


| Speaker Name   | Statement               |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Jane Bruton    | No Interests to declare |
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# CULTURE AND HIV: 30 YEARS OF HIV DIAGNOSIS

The 1980s



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# The Thatcher decade: the rise of individualism

Victorian values

Centrality of the Family

Section 28

Freemarket Capitalism

Dismantling the welfare  
state

Rise in poverty and  
inequality

Destruction of the trade  
unions

Northern Ireland

Falklands War



“And you know there is no such thing as society. There are individual men and women and there are families. And no government can do anything except through people and people must look to themselves first. It’s our duty to look after ourselves and then, also to look after our neighbour.”

Thatcher 1987 Woman’s Hour

# The decade of counter culture

Spitting Image

Brixton Riots 1981

Health Strike 1982

Alternative comedy

Miners Strike 1984

Live AID 1985

UK AIDS Vigil

organisation 1987

Nurses' grading dispute  
1988



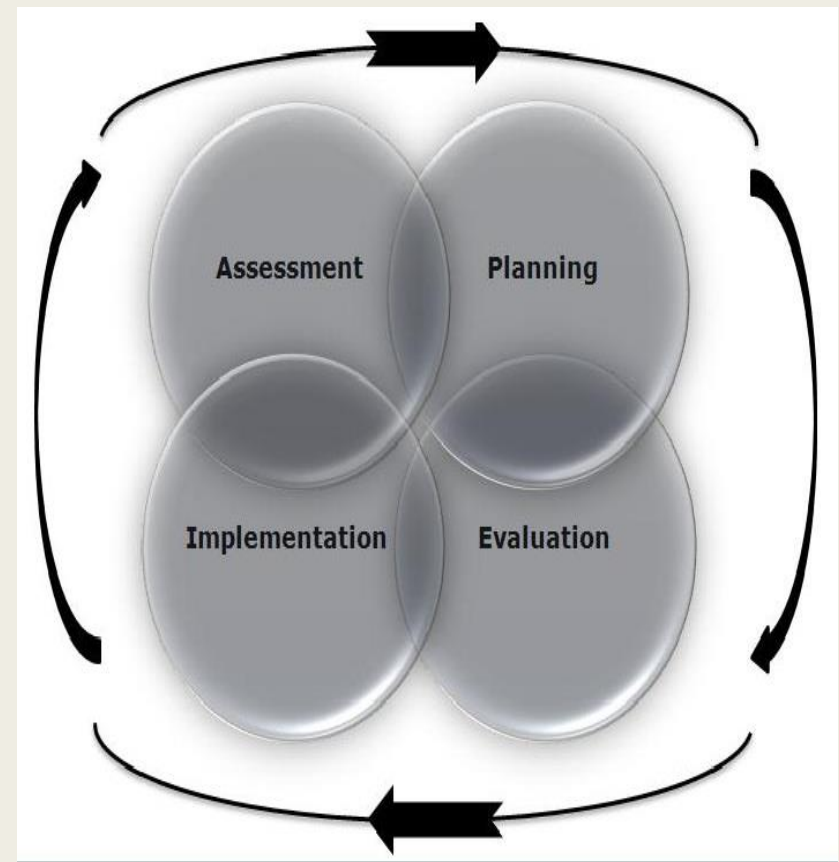
# Nursing: The decade of theory into practice. The patient is recognised as an individual

Wave of Nursing Theories 70s and 80s: Unique nursing knowledge that explains nature of the human-universe-health interrelationship. eg Orem, Peplau, Roper Logan Tierney.

1977 GNC circular embraces the Nursing Process.. Exam, assessment and syllabus changed

Nursing Process: clinical judgement balances personal interpretation and research evidence to categorise the patients issues and the course of action

Debate amongst theorists matched with resistance in practice. Burford Nursing Development Unit . HIV nurses begin to implement.





# The Nursing Process

“The most revolutionary and positive thing that happened to nursing” Daws 1982

“Without science art is sheer sentimentality or worse thoughtless routine. Without art the science is dehumanised and dehumanising “ McFarlane 1983

# A decade of uncertainties and myths

Uncertainties of biomedicine: GRID, the 4 H's, women not at risk.

Misreporting by the press with an emphasis on fear, scapegoating.

The myths multiply quicker than the HIV epidemic despite isolating the cause.

War against AIDS became a moral crusade

Thatcher's objections to a public prevention campaign

The beginning of stigma that has persisted through the following decades





“Simultaneously AIDS is an epidemic of a transmissible lethal disease and an epidemic of meaning and signification”

Treichler 1987

# Just some of the myths of what AIDS is...

- A condemnation to celibacy or death
- The price paid for the sixties
- The price paid for anal intercourse
- God's punishment of our weaknesses
- A creation of the state to legitimise widespread invasion of people's lives and sexual practices
- The result of moral decay and a major force destroying the Boy Scouts
- Nature's way of cleaning house
- The result of genetic mutations caused by mixed marriages

# The UK and HIV prevention and the moral backlash

- Feb 86 Thatcher warned of proposed “explicit and distasteful adverts about AIDS”
- Thatcher “Do we have to have the section on risky sex? I should have thought it could do immense harm if young teenagers were to read it”
- August 86 Thatcher objected to a leaflet drop to every household
- Nov 86 The leaflet went out
- May 88 Section 28 a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship"

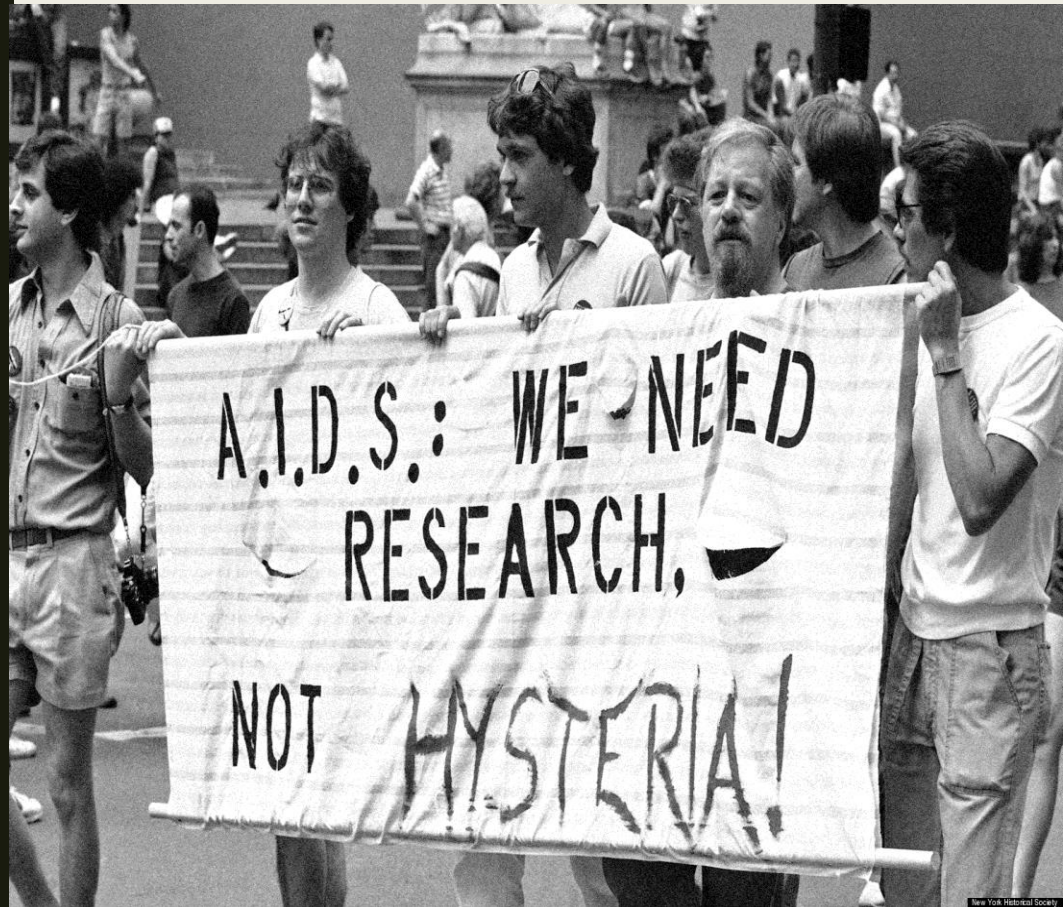
# The activists and counterculture

Activists become experts in pharmacology

Sitting at the table with the scientists

Demanded the release of AZT early

Set up community self help organisations THT, GMHC in New York



# Art

Massive response by artists to educate to challenge the representations.



# Activists against the moral backlash in the UK

THT 1982

Lesbians and gays support the  
miners 1984

Body positive 1985

Positively Women 1987

UK AIDS Vigil organisation 1987

London Lighthouse 1988

AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power  
1988





# Conclusion

- With the rise of 'individualism' and privileging the family and Victorian values it was a culture ripe for creating a moral panic and legitimising homophobia in the face of the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- It is a great lesson for the biomedicine that despite the discovery of the cause of AIDS this did not end the myths and those myths prevail even today
- We saw the development of civil society action – community self help groups, demonstrations, direct action, health promotion and prevention
- Finally the revolution in nursing providing us with the tools to provide truly holistic patient-centred care for our patients and their significant others