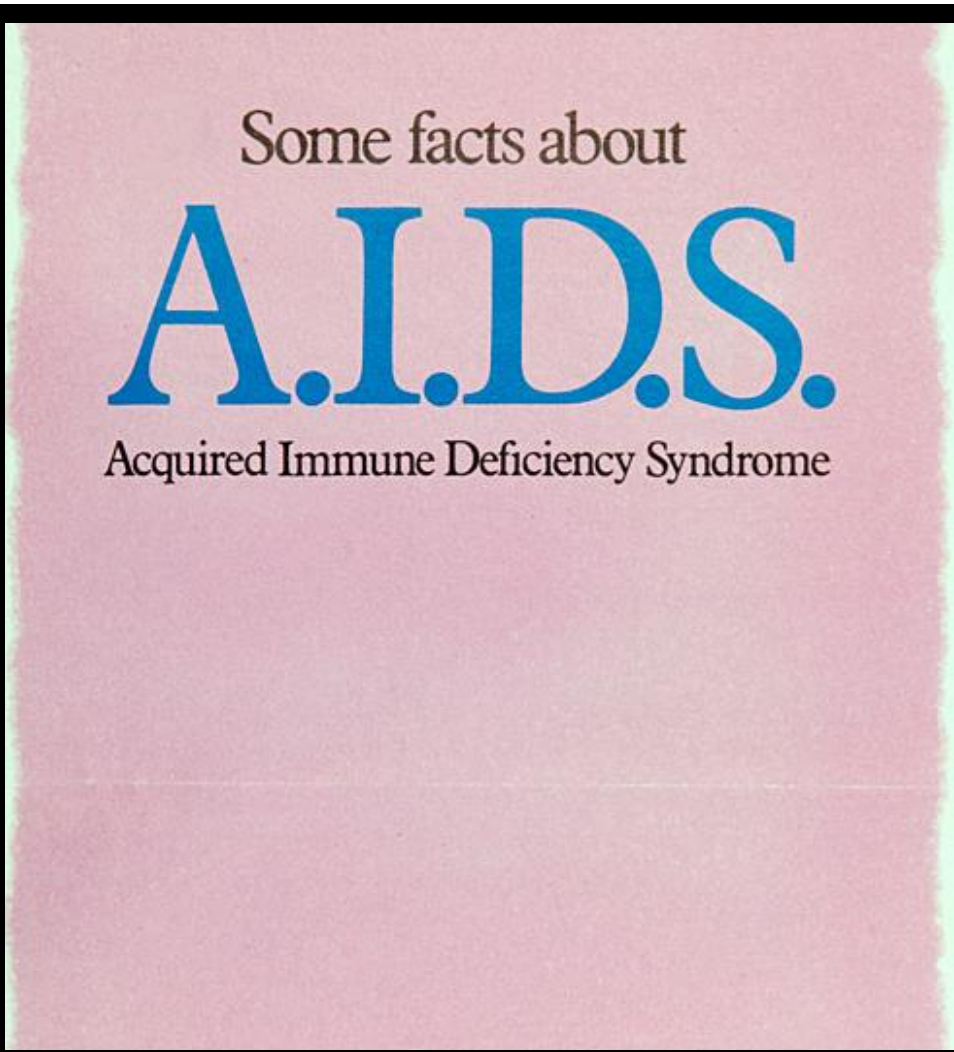


THE	
NATIONAL	
ARCHIVES	



Health Education Council AIDS booklet (1985), detail.
TNA PREM 19/1863

**HIV and AIDS Archives:
collections, research, digital
and creative responses**

	The National Archives 2-3 December 2024	

HIV and AIDS Archives: collections, research, digital and creative responses (2-3 December 2024)

The National Archives (TNA) holds an extensive collection of material related to the HIV and AIDS epidemic of the 1980s. This includes cabinet papers and records documenting the government response, public health campaigns and scientific research, and records connected with the many intersections between the government and governmental bodies and the spread and effects of the virus.

TNA's records tell a limited story of the spread of HIV in the UK. As official documents of the state, they rarely convey anything of the lived experiences and emotions of people who lived with or in proximity to the virus. Such histories are often preserved elsewhere, by voluntary groups and in community archives. Though they offer different takes on historical facts, both are necessary and valuable. Preserving records, evidence, stories and feelings, however, doesn't contribute solely to the work of memory. To achieve this researching, exploring, using and engaging with these documents is also fundamental.

To mark the annual World AIDS Day, TNA will host two events - an online symposium (3rd December 2024) and a digital humanities workshop (2nd December 2024) - bringing together archivists, scholars, researchers, and creative practitioners. Engaging with the UK-wide landscape of HIV and AIDS material in archives and collections, the two events will explore ways in which this diverse material has been used in the past, and could be used in the future, for historical research and creative memory work.

The online symposium will be free and promoted widely and it will bring together researchers, historians, archivists, scholars, and creative practitioners who have worked with HIV and AIDS related documents. Outcomes of a survey of HIV and AIDS archives in the UK will be presented to the audience alongside talks from institutional and community archives. Historians, digital researchers and creative practitioners will offer their contribution showcasing some of their work using material from these archives.

The digital humanities workshop will be open to a limited number of people (selected through an EOI process) and will be focused on the '1987 AIDS Advertising Evaluation Dataset', an openly accessible dataset produced at the time of the 1987 Public Health Campaign which aimed to capture a snapshot of the "public reaction over a period when

Government, voluntary and statutory bodies and media have been united in their attempts to prevent the spread of HIV infection¹. Attendees will learn how raw data was transformed into a more easily accessible database, and how it can unlock opportunities for digital storytelling. At the same time, the workshop will provide a space to think about how such datasets might reflect social sciences historical biases which must be taken into consideration when using them for digital scholarship.

Programme overview

Monday 2nd December 2024

HIV and AIDS Archives: Recovering, re-presenting and exploring open digital data (In-person workshop)

Workshop at The National Archives

Limited places.

Talks, Workshop & Records Display

HEC, HEA and NICE; trying to save HIV materials. Virginia Berridge

Monitoring response to HIV/AIDS public education campaigns: pitfalls and possibilities
Kaye Wellings

Back to the raw material: Recovering, re-presenting and exploring interviewee responses to the survey of the effectiveness of the “Don’t Die of Ignorance” public health campaign, Bernard Ogden

HANDS ON WORKSHOP

exploring the dataset with digital methods

¹ 'Foreword', *AIDS. Monitoring response to the public education campaign February 1986 – February 1987. Report on four surveys during the first year of advertising*, Department of Health and Social Security and The Welsh Office, 1987.

Tuesday 3rd December 2024

HIV and AIDS Archives: collections, research, digital and creative responses

Online symposium

Free

Morning

Institutional collections (10:00-11:15)	Community Archives (11:30-12:30)
Documenting an epidemic: national survey of HIV & AIDS archives in United Kingdom , Chris Olver, West Sussex Records	Inside Out: A Visual Design Archive , Siân Cook, UAL
Public health, activism and lived experience: broadening narratives in Wellcome Collection's HIV archives , Adam Rose, Wellcome Collection	Cataloguing the Terrence Higgins Trust Collection , Niamh Glanville-Frayne, Bishopsgate Institute
Norman Fowler's battle: the AIDS health campaign, 1986-87 , Mark Dunton, The National Archives	A HIV archive view from up't'North [sic] , Darren Knight, George House Trust, Manchester

Afternoon

Historical research (13:30-14:45)	Digital and creative responses (15:15-16:30)
When 'Mr HIV is asleep' or 'awake': locating children's voices and experiences in the archives , Hannah Elizabeth, University of Oxford	Positively Spoken: creative outputs from HIV youth oral histories , Wendy Rickard
Activist archives from TNA and beyond , George Severs, Geneva Graduate Institute	Transformation, loss, recovery and usability: The life and times of the AIDS Advertising Evaluation Dataset , Bernard Ogden, TNA
Researching AIDS and creating archives , Virginia Berridge, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	UK AIDS memorial quilt: a living memorial , Siobhán Lanigan and Clifford McManus, The UK AIDS Memorial Quilt Partnership
	The Ministerial Broadcast: from archive to stage , David Balcombe, playwright

Detailed programme

HIV and AIDS Archives: Recovering, re-presenting and exploring open digital data (In-person workshop) – 2nd December 2024

The National Archives (TNA) holds an extensive collection of material related to the HIV and AIDS epidemic of the 1980s. This includes cabinet papers and records documenting the government response, public health campaigns and scientific research, and records connected with the many intersections between the government and governmental bodies and the spread and effects of the virus.

While most of these records are physical documents, some are available digitally and could be used for digital explorations and further research. Such is the case of the '1987 AIDS Advertising Evaluation Dataset', a dataset produced at the time of the 1987 Public Health Campaign. Although available openly, exploring and working with this dataset can be challenging as it is in a format that is not easy to use.

Taking the 1987 AIDS Advertising Evaluation Dataset as a case study, the workshop is an opportunity to explore lesser known and accessible HIV material and to reflect on its relevance for interdisciplinary research.

During the workshop participants will have the opportunity to explore the dataset and interact with a notebook prepared by the TNA Digital Researcher Bernard Ogden.

Although coding skills are not strictly required, a basic understanding of notebooks or Excel is desirable.

The workshop will be accompanied with talks by Professor Virginia Berridge and Professor Kaye Wellings, as well as by a records display organised by TNA staff.

As this is an onsite only event, places are limited and allocated following an expression of interest application.

*Participants will be expected to cover their own travel costs to and from The National Archives (Kew, London) where the workshop will be taking place and **bring their own laptop.***

Coffee and lunch will be provided.

HEC,HEA and NICE; trying to save HIV materials. Prof. Virginia Berridge, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Virginia Berridge is professor of History and Health Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. From the late 1980s until mid 1990's she was Co-Director of the AIDS Social History Programme at the School.

Her book *AIDS in the UK: the making of policy 1981-1994* (Oxford UP 1996) was based on that work. She is currently deputy chair of the London Drugs Commission.

Monitoring response to HIV/AIDS public education campaigns: pitfalls and possibilities, Prof. Kaye Wellings, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Kaye Wellings is a leading expert in sexual and reproductive health. A professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, she has over 30 years' experience in the field and over 300 academic publications. She founded the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles and carried out the first Global Study of Sexual Behaviour. Kaye is an elected fellow of the Faculty of Public Health, the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and the Academy of Social Sciences. She led the team evaluating the Health Education Authority's HIV/AIDS Public Education campaigns in the late 1980s and went on to lead a programme of work evaluating AIDS Public Education in Europe, commissioned by the EU in the early 1990s.

Back to the raw material: Recovering, re-presenting and exploring interviewee responses to the survey of the effectiveness of the "Don't Die of Ignorance" public health campaign, Bernard Ogden, Digital Researcher, The National Archives

Bernard Ogden is a Digital Research at The National Archives, working with a range of digital methods within various research projects. Among other things, he is interested in questions around robustness, reproducibility and usability in humanities datasets, and in how digital interfaces and data visualisations can be used to interrogate historical questions from new angles.

HANDS-ON WOKSHOP

ONLINE SYMPOSIUM – 3rd December 2024

Morning sessions: HIV and AIDS Collections

Institutional archives 10:00-11:15

Documenting an epidemic: national survey of HIV & AIDS archives in United Kingdom,

Chris Olver, West Sussex Records Office

Chris Olver is an archivist who has been working on the National Survey of HIV and AIDS archives at the West Sussex Records Office (WSRO), based in Chichester. The survey has been running since January 2023 and the report is due to be released in December 2024. He has previously catalogued the National HIV Story Trust oral history collection at the London Archives and HIV & AIDS archive collections at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Public health, activism and lived experience: broadening narratives in Wellcome Collection's HIV archives

Adam Rose, Assistant Curator, Wellcome Collection

Adam is an assistant curator in the curatorial team at the Wellcome Collection, working across the temporary exhibitions programme to develop and deliver a variety of innovative exhibitions and projects for wide-ranging audiences. This work focuses on delivery of multi-layered, experimental and inclusive displays that encourage the audience to think and feel differently about health, and which represent diverse health experiences.

Norman Fowler's battle: the AIDS health campaign, 1986-87,

Mark Dunton, Principal Records Specialist, The National Archives

Mark Dunton is Principal Records Specialist (Contemporary records) at the National Archives and has written and broadcast extensively on the modern period. Mark joined The National Archives in 1983 and has an in-depth knowledge and experience of researching public records, specialising in 20th Century Britain (political, social and economic history): Prime Minister's Office records, Cabinet Papers, and the records of the Security Service. He has particular interests in Cold War espionage and LGBTQ history.

Break 11:15-11:30

Community archives 11:30-12:30

Inside Out: A Visual Design Archive, Siân Cook, London College of Communication

Siân Cook is a Graphic Designer and Senior Lecturer at the London College of Communication.

She has been involved with HIV and AIDS organisations for over 30 years and has volunteered/designed for Terrence Higgins Trust, Red Hot AIDS, Sigma Research, National AIDS Trust and The National HIV Story Trust. As a volunteer, she was involved with numerous campaigns for GMFA throughout the 2000s and 2010s.

She began collecting examples of UK HIV and AIDS graphic ephemera in the 90s and has built an online archive to make this material more widely available:

www.hivgraphiccommunication.com

Instagram: @hivgraphics

Cataloguing the Terrence Higgins Trust Archive', Niamh Glanville-Frayne, Bishopsgate Institute

Niamh Glanville-Frayne qualified as an archivist in 2022, and has since worked at various institutions across London, predominantly working with collections which represent people and communities typically excluded from traditional archives. Niamh is currently the Project Archivist at Bishopsgate Institute working on the Terrence Higgins Trust Archive, a role funded by Archives Revealed, and also works in a freelance capacity on individuals' personal archive collections.

A HIV archive view from up't'North [sic], Darren Knight, George House Trust, Manchester

Darren Knight is the Chief Executive of George House Trust, a HIV support charity based in Manchester and operating across the North West. Darren's been with the organisation for the last 4 years and led the development of an 18-month Heritage Lottery Fund bid to mark 40 years of HIV activism across Greater Manchester, as part of George House Trust's 40th anniversary in 2025.

Break 12:30-13:30

Afternoon Sessions: Research, digital and creative responses

Historical research 13:30-14:45

Researching AIDS and creating archives, Prof. Virginia Berridge, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Virginia Berridge is Professor of History and Health Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. From the late 1980s until mid 1990's she was Co-Director of the AIDS Social History Programme at the School.

Her book *AIDS in the UK: the making of policy 1981-1994* (Oxford UP 1996) was based on that work. She is currently deputy chair of the London Drugs Commission.

When 'Mr HIV is asleep' or 'awake': locating children's voices and experiences in the archives, Hannah J. Elizabeth, Northumbria University

Hannah J. Elizabeth is a cultural historian of health, sexuality, emotions and childhood in Britain. Their recent Wellcome research project investigated how HIV-affected families and those who worked with them, experienced the AIDS crisis in Edinburgh. They have published several publications which explored British HIV/AIDS history, examining how the educational and emotional needs of women, teenagers and children were met particularly.

Activist archives from TNA and beyond, George Severs, Geneva Graduate Institute

George Severs is a historian of sexual health, sexual violence and HIV/AIDS. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Geneva Graduate Institute in Switzerland, where he is working on an oral history of race and sexual and reproductive health in post-war Britain as part of the Swiss National Science Foundation-funded [RE:SHaRE](#) project. Before moving to Geneva, George worked on the Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters (SHaME) project at Birkbeck, University of London, where he remains an Honorary Research Fellow. He is the author of [Radical Acts: HIV/AIDS Activism in Late Twentieth-Century England](#) (Bloomsbury, 2024), and the Public History editor of *Oral History*.

Break 12:30-13:30

Digital & creative approaches 15:15-16:30

Positively Spoken: creative outputs from HIV youth oral histories, Wendy Rickard, Associate Researcher, Newcastle University

Wendy Rickard is a UK oral historian best known for her work around HIV and AIDS and sex work. She is an Associate Researcher at the School of History, Classics & Archaeology, Newcastle University and has a long-standing relationship with the British Library Sound Archive (BLSA). Her wider career has been in public health with a particular interest in community engagement and shared authority (University of East London, LSE, South Bank University and University of Exeter).

Transformation, loss, recovery and usability: The life and times of the AIDS Advertising Evaluation Dataset, Bernard Ogden, Digital Researcher, The National Archives

Bernard Ogden is a Digital Research at The National Archives, working with a range of digital methods within various research projects. Among other things, he is interested in questions around robustness, reproducibility and usability in humanities datasets, and in how digital interfaces and data visualisations can be used to interrogate historical questions from new angles.

UK AIDS memorial quilt: a living memorial, Siobhán Lanigan and Clifford McManus, The UK AIDS Memorial Quilt Partnership

Created in 2016, continuing the work initiated by Alistair Hulme in the late '80s, today the UK AIDS memorial quilt Partnership is made up of 7 UK based HIV charities: Waverly Care in Edinburgh; Sahir in Liverpool; George House Trust in Manchester and Terrence Higgins Trust, Positive East, Positively UK and The Food Chain in London. Siobhán Lanigan has been involved with the partnership since its creation; Clifford McManus since 2017. Both worked for The Food Chain and since retirement, are involved with the partnership on a voluntary basis.

The Ministerial Broadcast: from archive to stage, David Balcombe, playwright

David Balcombe is the Founder and Director of Verity. He was a leading member of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and studied drama at the University of Manchester. David enjoyed a long career in arts management, at the helm of three of the country's foremost training companies: the National Youth Theatre, Chickenshed Theatre Company and British Youth Opera. Since 2018 David has been focusing on writing and

developing projects, as well as becoming heavily involved in his local community in his adopted county of East Devon. He is co-chair of Exeter Northcott Theatre.