease that is still being understood by society, requires extensive medical care as well as coping with the uncertainty of problems that might arise as a result of being HIV positive. Despite better treatment options, the disease continues to be a stigmatized disease in society posing significant challenge to human service professionals helping individuals cope with the disease. Although human service professionals are trying to ensure that HIV positive individuals and their families have access to medical, psychological, social, and educational services, the chronic orientation of this disease has resulted in increased demand on human service workers. An understanding of blame and burnout could be helpful for these professionals in effectively providing better services to the victims of HIV.

## 18. THE "INSIDE JOB" EFFECT

By Dan Berrett. *Inside Higher Ed*, April 19, 2011

[http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/04/19/economists\\_start\\_probing\\_their\\_own\\_ethics](http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/04/19/economists_start_probing_their_own_ethics)

The author, a reporter with *Inside Higher Ed*, notes that many in the economics profession have been stung by their failure to predict the financial crisis, and by suggestions of conflict of interest. In a first move of its kind, the American Economic Association has formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Ethical Standards for Economists, to examine ethics in the field. Berrett writes that this is a significant development, because most economists dismiss the suggestion that they require a code of ethics, arguing that their profession is devoted to impartial empirical analysis. But the assumption that ethical standards are unnecessary to the discipline has begun to crumble in the wake of the financial meltdown of 2008. Academic economists have long had connections with powerful financial firms, regulators and bond raters, and these close ties between academe, government agencies and the financial sector have bred a self-reinforcing group-think in which economists at top university programs share a common perspective and ideology about financial markets and regulation. Even though acknowledgement of such conflicts of interest might not have headed off the financial crash, the author writes that it might make economists think about their consulting work affects their outlook. Berrett writes that some believe that a policy on conflicts of interest isn't enough. What is needed is a change in how economists think about ethics—a shift away from "narrow emphasis on objective, quantifiable truth and prod those in the profession to consider the implications of their work on other people, particularly those in developing countries."

## 19. INVESTING IN GROWTH

By Serkan Arslanalp, Fabian Bornhorst, and Sanjeev Gupta. *Finance & Development*, v. 48, no. 1 March 2010, pp. 34-37.

The authors, all with the International Monetary Fund, write that policymakers in developing countries point to the lack of infrastructure as an impediment to growth and the difficulty in obtaining financing. The authors note that the important question is whether a country should expand its public investment to explore the issue of the productivity of public infrastructure. They conducted a study of 48 advanced and developing nations during the period 1960-2001. They found that, overall, public investment has a positive effect on

growth, however, the higher the levels of public capital stock, the growth effect of additional capital stock diminishes. In advanced economies with very high levels of public capital stock, the growth effect is close to zero, with public investment being used more as a demand management tool to counter the business cycle. The study reveals that for developing economies, the payoff is greater but accrues over a longer period of time.

## **20. WILL WE BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN & REPLACE OUR ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN A POST-PEAK OIL WORLD?**

*By Jeffrey J. Brown. ASPO-USA, posted April 4, 2011*

*<http://www.energybulletin.net/stories/2011-04-04/commentary-will-we-be-able-maintain-replace-our-energy-transportation-infrastructure>*

The author, an independent petroleum geologist, notes that developed countries worldwide are facing huge costs associated with maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure. This will entail a large expenditure of resources and energy, chiefly petroleum, but Brown, who has extensively documented an ongoing and accelerating trend in the decline of global oil exports, believes that large-scale maintenance and replacement is unlikely to happen. In an energy- and resource-constrained future, Brown states that "what can't be funded and maintained won't be funded and maintained"—already, many local governments in the U.S. are turning paved county roads back into gravel because they can't afford the upkeep. Natural disasters, such as the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan and the hurricanes that struck the U.S. Gulf Coast in 2005, will only aggravate the problem. He believes that the U.S. will eventually be forced to conduct "triage" on its infrastructure, however, no serious discussion of this possibility is taking place, as most government planners are still working on the assumption of future increases in automobile traffic.

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## **INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RELATIONS & SECURITY**

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### **21. ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, STRATEGIC FORESIGHT, AND IMPACTS ON MILITARY POWER**

*By Chad M. Briggs. Parameters, v. 40, no. 3, Autumn 2010, pp. 1-15.*

Briggs writes that researchers have accepted for the past two decades that security cannot be well understood without taking environmental factors into account, yet a clear recognition of environmental security

has yet to be adopted at the highest policy levels. The author writes that the environment has long been regarded as a constant, but in recent years there has been recognition that global environmental change presents completely new risks to security, and that new methods must be developed to assess these risks. Briggs argues that military planners are able to assess complex and uncertain risks, but they need to engage with a wider network of researchers and scientists. He explores some of the lessons learned from the security community and the need for scenario planning to provide adequate early warning of security risks.

## **22. UNDERSTANDING THE REVOLUTIONS OF 2011**

*By Jack A. Goldstone. Foreign Affairs, v. 90, no. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 8-16.*

For a revolution to succeed, several factors must converge. It is not often that the interests of elites, the middle class, students, different ethnic and groups, and different socioeconomic groups coincide, and these are the necessary ingredients of a viable revolution. "Sultanist" autocratic regimes, such as those in Egypt and Tunisia, can generate successful revolutions because their power strategies and ways of concentrating wealth ultimately make them vulnerable. But post-revolution transitions are difficult, and implementing reforms will be challenging.

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# **DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS**

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## **23. DIGITAL GOVERNANCE**

*By Anton Woblers. Choice, v. 48, no. 4, December 2010, pp. 627-635.*

The author, a research director and professor at Cameron University, discusses the Internet as the most visible representative of all the innovations in information and communication technologies (ICTs). Woblers notes that the Internet has had a profound effect on political practices in most societies, and ICTs have played an increasingly influential role in shaping social relationships, political power, democratic government, and public services sector across the globe. However, given that the Internet continues to give rise to new forms of interaction between citizens and governments, this new field of study remains in flux. The essay first goes into a brief discussion of the governance of the Internet and society, followed by a second section that focuses on works that address the impact of the Internet and politics on each other, with a special focus on how the Internet affects the democratic process. The final section includes several

comparative studies and books that examine the use of the Internet, generally by governments, to provide public services.

## **24. ON THE DEATH SENTENCE**

*By John Paul Stevens. New York Review of Books, posted December 23, 2010*  
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/dec/23/death-sentence/>

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stevens reviews a book by sociologist and legal scholar David Garland, *The Peculiar Institution: America's Death Penalty in the Age of Abolition*, which argues that the death penalty is unwise and unjust. Garland's historical and contemporary evidence supports the idea that deterrence and retribution are not well served by the death penalty. Stevens, personally knowledgeable about the ruling during his 35-year court tenure, and who has agreed in his opinions on "the pointless and needless extinction of life" that has marginal impact, notes important omissions in the book, while recommending it for those involved in the political process.

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# COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

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## **25. ALL PROGRAMS CONSIDERED**

*By Bill McKibben. New York Review of Books, posted November 11, 2010*  
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2010/nov/11/all-programs-considered/>

Radio commands large audiences in the United States. The author examines the shows and production values that draw loyal listeners to public radio, highlighting the richly nuanced "This American Life," the creation of Ira Glass. The larger news shows of National Public Radio (NPR) have become more homogenized and less provocative over the 40 years of NPR's existence, leaving room for more innovative shows. Despite cheaper production technology, the biggest problem in an era of free podcasting is money to fund the innovators.

## **26. INTERNET FREEDOM: HISTORIC ROOTS AND THE ROAD FORWARD**

*By Alec Ross. SAIS Review, v. 30, no. 2, Summer-Fall 2010, pp. 3-15.*

This article addresses the need to protect and promote the positive social and economic benefits of network technologies by mapping out the principles of Internet freedom, its history, contemporary

context and conceptual framework, and providing an overview of how the work of the State Department can help achieve its goals. In many regards, limits to Internet freedom have grown across the globe. The State Department has and will continue to promote freedom through diplomacy, monitoring and reporting, programming, and policy. In her remarks on Internet freedom in January 2010, Secretary of State Clinton said, "On their own, new technologies do not take sides in the struggle for freedom and progress, but the United States does. We stand for a single Internet where all of humanity has equal access to knowledge and ideas." It is a complicated project that spans difficult issues in economics, human rights, and social opportunity but it is rooted in simple principles that have stood the test of time. Open societies offering equal access to an unfettered marketplace of ideas and commerce flourish and deliver social and economic benefits to their citizens. The work of Internet freedom seeks to bring these goals into twenty-first century statecraft.

## **27. LANGUISHING LANGUAGES: SNAPSHOTS OF EFFORTS AROUND THE GLOBE TO PRESERVE UNIQUE WAYS OF THINKING AND SPEAKING.**

*By Ben Block. World Watch, v. 23, no. 4, July/August 2010, pp. 24-28.*

Almost half of the world's 6700 languages could become extinct by the end of this century, according to one estimate made by the United Nations. If those languages die, a unique view of the world will expire with them. People who live close to their land and rely upon its resources for their existence use their language to describe their environment with a precision and nuance that other languages can't approach. Currently, experts estimate that some 470 languages are on the critical list, 182 of them in the Western Hemisphere, 152 in the Pacific and the remainder divided among other regions. Block reports on one successful effort to resuscitate a dying language in the Hawaiian Islands. The native language was forbidden in schools after the United States annexed the islands in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, so by the 1980s, very few children in Hawaii spoke the language. Parents boycotted the schools and developed their own curriculum to revive the language for a new generation, and now thousands of youngsters speak the language of "Aloha." Some other tribal groups have turned to traditional songs as a tool in language preservation.

## **28. THE IMPACT OF RISING FOOD PRICES ON ARAB UNREST**

*By Tom Gjelten. National Public Radio, February 18, 2011*

<http://www.npr.org/2011/02/18/133852810/the-impact-of-rising-food-prices-on-arab-unrest>

One of the major challenges facing many governments in the Arab world is addressing spiraling global food prices. The author notes that people in developing countries spend a much larger portion of their income on food, which is exacerbated by high rates of unemployment in many Middle East countries. There is not enough food to go around to meet world demand, unfavorable weather during the past year has adversely affected crop yields in many countries, and arable land devoted to biofuel production has further cut into food production. The demand for food in many countries has been growing significantly, for example, a significant percentage of the world's supply of many staples is being shipped to China.

## **29. MIND GAMES: HOW TOXIC CHEMICALS ARE IMPAIRING CHILDREN'S ABILITY TO LEARN**

*By Sandra Steingraber. Orion, March/April 2011*

<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/6162/>

While environmental toxins such as lead have been successfully curbed by law and resulted in a decrease in brain damage in children, many other commonly-used neurotoxins remain unregulated. Chemicals in pesticides, flame retardants and hydrocarbons released by fossil fuels, among other substances that pollute the air, water and general environment, may contribute to the skyrocketing incidence of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and autism. Backing her argument with statistics, the author advocates tough regulations that screen out harmful chemicals before they enter the marketplace.

## **30. TURNING STORMWATER INTO PRODUCTIVE WATER**

*By Michelle Avis. Verge Permaculture, posted March 28, 2011*

<http://www.vergepermaculture.ca/blog/2011/03/28/turning-storm-water-productive-water>

Cities worldwide are facing major challenges in stormwater management, due to the growth in non-permeable surfaces such as asphalt and concrete pavement. Traditionally, most municipal stormwater systems have been designed to carry water away as

quickly as it arrives, by diverting it to storm drains, where it ends up in local streams, rivers and lakes. Conventional stormwater management systems are a major cause of local water pollution by concentrating surface contaminant runoff into local ecosystems. Many innovative, low-cost alternatives to traditional stormwater management are being employed in cities around the world. This article features examples from Sydney, Australia and Tucson, Arizona, USA, such as curb cuts, check dams and constructed wetlands that create permeable areas to allow flood control and water filtration in urban street settings.

### **31. WELCOME TO BARROW, ALASKA, GROUND ZERO FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

*By Bob Reiss. Smithsonian, v. 40, no. 12, March 2010, pp. 58-66.*

A leader of the Inupiat tribe of Alaska calls his town "ground zero" for climate change science. Native Eskimos have studied their climate for generations in the precarious struggle for survival in a hostile environment. Today, scientists are flocking to the Arctic to watch global warming in action. According to a study, the Arctic is warming twice as fast of the rest of the planet. Inupiat leader Edward Itta says preparations must be made for the change, for instance, melting ice will open new shipping lanes and new coastal land. The melting has already created a summer opening of the long elusive Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and commercial shipping traffic will inevitably be drawn to the shorter route. "The Bering Strait will be the new choke point for world shipping," said Coast Guard Admiral Gene Brooks; "we're going to have problems." Eskimo tribes are also concerned about their traditional food supply and how creatures like seals and walrus may be displaced or destroyed by increased commercial traffic.

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## **U.S. SOCIETY, VALUES & POLITICS**

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### **32. CUYAHOGA CONNECTIONS**

*By Tori Woods. Land & People, v. 22, no. 2, Fall/Winter 2010, pp. 10-17.*

Cleveland, Ohio is one of the so-called "Rust Belt" cities, once-thriving industrial centers that went into decline as the nation moved from an industrial to an information age, leaving behind an aging, rusting infrastructure. Too often, these industrial graveyards separate the heart of the surviving city from its waterfront and access to its river

or harbor. A movement has been underway in recent years to clean up former industrial areas and regain river access. This article describes how the effort is unfolding in Cleveland, located on the Cuyahoga River at Lake Erie. A broad consortium of conservation and development groups is coming together to establish parks, trails and greenways through the former industrial area to allow city residents a clear path to the water. Woods quotes one of the principals in the effort, "This work is not just about parks and trails, it's about creating a new Cleveland."

### **33. MY MONSTER, MY SELF**

*By Gary Greenberg. The Nation, April 4, 2011, pp. 27-32.*

The author writes that mobile phones and the Internet have made the young fundamentally different than older adults. Greenberg reviews Nicholas Carr's *The Shallows* and William Powers' *Hamlet's Blackberry*, which attempt to tell us who we are becoming now that we swim in an endless stream of digital data. Their books are in part confessional accounts of their discovery of their dependence on their cell phones and how the online life has changed them. Reading has been supplanted, as Carr puts it, by "the speedy, superficial skimming of information" culled from the links generated by a Google search, which discourages "any deep, prolonged engagement with a single argument, idea, or narrative." Constantly in the digital crowd, we are deprived of depth and substance, even when we don't know it. With every Google search or friend request or tweet or stolen look at your BlackBerry, you are that much more firmly plugged into the collective and that much less in touch with yourself. Some scientists have found that daily use of digital devices "stimulates brain cell alteration." The flood of information makes us more susceptible to distraction; if we want to preserve the health of our brains, says Greenberg, we must carve out a "peaceful spot where contemplativeness can work its restorative magic."

### **34. THE WIDER SKY**

*By Kevin Nance. Poets & Writers, v. 39, no. 2, March-April 2011, pp. 42-49.*

This profile of African-American poet Nikky Finney traces how the complexities of her South Carolina heritage influence her work and her life. Her poems on politics, people and personal relationships are both artful and audacious. Her mentors include poet Nikki Giovanni and the late novelist Toni Cade Bambara, and she now inspires her own creative writing students at the University of Kentucky.

### 35. THE SHOCK OF WAR

*By Caroline Alexander. Smithsonian, v. 41, no. 5, September 2010, pp. 58-66.*

Almost a century after the first cases appeared in World War I, medical science is still struggling to find treatments and cures for American soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with "shell shock." This term was adopted by British practitioners as they attempted to help the walking wounded of The Great War. Today doctors use the terms "traumatic brain injury" or "post-traumatic stress disorder" to describe a patterns of behavior marked by trembling, sleeplessness, rage, tremors, and depression. Alexander reports that military men may have characterized the first cases of the syndrome as a "loss of nerve," rather than a genuine injury, but doctors of the era speculated that close exposure to high-powered explosives created shock waves that disturbed the brain. The analysis is not too far removed from medicine's understanding of brain injury today. While the syndrome was recognized in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, most of the medical records have been lost and medicine did not follow through on the condition of these veterans with comprehensive studies or health assessment. In 2009, the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency released a study demonstrating the effects of blast forces on the brain, and the findings shed new light on the injuries of soldiers at the Somme in 1916, and those in Baghdad in the next century. The study's most important findings, Alexander writes, is that the brain can remain structurally intact after exposure to a blast, but still experience injury due to inflammation. Detection of that inflammation would allow the first clinical diagnoses which would distinguish a brain injury from a stress disorder, leading to better identification of the proper course of care.

Printed and published by Michael Pelletier for the Public Affairs Section,  
U.S. Embassy, American Center, New Delhi.  
Printed at Rakesh Press, New Delhi.

12/11-7200