



MORE ON AIDS DENIALISM

by [Gary C. Booker](#)

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In my various attempts to talk some sense into AIDS Denialists on message boards and on Youtube, I have on numerous occasions ran into brick walls. No matter how much I try to clearly explain why the main arguments of AIDS Denialists are scientifically incorrect, they insist that I am ignorant of the truth and that there are thousands of experts that reject the theory, and are being silenced by the media.

SO WHAT ABOUT THE THOUSANDS OF “EXPERT” DISSENTERS?

The Denialists websites claim that thousands of experts are in agreement with the AIDS-Denial movement. Is this true? This question has three answers:

1. The Rethinking AIDS website states “THE AIDS INDUSTRY AND MEDIA WANT YOU TO THINK THERE ARE ONLY A HANDFUL OF SCIENTISTS WHO DOUBT THE HIV-AIDS THEORY. HERE’S THE REALITY.” [It goes on to list more than 2,612 “scientists” that deny the theory.](#) But critical examination of the website reveals that the majority these alleged 2000+ scientists include not only people who do not specialize in HIV research, but also people that do not have any indicated scientific backgrounds whatsoever. The site also features [Gary Null, who has been repeatedly exposed as a quack by numerous investigators.](#) This is one example of many mind tricks that these sites play on the minds of unsuspecting viewers. The site even has an Oliver Stone type of vibe to it that has been created by names that have been supposedly blacked out for to protect people from harassment.
2. The Virusmyth website has a [list of “controversial statements” made by scientists.](#) An extensive background check on some of the individuals lauded by the site for “standing up to the AIDS Establishment” reveals that many of these individuals have extensive criminal backgrounds. One of these individuals is Dr. Alfred Hässig, who

was [convicted of infecting 6 hemophiliacs with the HIV virus](#). Only 2 of his 6 victims lived to sue Dr. Alfred Hässig. There are also scientists such as Dr. Kary Mullis, [who has a history of perverting his scientific credentials to promote issues that are contrary to his training](#). In fact, [the very same scientific technique that Mullis was awarded a Nobel Prize for was used to improve the accuracy of HIV testing!](#) Then there are scientists that have been dead for several years and were not alive long enough to face more evidence by AIDS researchers, along with people with unrelated credentials.

3. What if thousands of people indeed agreed that HIV is a hoax? **Since when does popular opinion constitute as evidence?** I was taught that this is a fallacy known as "Appeal to Popularity." Many trained anthropologists believed that Blacks were inferior to whites. Does that make them correct? Many biblical theologians believed in a "Curse of Ham," despite the fact that the bible clearly states that it was Canaan that was cursed.

Don't believe the hype.

A CONSPIRACY OF CENSORSHIP?

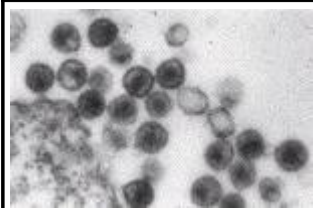
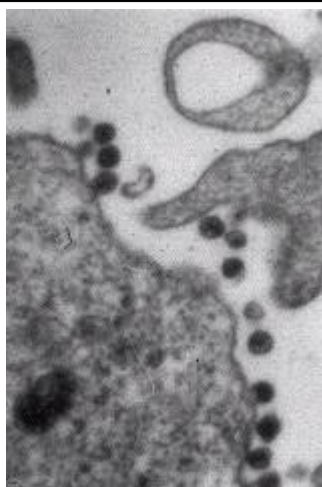
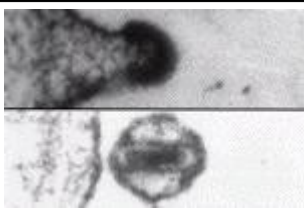
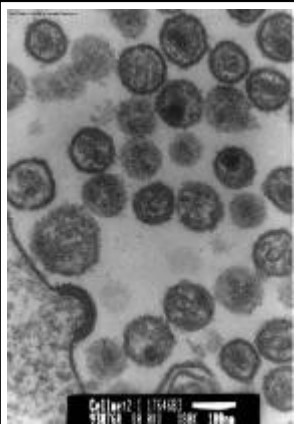
AIDS-Denialists claim that there is a conspiracy to keep their publications out of medical journals. To gain insight into the reality of this claim, you simply have to look at how AIDS denialists behave themselves on internet message boards. When confronted with a rebuttal claim that is based on basic scientific principles, the denialists respond by repeating their comments, or accuse you of being for the "AIDS Establishment." Refusing to listen to redundant nonsense is not censorship. Peter Duesberg's theories, and those of his friends/copycats, are no longer published because his claims have not changed since they were first published, and subsequently disproven. Somehow, AIDS-Denialist are convinced that saying the same things over and over again will make them come true, which makes the refusal to listen to redundancy a "conspiracy against the truth."

A perfect example is [HEALToronto's pathetic attempt to rebut the CDC's website that re-establishes HIV as the cause of AIDS](#). It is sad that a person with an MD, such as AIDS Denialist Matthew Irwin, would risk making a fool of himself by making a claim that could be rebutted by making this statement:

HIV has never been "isolated from the host and grown in pure culture." Proof of purification requires an electronmicrograph showing [pure] viral particles with the morphology of retroviruses -- and nothing else. Such an electronmicrograph has never been provided for HIV (Papadopulos, 1998b). Attempts to show the purity of so-called HIV isolates have been a complete failure (Gluschankof, 1997; Bess, 1997; De Harven, 1998a).

(ibid)

Since when did HIV not have electron micrographs? Most immunology authors provide pictures of them in their textbooks!

			
<p>Images taken by Edward C. Klatt, M.D and the pathology department of the University of Utah</p>			<p>Image taken by the laboratory for Infectious Diseases in Denmark</p>

[Why would magazines and journals waste the energy of scientists of publishing disproven claims once again?](#) It would be different if they actually found new evidence. This isn't censorship... it's basic productivity.

BLACK CUBA, BLACK SOUTH AFRICA AND BLACK AMERICA – A COMPARISON

I must admit that it is indeed hurtful when my Blackness gets questioned, by people calling themselves “conscious,” for accepting the scientific evidence of HIV causing AIDS, but I am not as bitter about it as I am afraid of what will happen as the result of an increase of the pseudo-Afrocentric brand of AIDS Denialism in the Black community. In a discussion on a message board, I was told something to the effect of “Y'all know only Black folks get AIDS, cause the rates are high here and Africa and not in Europe. Do they really think we're some diseased folks? At least they have Gary convinced!”

I can't get mad at this too much, because the media is to blame for not providing a comprehensive picture of HIV and AIDS. Being that the media certainly does mis-portray Black Americans, it is a natural response by many of us to assume that the exact opposite of whatever the media says is true. But the wise thing to do would be to “chew the fish, and spit out the bones,” as my mother once told me when I was an adolescent, when the topic of Blacks and the media came up. HIV and AIDS are indeed high in our communities both on

the African continent and in America, and are higher than those in Europe. But the reason isn't because of ethnic disposition to disease.

When Cuba is in the news, it is almost never positive. So it should be no surprise that most Americans of any ethnicity have no idea that the Cuban government has mounted what is arguably the most effective and efficient response and efficient responses to HIV and AIDS in the Western Hemisphere. Here's how the Cubans did it:

1. While [Ronald Reagan played a game of ostrich for both of his administrations after the discovery of AIDS](#), Fidel Castro's government immediately got to work, and continued to work, [improving it's techniques over time and learning from its mistakes](#).
2. Cuba has a system of universal health care, as much of Europe does. This eliminates the disparity of who can and cannot afford HIV medicines that are too expensive for some Black Americans under the American health care system.
3. The Cuban health system encourages a partnership between naturopaths and medical doctors, and heavily punishes quacks from either side of the fence. AZT, contrary to what denialists claim, is an effective treatment against HIV and AIDS when taken in the correct dosages, but has it's side effects. HIV-positive Cubans have access to both medical doctors that can prescribe AZT, and naturopaths that can assist the medicine takers with the side effects that often encourage Americans to stop taking it. **Cuban MD's and cuban naturopaths respect one another and refrain from competing for an audience, unlike their American counterparts.** The Cuban government's stance against AIDS quackery is far more harsh than in the United States, where Gary Null is able to get away with saying and doing whatever he pleases while some law enforcement officials would rather harass anti-war protesters.

The Cubans were able to accomplish this feat this in the midst of a continuing Embargo from the United States.

The Cuban government is far from perfect, and Cuba is not a utopian society. It is also true that there are aspects of the Cuban HIV treatment program that would be considered unethical. But the progress with HIV and HIV-positive Black Cubans should be admired by Black Americans, rather than romanticizing the miserable failure to deal with HIV and AIDS made by the government of Thabo Mbecki in South Africa. Again, many Black Americans make the mistake of assuming that whatever the media says about Black people is false, rather than combing through the lies and sorting out the truth, and this mistake is often made by people who romanticize the governments of Thabo Mbecki and Robert Mugabe.

I won't call Thabo Mbecki an evil man, but I will point out, with ruthless honesty, the consistent pattern that is Thabo Mbecki's failure to deal with the circumstances of the impoverished Blacks of post-Apartheid South Africa. Mbecki's government

1. **Failed** to deal with the crisis of rape in South Africa
2. **Failed** to [deal with the health disparities of the South African population](#).

3. **Failed** to bring justice against Apartheid biological war criminals like special agent [Wouter Basson](#).
4. **Failed** to stop Wouter Basson's biological weapons [from getting in the hands of private citizens](#).
5. **Failed** to respond to medical charlatans like [Matthias Rath](#).

Thabo Mbecki did not organize his AIDS conference until after he was under international pressure, and invited Peter Duesberg and his colleagues to discuss the HIV virus alongside HIV researchers. By this time, Duesberg had already been repeatedly disproven, but this was still unbeknown to most of the world's audience around the time of this conference. Duesberg's claims of HIV not causing AIDS gave Thabo Mbecki a convenient excuse to further delay a response to HIV, and it allowed him to use project an image of himself as a crusader against pressure from pharmaceutical companies.

This is very similar to how Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe used the issue of White owners owning most of the farmland in Zimbabwe as an excuse to appear as a populist amongst his people when they began to pressure him to make significant changes to Zimbabwe's economy. Mugabe had since the 1980's to deal with the land disparities of Zimbabwe, and Mugabe awarded the farmland to his political friends, rather than to Black Zimbabweans that were actually qualified to do the job of jumpstarting Zimbabwe's agricultural economy... just as George Bush gave FEMA cabinet positions to his political friends that neither had the qualifications, nor the interest to help Black American victims of Hurricane Katrina. Yet many Blind Afrocentrists sided with Mugabe and Mbecki just because the media was criticizing Black government leaders. But the criticism of Mugabe and Mbecki is different from the *completely unwarranted criticisms* and slandering of progressive Black leaders such as Cynthia McKinney, who has an [extensive track record for fighting for HIV-positive Black Americans](#).

But there is still more to blame on Duesberg for this. Duesberg and his colleagues claim that diseases in Africa that result in immunity disorders are misdiagnosed as AIDS. This is true for some African AIDS diagnoses, *but not all of them*. The confusion comes not from HIV not existing or HIV being harmless, but because African countries have been financially robbed by both [European neocolonialism](#) and [corrupt African leaders](#) so much that their healthcare technology has not been able to catch up to the state of the art.

What's the moral of this story? Black Americans have lessons to learn from the failures of South Africa, which are the result of people sticking their head in the sand, and the successes of Cuba that are the result of the acknowledgement of reality, solidarity in the face of obstacles (such as the pointless U.S. Embargo), and the elimination of health care disparities.

THE STRAW MAN THAT JUST WON'T GO AWAY

I would love think that African-centered scholarship enthusiasts would know how to recognize and denialism by now, but this tragic trend of AIDS-Denialism in the Black

Consciousness community is proving otherwise. Anti-Afrocentrists made extensive denialist attacks against John Henrik Clarke, Amos Wilson, Asa Hilliard, and other African centered scholars. One critical issue was the issue of Kemet being a Black African civilization.

A comparison of Kemet Denialism and AIDS Denialism, point by point...

Kemet Denialism	AIDS Denialism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuses to acknowledge the Blatant evidence that Kemet was a Black African society, and makes blatantly false statements • Makes claims that there were no Black Pharaohs outside of the Nubian occupation, and blatantly ignoring the pictorial evidence that clearly show the same facial features between the Nubian Pharaohs and the other Pharaohs of Kemet. • Attempts to confuse people into thinking that Kemet translated as “The Black Land,” instead of “The Land of the Black,” when there are other aspects of the history of Kemet that clearly shows that this isn't true. • Uses the mistakes of early Afrocentric scholars such as George G. M. James to make strawman arguments against All Afrocentric approaches to Kemet. • Accuses African centered scholars with conspiring to destroy universities with a feel-good curriculum, when it is in truth the Kemet Denialists that are appealing to the desires of academic racists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuses to acknowledge the blatant evidence that HIV causes AIDS, and makes blatantly false statements about AIDS. • Make claims that the HIV virus has never been isolated, blatantly ignoring the electron micrographs and protein-structure models that clearly show that it has. • Attempts to confuse AIDS with other Immunity Deficiencies so that it would appear that ALL AIDS are being confused with other pre-existing immunity deficiencies, despite that there is an extensive list of conditions that define what AIDS is. • Uses the mistakes of early HIV researchers to make strawman attacks the entire idea of HIV causing AIDS, citing early theories that the scientific community no longer accepts. • Accuses Robert Gallo and the scientific community with accepting feel-good conclusions about the HIV virus and forcing other people to do it, when it is in truth the AIDS Denialists that are exploiting people's desires to not deal with the responsibility of stopping the AIDS epidemic.

Denialism: the employment of rhetorical tactics to give the appearance of argument or legitimate debate, when in actuality there is none. These false arguments are used when one has few or no facts to support one's viewpoint against a scientific consensus or against overwhelming evidence to the contrary. They are effective in distracting from actual useful debate using emotionally appealing, but ultimately empty and illogical assertions.

We believe there are five simple guidelines for identifying denialist arguments. Most denialist arguments will incorporate more than one of the following tactics: Conspiracy, Selectivity, False Experts, Impossible Expectations/Moving Goalposts, and Argument from Metaphor/violations of informal logic.

<http://www.denialism.com/2007/03/what-is-denialism.html>

The same dynamic of dishonesty used by Kemet Denialists is the same that is used by AIDS Denialists, as well as Moon-landing Denialists, Holocaust Denialists, Racism Denialists, Sexism Denialists, Global Warming Denialists and Slavery/Maafa Denialists. Why is it that we went through extensive lengths to prove that Kemet was a Black civilization by traveling to present-day Egypt to take comparative pictures of Black Americans next to Ancient Kemet statues, interviewing present-day Black Egyptians, and other things to provide evidence of the African-ness of Kemet, but won't travel a few miles away from our own homes to a university or a hospital's infectious disease unit where clear evidence for HIV can be seen up close and personal? Reclaiming our heritage is certainly important, *but being alive to celebrate it is more important.*

SEE THE EVIDENCE FOR YOURSELF

Here's how you can *see the evidence for AIDS yourself...*

1. Find a university in your area that has an AIDS research program. [Email me if you need assistance with this](#). Ask to speak with the lab director, and ask them to allow you to take a tour and see the virus.
2. Volunteer in the infectious disease unit at your local hospital. Get permission from one of the patients to discuss their condition with their physician, or ask a physician to describe some of the things that can be seen without violating patient-client privilege. Listen for case details that clearly reveal the difference between AIDS and other types of immunity deficiencies.
3. In addition to seeing the virus and its effects up close and personal, check out an immunology book at your library, as well as a virology and microbiology book. You will find that these books go into very extensive detail about the protein and RNA

structures of the HIV virus, which denialists claim to have never been isolated (many books will even show you an electron photograph of the virus).

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