

EXCERPTS FROM BOOK REVIEWS

Catherine Campbell (2003)

LETTING THEM DIE: WHY HIV PREVENTION PROGRAMMES OFTEN FAIL.

Oxford: James Currey. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Cape Town: Juta/Doublestorey.

Reviews in academic journals

New England Journal of Medicine: "A remarkable booka signal example of why Campbell is considered one of the foremost researchers on HIV and AIDS. It is trenchant, troubling, meticulously reasoned and compellingly written."

Journal of Health Psychology: "This is a splendid and courageous book Tidily organised, properly directed and well-written. It will be significant reading for health and AIDS activists, those involved in development studies and social theorists of various stripes."

New Political Economy: "A superb ethnography of a leading HIV/AIDS prevention programme..... There is an honesty in Campbell's writing that makes uncomfortable reading."

Population and Development Review: "Brave, frank, perceptive a uniquely detailed description and interpretation."

Health Education Research: "The book is a major achievement, setting the standard for rigorous evaluation of planning and delivering HIV prevention. It should be required reading for all interested in developing or evaluating social interventions to promote health."

Anthropology in Action: "Arguably the most important practitioner critique to have appeared in recent years a landmark book I salute the author's intellectual honesty."

European Journal of Development Research: "a superb analysis of community development initiatives well researched, intelligently summarised and riveting an important and compelling contribution"

Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology: "a compelling demonstration of the value and power of qualitative research and process evaluation intriguing and important provides an inspiring intervention paradigm"

Community Development Journal: "An unusually reflective piece of work an extremely useful text for development practitioners who are open to a brutally honest (yet constructive) commentary on why participatory methods are so difficult to implement successfully."

Journal of International Development: "A forceful presentation of a theoretically well-informed and comprehensively researched critique of participatory community development."

Psychology and Health: "This book shows how far some psychologists have come in distilling the quintessence of the discipline in the interests of making genuinely trans-disciplinary social science a vivid, compelling and salutary tale and a cameo of a fascinating alternative approach."

AIDS-Care: "The quality of Campbell's engagement with the socio-political issues surrounding the AIDS epidemic is arresting – the book makes riveting reading, a rare combination of sophisticated social science and a real page-turner."

Health Education and Behavior: “an important and compelling contribution to the field of public health education recommended to all those interested in finding ways of addressing the basic issues of health care inequality and social injustice through community education and organisation”

The Community Psychologist: “Few scientists have the will or candour to detail the shortcomings of their efforts This book is must reading for those planning HIV prevention programs not only in the developing world, but also here at home (in the USA)”.

International Journal of Health Planning and Management: “Extremely interesting readingI urge all people involved in HIV/AIDS prevention to read this book carefully and to build on the significant arguments developed.”

Sexually Transmitted Infections: “.....an excellent book.....”

Psychology in Society: “An important wake-up call. Campbell knows ...how to bring a well-thought argument to a wide audience... excellently written, well organised, with an accessible style in its narrative and in the more complex theoretical ideas.”

Population Studies: “A most useful, challenging and thought-provoking book. It compels us to listen to people, think out of the box, look for new practices and muster our drive and energies to design programmes that work faster than the epidemic”

South African Journal of Science: “Campbell writes with passion and concern and her report deserves to be read and clearly understood.”

African Affairs: “... an excellent case study the author takes a blunt, brave, principled and unflinching stand a rare and positive contribution to the study of HIV/AIDS”

African Journal of AIDS Research: “...an important contributionskilfully and thoughtfully examines complex issues an invaluable resource for practitioners within the government, donor and research sectors”

AIDS Analysis Africa: “It is certain that this book will stimulate debate I strongly recommend this book for the content, style and insightful contribution to ongoing research in the HIV/AIDS field.”

Independent Education: “The ability to ask awkward questions is a distinguishing feature of the better academics The rigour and integrity of the research will satisfy academic readers; lay readers will be able to access much of value through Campbell’s clear and fluent style.”

Development and Change: “This important book should be read by all in community-based work.”

Journal of Modern African Studies: “An important book that engages with complex questions.”

Canadian Journal of African Studies: “..... throwing large sums of money at the problem of HIV/AIDS will have less than optimal effect unless new creative projects emerge.*Letting Them Die* is a key text in helping us find solutions that will lead towards meaningful responses to the pandemic.”

Development Policy Review: “an essential read for development practioners and policy makers”

Journal of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS: “Well-structured and written in language that is easy to understand This book provides a compelling argument a must-read.”

AIDS Bulletin: “An exceptionally important undertaking If we can learn from some of the experiences and locate AIDS as a complex and all-encompassing social issue, we'll be on the way to

more successful interventions An outstanding, essential read.”

Evaluation and Program Planning: “thoughtful and well writtenthis is an extremely valuable book”

Australasian Review of African Studies: “Timely and importantThere is much that can be learnt and applied in this thoughtful and challenging analysis. We must take this book seriously.”

Journal of Health Communication (in press)

New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy: “A sober reminder that AIDS is not solely a health and treatment issue.”

Media reviews

Alex de Waal, **Times Literary Supplement:** “Campbell’s study is the best book yet written on the struggle to control HIV theoretically powerful, thoughtful and vivid, this is a superb ethnography of both the epidemic and of a brave attempt to stop it.”

R W Johnstone, **Sunday Times (London):** “Anyone who wants to understand the closed circle of denial and death should read this book.”

Sunday Independent (South Africa): “Campbell skilfully probes taken-for-granted platitudes about community participation and empowerment a rare and worthwhile book.”

African Review of Books: “ of universal interest ... a guidebook for anyone running or working in a health related programme in a developing country

Daily Despatch (South Africa): "This is a disturbing and necessary publication a meticulous piece of research that has more than academic value it cries out for action"