pantyhose: masking to reveal

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disClosure Interviews Ida Susser
Women’s Autonomy and the Political Contours of HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa

Dr. Ida Susser received her PhD from Columbia University. She teaches anthropology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center for the City University of New York. A medical anthropologist, Dr. Susser in her research focuses on HIV/AIDS, especially as it relates to changing patterns of inequality and poverty, gender, and social movements in the Caribbean, southern Africa, and New York City. In pursuit of understanding these issues, she has been and continues to be involved in extensive fieldwork in Puerto Rico, South Africa, and among the Ju’/hoansi (San) people of the Kalahari. She is active in community concerns in New York City.

Dr. Susser visited the University of Kentucky in February 2005 to participate in the Spring Seminar and Lecture Series on Intimacy sponsored by the UK Committee on Social Theory. She delivered a talk entitled "From the Cosmopolitan to the Personal: The Politics of HIV/AIDS," a discussion of the work she did with the support of both the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Institutes of Health. During her visit, she sat down with J. Michael Tilley and Larry Erickson, members of the disClosure editorial collective, to discuss some of the issues surrounding her work. In the interview, Dr. Susser focuses on the historical and social context of the AIDS pandemic, particularly as it has developed in South Africa, as well as the prospects for constructive ways of dealing with it.

disClosure: What are the structural obstacles in southern Africa to fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS?

Ida Susser: A lot of what I talk about is basically structure. The major one is that there has been very little or no