



UNIQUE PRECARITIES: Full Resources

We've compiled these resources created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by artists and activists from uniquely precarious communities, and paired them with research and guidelines from the medical, bioethics, and legal fields. We are centering artist/activist/community response in the dialogue between public health policies and the research being published by clinicians, bioethicists, lawyers, and scholars. In this way, we hope to honor the experiential knowledges arising from the communities most heavily impacted by policies that often were created without their representation. If we are to be inclusive, all domains of knowledge — personal, communal and academic — must be acknowledged as holding value.

This is by no means a comprehensive list. Rather, we offer this as a prompt for further thinking about the creative work coming from these communities and cultures during COVID-19.

--- Charlee Huffman, Marina Tsaplina, Meghan Moe Beitiks

What are Unique Precarities made of?

- Community Knowledges
- Historic & Ancestral Precedents
- Creative Care
- Mourning & Honoring
- The Urgency of COVID

Who may be Uniquely Precarious?

- Disability/Immunocompromised Communities
- Experiencing Homelessness
- Marginalized Communities
- Elder Communities
- Pregnancy
- Essential Care Workers
- Indigenous Communities



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COMMUNITY ARTIST / ACTIVIST RESOURCES

There is No One Way

“As with many other marginalized communities, disabled artists and activists have always figured out how to exist and thrive in ways that may seem atypical or inferior by “normal” standards.”



Creative Responses to COVID-19: U.S. Department for Arts and Culture Listening Shareback

We broke down what we heard into four different priority areas:

Fund: artists and cultural workers are struggling economically.

Heal: a need to pace ourselves and to find creative ways to support personal and community mental health and wellbeing for the long journey ahead

Connect: From creative uses of Zoom, to Story Circles, to socially-distanced public art projects, artists are showing the power of creativity to build local connections. We were reminded also to think of internet connectivity as a privilege and to consider the communities without digital access.

Change the damn system: The ways that COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable has highlighted just how broken our system already was. It wasn't working for people who are incarcerated, for immigrants, for the elderly, disabled, poor, homeless, queer, black, Indigenous and other people of color. Indigenous communities revisiting the generational

ACADEMIC / MEDICAL / LEGAL RESOURCES

People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions - CDC



COVID-19 and The Naturalization of Vulnerability

“Seniors and elders in nursing homes and elsewhere aren't inherently vulnerable; nor are disabled people in institutions inherently vulnerable. Both of these groups (among others) are made vulnerable.”



Structural Racism, White Fragility, and Ventilator Rationing Policies

Hastings Bioethics Forum



Ethics Talk: Disability Community Perspectives on COVID-19

AMA Journal of Ethics



April 24, 2020 Letter to Expand Pay and Definition of Essential Care Workers

“We urge Congress to adopt an inclusive definition of who is an essential worker and require premium pay to all essential workers who must go to work during this pandemic.”



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trauma of pandemic are experiencing some of the highest rates of COVID-19 infections. Black people continue to bear the brunt of police and white supremacist violence under COVID-19.



Health Activism, Creative Practice, & the Medical Humanities

A symposium that explored the arts' capacity to help us reimagine and produce individual and collective well-being. Crucial here is a consideration of how marginalized communities develop arts of knowing and doing health in conversation with and contestation of dominant biomedical models and institutions.



Poems of Protest, Resistance, and Empowerment

A curated selection of poems that "rail against complacency and demonstrate why poetry is necessary and sought after in moments of political crisis."



How to help Black people with disabilities

List of resources prioritizing Black people with disabilities.



Many Undocumented Immigrants are Frontline Workers, But Their Families Can't Get Government Aid

"Being called 'essential' doesn't change the fact that we, as undocumented people, are having to keep this country running, but are also kept out of any government aid."



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The Color of Corona:

COVID-19 deaths analyzed by race and ethnicity

A regularly updated research document by APM Research Lab. As of May 19, 2020, nearly 92,000 Americans had died of COVID-19. Data about race is available for 88% of these deaths.



Infection Control Deficiencies Were Widespread and Persistent in Nursing Homes Prior to COVID-19 Pandemic

A detailed report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office: "Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we found that most nursing homes were cited for infection prevention and control deficiencies (82% of those surveyed from 2013-2017). About half of these homes had persistent problems and were cited across multiple years."



African American Policy Forum: COVID-19 "Under the Blacklight"

A series of symposiums that address the COVID-19 pandemic from an intersectional lens. Topics include 'Mobilizing Whiteness to Re-Open America', 'COVID in Confinement', 'The Intersectional Failures that COVID Lays Bare' and more.



Red circle: Disability/Immunocompromised Communities

Yellow circle: Experiencing Homelessness

Orange circle: Marginalized Communities

Pink circle: Elder Communities

Green circle: Pregnancy

Dark red circle: Essential Care Workers

Bright pink circle: Indigenous Communities



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Grieving Our Collective Loss—One Stitch at a Time

“...even though my life’s work has prepared me to understand precisely this moment in history, I’m finding scholarly mechanisms too abstract in the face of material loss. There is an ever-growing, gaping maw of a “people-shaped hole in the universe” that I cannot feel.”



Artists In a Time of Global Pandemic (ASL & Captioned)

HowlRound panel discussion For US-Based Freelance Artists and Cultural Workers in all Disciplines



When the World is Remade, Make It Like Appalachia

“We live in a remote, rural area in central Appalachia. I joke darkly that everything is wonderful here except there are no jobs and no healthcare. The pandemic is exposing these sizeable gaps—who has care, who has nothing—compounded by race, class, and geography. But it’s also reinforcing for me why I have lived where I do for so long: in the face of the pandemic, my small community has supported each other, stronger than ever. With inequitable access to resources, we have always had to.”



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March 28, 2020 BULLETIN: Civil Rights, HIPAA, and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

After disability advocacy groups filed civil rights complaints against discriminatory state and hospital triage policies, the HHS Office of Civil rights responded with guidance affirming the civil rights of people with disabilities.



Evaluation Framework for Crisis Standard of Care Plans

A document from leading disability advocacy organizations that goes into greater detail on the guidance issued by the HHS Office of Civil Rights.



COVID-19 Triage and Disability: What NOT To Do

“One core argument against some of the emerging COVID-19 triage protocols is that they are discriminatory against disabled people when they use criteria that deprioritize them because of a belief that their lives are of less value because they are of less quality.”



#WeAreEssential: Why Disabled People Should Be Appointed to Hospital Triage Committees

“We must now do everything we can to avoid a triage decision-making process that pushes disabled people to the side. One important action is to appoint people with disabilities, and especially those of color, to hospital triage committees.” More from Hastings Bioethics Forum on COVID-19



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What Indian Country Remembers About Survival

As the coronavirus spreads, North America’s Indigenous Peoples hold a unique experience of stress and fear because of this blood memory. In the 18th century, as European settlers sought to colonize Indigenous lands, they weaponized germs, giving blankets infected with smallpox to tribal communities to slow down Native resistance and to decimate Native populations.



Culture Surge

“We believe that artists and culture-makers are the visionary leaders needed to galvanize us towards a future rooted in justice, care, and connection.”



Center For Cultural Power - Confronting Crisis with Imagination

“If we get this right, we’ll never go back to normal.”



Disability, Creativity, and Care in the Time of COVID-19

“We are experiencing increased vulnerability, but, at the same time, our ingenuity, knowledge, and genius skills are suddenly relevant to the rest of humanity.”



Mask for lip-reading

A mask design that is accessible to the D/deaf community.



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The Frailty of Disability Rights

“This Essay surfaces a broader, unresolved issue in disability law laid bare by the current pandemic—that disability rights have never had the public understanding and buy in necessary ... to generate large scale structural reform.”



Coronavirus and the Politics of Care - Law and Political Economy

“The most urgent need is for a new politics of care in this pandemic”



Achieving A Fair and Effective COVID-19 Response: An Open Letter to Vice-President Mike Pence, and Other Federal, State and Local Leaders from Public Health and Legal Experts in the United States

“The letter calls for direct interventions to try to reduce the precarity in which so many workers, carers, and migrants today in the US live, so that everyone is in a position to cooperate with recommendations that will benefit us all.”



Sustaining the Well-Being of Healthcare Personnel during Coronavirus and other Infectious Disease Outbreaks

from the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress



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Petra Koppers in "The Leader" – Black Earth Institute

Petra Koppers wants "her audiences to find the healing she has by learning about disability culture" which can help people to "find the strength in their own bodies," especially as they face what she deemed the current "onslaught" of conditions such as the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.



Ableism - an updated definition

"A system that places value on people's bodies and minds based on societally constructed ideas of normalcy, intelligence, excellence and productivity. These constructed ideas are deeply rooted in anti-Blackness, eugenics, colonialism and capitalism.



NoBodyisDisposable.org

"We are people targeted by triage plans during the COVID-19 pandemic — people with disabilities, fat people, old people, people with HIV/AIDS or other illnesses — and our loved ones who don't want us to die. We partner with social justice and civil rights organizations, as well as medical professionals to demand policies that avoid triage and avoid discrimination in triage."



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Caring for our caregivers during COVID-19

List of Resources from the American Medical Association



Arts Access: Messy, Hard, Oh-So-Worthwhile Work

Led by disability studies scholars and disability activists, a movement is underway to hold arts institutions accountable for the lack of accessible programming and accommodations for people with disabilities.



Southern Poverty Law Center Statement on CDC Statement on Extension of CDC Order

Public health experts have confirmed that expelling hundreds of unaccompanied children and blocking asylum seekers is not a rational response to the public health challenges our country faces. Instead of turning asylum seekers and unaccompanied children away at the U.S. border, we can and should follow the advice of public health experts to implement evidence-based policies that will protect all of us and allow us to live up to our moral and legal responsibilities to these vulnerable groups.



 Disability/Immunocompromised Communities

 Experiencing Homelessness

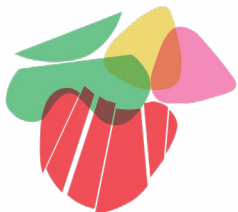
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The Official Virtual Experience | Crip Camp

Topics include “Shedding Shame & Embracing Wholeness: Why We Must Address Internalized Ableism”, “Our Worth, Our Humanity: Disability Justice as a Spiritual Practice” and many more.



“Not Fragile”: Survivor-Led Mutual Aid Projects Flourish in a Time of Crisis

“The adaptability of people who have always been “at risk”



Puppetry and Disability Aesthetics

“Disrupting responses of fear and disgust; reimagining beauty, dignity, and worth; and calling us to conscience is a tremendous space of social change in which the arts ... have a singularly powerful offer to make.”



Transition Is Inevitable, Justice Is Not: A Critical Framework For Just Recovery

“You only need to articulate the right to breath when it is being infringed upon.”



Performance Despite the Pandemic:

Continuing to Create at the Intersection of Coronavirus, Crisis, and Care



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Southern Poverty Law Center fights to keep children out of JD and other encloses spaces during pandemic

“The case is part of a broader initiative the SPLC and its partners have undertaken to free young people in danger of the coronavirus – and other health risks – from juvenile detention facilities, correctional facilities and other group placements. The SPLC is looking to represent more youth who have been detained during the pandemic.”



Southern Poverty Law Center Statement on Passage of HEROES Act

“We commend members of the U.S House of Representatives for passing the HEROES Act. It is an important step to ensuring critical resources go to those who need it most, particularly communities of color in the deep South.”



Pregnancy during COVID- What Are the Risks?


If you are pregnant, you recently delivered a baby or you are breast-feeding, you’re probably concerned about the impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on you and your baby. Here’s what you need to know.



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Get Well Soon!

An archive of comments from GoFundMe health campaigns: "Now might be a good time to rethink what a revolution can look like. Perhaps it doesn't look like a march of angry, abled bodies in the streets. Perhaps it looks something more like the world standing still because all the bodies in it are exhausted—because care has to be prioritized before it's too late."



Lessons in Belonging from Indigenous Leaders

"Indigenous peoples are rising up to care for their communities in beautiful ways, showing that resilience has lasted for centuries and will continue long after this pandemic has passed.

What can the world learn from us during this time? Why is being Indigenous important? We are a constant reminder that the land is always listening."



Decolonizing Community Care in Response to COVID-19

"Now more than ever it is imperative for us to decolonize from individualism and reconnect with ways of community care."



Permanently Organized Communities

"A just transition to economies of sacredness and care in this emerging COVID-19 moment"



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If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or raising young children

Although there are currently no data showing that COVID-19 affects pregnant people differently than others, we do know that pregnant people are at greater risk of getting sick from other respiratory viruses than people who are not pregnant. Sometimes, this causes adverse outcomes for the mother or child. Therefore, if you are pregnant, be mindful about reducing your risk of getting sick.



COVID-19. Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Experts are learning more every day about the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is following the situation closely. This page will be updated as ACOG learns new information for pregnant and breastfeeding women.



US Interagency Council on Homelessness

Homelessness services systems should be working closely with their city and county governments and public health systems to prepare for COVID-19 disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.



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Protect the Sacred

“Protect the Sacred started as an emergency response to the growing crisis in the Navajo Nation from COVID-19.”



**‘White, Conservative, and Dumb’
—and Other Lies About Rural America**

How rural organizers are building change in their communities by focusing on what politicians ignore: relationships.



The Holiness of Being Broken: Trauma and Disability Justice

And like many people with complex ancestral and childhood trauma, I got sick and stayed sick. I have Lupus, an autoimmune disease correlated with trauma. War veterans and domestic abuse survivors are statistically more likely to develop it, as are people of color and cisgender women. There is not medical research on transgender and non-binary people and Lupus, but anecdotally it is clear to me that we also suffer from high rates of autoimmune disease that is linked to trauma. We are literally sickened by our historical, systemic and present traumas.



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State of Play: COVID-19 and Homelessness

This document was created and supported by the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and UnitedHealthcare Community & State.



COVID-19 and Homelessness

Protecting people experiencing homelessness is critical for saving lives, containing the spread, and preventing our hospitals from being overwhelmed.



Media, Inequality and Change Center

“Communication is a diverse discipline, but one that consistently deals with some of the most current and relevant topics we face. Annenberg School for Communication researchers study everything from the ongoing crisis in journalism, to how gig workers use apps to make a living, to efforts to get smokers to quit. But no matter their area of specialty, many Annenberg faculty and students have responded to recent events by pivoting their work to address what may be the world’s most urgent problem: coronavirus, or COVID-19.”



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Coronavirus and Spirituality

Today’s episode is about the coronavirus and spirituality with Elliot Kukla, a rabbi at the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center in San Francisco where he has provided spiritual care to those who are dying, ill, or bereaved since 2008. I got a chance to talk with Elliot about a recent essay he wrote for The New York Times titled “My Life Is More ‘Disposable’ During This Pandemic.” Elliot is grateful to his partner Abby Weintraub for her care and collaboration that makes all his work possible.



The Indigenous communities that predicted Covid-19

“Indigenous leaders from Brazil and Indonesia emphasized the role that traditional knowledge, practices and land stewardship can play in protecting the planet. These protections, they said, extend not just to lessening climate change and biodiversity loss, but to reducing the risk of future pandemics.”



Native Americans & COVID-19 Town Hall

“Our values and our ancestral teachings are so relevant right now,” said Jodi Archambault of the Wend Collective during the town hall. “Communities are planting gardens, children are learning songs, and they’re learning languages. Without audiences, people are just doing it because it makes their hearts sing.”



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Open Letter Advocating for Anti-Racist Health Response

White supremacy is a lethal public health issue that predates and contributes to COVID-19. Black people are twice as likely to be killed by police compared to white people, but the effects of racism are far more pervasive. Black people suffer from dramatic health disparities in life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality, chronic medical conditions, and outcomes from acute illnesses like myocardial infarction and sepsis. Biological determinants are insufficient to explain these disparities.



National Alliance on Mental Illness

COVID-19 Resource and Information Guide

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted in an unprecedented crisis that affects not only our physical health and daily lives, but also our mental health. To address these needs, NAMI is committed to providing credible information and resources to help people navigate through this crisis. In this guide, you will find answers to questions ranging from how to manage anxiety during this difficult time, to how to access medication while in quarantine, to how to deal with the loss of a loved one to COVID-19.



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#blacklivesmatter COVID-19 Petitions

“Join us and sign both of the petitions below today.”



Color of Change Coronavirus Response

“Color Of Change is the nation’s largest online racial justice organization. We help people respond effectively to injustice in the world around us. As a national online force driven by 1.7 million members, we move decision-makers in corporations and government to create a more human and less hostile world for Black people in America.”



“Naming the Lost”

NYC Artists Built Memorials with 24-hour Vigil

Physical memorials across NYC honor the lives lost to COVID-19. “Naming the Lost” was a 24-hour online national vigil to draw attention to the lack of a national mourning and to encourage attendees to unite across differences to ensure everyone receives the care they need.



Turtle Disco Classes

“Dedicated to providing a welcome and supportive environment, grounded in a disability culture framework. Zoomshell Connection with Turtle Disco Kaffeeklatsch: connect, check-in, and exchange about our creative lives during viral times.”



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LGBTQ People and COVID-19

LGBTQ+ people experience health disparities. Barriers to care cause us to be less likely to get medical care; and mean we’re more likely to have compromised health in general. Health disparities magnify the impact COVID-19 could have on us.



Trans People and COVID-19

Trans adults are also more likely to score their health as poor or fair compare to the general population. More than 1 out 5 transgender adults have at least one or more chronic condition, such as diabetes, arthritis, or asthma. Fear of discrimination keeps many of us from going to the doctor.



Directory of Peer Respite

A peer respite is a voluntary, short-term, overnight program that provides community-based, non-clinical crisis support to help people find new understanding and ways to move forward. It operates 24 hours per day in a homelike environment. Successful peer respites are currently operating in California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wisconsin.



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The Intersections of Disability and Violence

NPR called it the “assault epidemic no one talks about.” Each year, people with disabilities—physical, mental, intellectual, and others—face disproportionate rates of sexual and domestic violence. And too often, they do not receive the support they need.



Global Network Responses to COVID-19 Ethnicity Data

- Black Lives Matter

“This virus is devastating to us. We are the essential workers who keep the country going; we are the mail carriers, delivery personnel, transportation providers, and hospital workers. We cannot just #stayhome. Yet, we represent the vast majority of COVID-related deaths in Chicago, Louisiana, and Michigan — Black people are dying at rates that are two and three times our population share — and that is only what we know right now, these numbers will increase as the virus continues to engulf our vulnerable communities.”



In Memoriam of the Art World’s Romance with Diversity

When the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) announced that it had terminated its educators’ contracts and that it would be years before it would resume regular operations to consider hiring them back, the NYC cultural sector shuddered.



contraCOVID

Contra COVID is an organization dedicated to helping Latino and immigrant families during this pandemic. We are a group of students and professionals from Harvard Medical School and medical institutions around the country who are dedicated to ensuring that Latino and immigrant individuals have the information they need to protect themselves and their families.



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Mapping Access: Mourning, Mobilization and Mutual Aid

“In the last few months, there has been an immense amount of collective grief in our communities. We grieve the lives lost to a global pandemic, particularly the ways that the failures of infrastructure and prevailing medical ableist attitudes have devalued Black and Indigenous people, elders, and disabled people, further exacerbating existing healthcare inequalities and hierarchies of valued and devaluated life.”



Alliance of Artist Communities: Unbreakable Solidarity

“You ask what can you do as arts and culture workers? Should you invite an artist to lead a talk or town hall? Reach out to Black alumni and try to process this moment with them? Organize a cohort around the theme of social justice? None of these are your next step.”



MAKE Studio . . . and making it work during COVID-19

Resources, virtual events, etc.



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Crip Camp/Color of Change Relief Fund

The Crip Camp impact campaign in partnership with Color of Change has established an emergency relief fund for disabled creatives and activists. Many have lost all or most of their income, and – as freelancers or independent contractors – they don’t qualify for unemployment benefits. The fund will ensure that activists, storytellers and cultural influencers of the future can continue the vital work that Crip Camp champions.



Racism is a Public Health Issue

Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s panel/discussion series on racism during COVID: featuring relevant artists & researchers.



Coronavirus Resource Kit

This compilation features resources from disabled, queer, elderly, Asian, and indigenous people. Mutual aid projects from Seattle, Philadelphia, DC, Twin Cities, Boston, and Chicago have been added



The Okra Project

The Okra Project is a collective that seeks to address the global crisis faced by Black Trans people by bringing home cooked, healthy, and culturally specific meals and resources to Black Trans People wherever we can reach them.



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Sins Invalid

Many of us who are immunocompromised/suppressed or chemically injured have had to think about how many people we will encounter on any given day, what that will expose us to, and how it could impact our health. It's an irony that the whole world is talking about and problem solving with us now. It's painful that able bodied/minded people evidence their ableist privilege with frustration that air travel is inaccessible, that their schedules are impacted by others' schedules, that they can't do their normal social routines... Welcome to our world!



What public health experts want critics to know about why they support the protests

"People are in the streets because they have to be," Rhea Boyd, a pediatrician who works in California's Bay Area, says. "Because that is how dire things are. Even in the setting of a pandemic, where it seems like being out there risks your life. There are so many risks on your life. You've got to be out there to try to protect it. People need, and black folks in particular, need a ton of changes to happen immediately."



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Public Health Experts say the pandemic is exactly why protests must continue.

“Facing a slew of media requests asking about how protests might be a risk for COVID-19 transmission, a group of infectious disease experts at the University of Washington, with input from other colleagues, drafted a collective response. In an open letter published Sunday, they write that “protests against systemic racism, which fosters the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 on Black communities and also perpetuates police violence, must be supported.”



Kairi during COVID

A short film by Pamela Longsword commissioned by Oolite Arts.



How to Survive Yet Another Plague

“So here are a few other lessons from living through HIV.”



What Lessons does the AIDS Crisis offer for the coronavirus pandemic?

“One lesson from aids was about the power of communities coming together to take care of one another, to touch one another, to act, using bodies—often frail bodies, always endangered bodies, sometimes even dead bodies—to fight.”



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