

**Title: "Drugs Into Bodies:" AIDS and the Constitutional Limits of Capitalism**

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Abstract: This paper will explore the effects of AIDS activism on pharmaceutical power and profit. It examines two AIDS activist organizations -- ACT UP New York and South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign -- exploring what they respectively contributed to twenty-first century biopolitics. It shows how the American activists' efforts tended to facilitate opportunities for the pharmaceutical industry to get drugs onto the market, while their South African counterparts deployed the instrument of the post-apartheid constitution to limit that power globally. The life-and-death pragmatism of the cause meant that two organizations with the same agenda both *expanded* pharmaceutical power, and then subsequently *circumscribed* it. The paper concludes that the existential imperative to get AIDS 'drugs into bodies' created much of the landscape of biocapital and bioconstitutionalism we still inhabit today.

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