

# Exploring Decolonizing, Indigenous and African Diasporic Knowing: A Video Sharing Circle

## Our Story, Our Time, Our Future

14<sup>th</sup> International Indigenous Pre-conference on HIV/AIDS

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# Acknowledgements

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- \* Consultation participants at AIDS 2012 (e.g., Indigenous and African Diaspora scholars)
- \* Videographer—Rémy Huberdeau

# Background

- \* Globally, Indigenous peoples and African/Caribbean/Black (ACB) diaspora are disproportionately impacted by HIV
- \* Knowledges of peoples of African and Indigenous descent change the ways we think about and conduct research
  - \* Decolonizing and Indigenous methodologies
    - \* *Tremendous growth* over the past plus-decade
    - \* Aligned with the development of the family of participatory research approaches (e.g., PAR, CBR, CBPR, AR, etc.)
    - \* Intended to give voice to African and Indigenous peoples
    - \* Cultural identities matter in research contexts
    - \* Ethical and moral responsibility

# First Steps

- \* To conduct a scoping review study to review and summarize the growing body of literature on decolonizing, Indigenous methodologies and “diaspora” thought to inform HIV prevention social research
- \* Produce a working paper/framework which can be shared widely with others engaged in HIV/AIDS research

### Definitions

A **scoping review** is a study that maps the literature and is used by researchers and community members to help summarize a range of evidence in order to convey the breadth of a field (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005)

**Decolonizing** (i.e., supports self-determination/challenges colonialism in research), **Indigenous** (i.e., by and for, using techniques and methods drawn from traditions <sup>CW1</sup> knowledges of Indigenous peoples), **Diaspora** (i.e., a term linked to imperialism, displacement from homelands and its connection to colonized experience) (Smith, 1999; Evan et al, 2009; Evans Brazier & Mannur, 2003)

## Emerging Themes from the Literature

- \* **Decolonizing knowing** centering the issues and worldviews of Indigenous and African populations
- \* **Colonialism** (processes, practices, histories, ideologies) and its impact on Indigenous/African cultures
- \* Incorporation of **cultural knowing/knowledge** within research
- \* **Reclamation of voice** within knowing practice
- \* **Connectedness** or relational ontology (i.e., relationship to what we know)
- \* **Holistic health** as tied to decolonized knowing practices
- \* **Ethical responsibilities** of conducting research
- \* **Community participation** and active collaboration
- \* **Culturally appropriate** research methods
- \* Conducting research of **community benefit**
- \* Developing research mechanisms that foster community **ownership/control**
- \* Allowing **reflexivity** (i.e., critical reflection of experiential knowing) to emerge within research
- \* **“Two-eyed seeing”/“double consciousness”**— seeing/using the strengths in both Indigenous/Afrocentric and Western ways of knowing

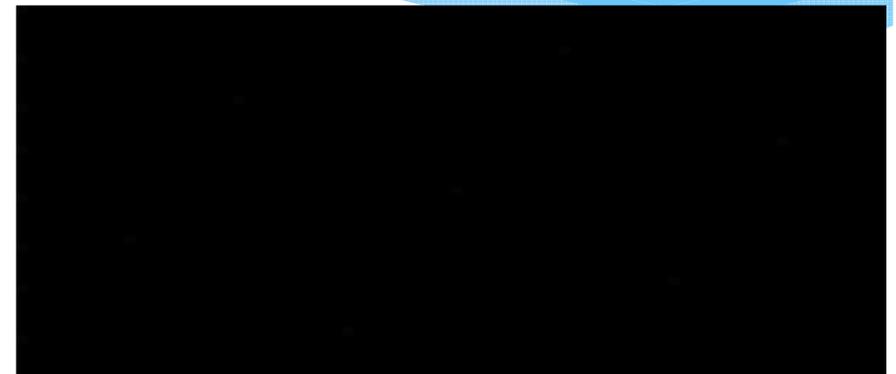
## Questions remained ...

Was the research process in which **we** were engaged **decolonizing knowing**?

- \* How did we shape the scoping process using our emerging of the decolonized knowing?
  - \* Tensions in world views and ways of knowing
  - \* Concepts and languages
  - \* Reader's relationship to the literature and beyond
- \* What did this re-shaping say about our engagement with the literature that we were reading
  - \* Finding one's voice
  - \* Collaborating across cultures and systems
  - \* Varying locations and identities.
  - \* Literature similarities and differences

How did we shift knowledge translation using Indigenous approaches?

## Discourses on Decolonization



## Discussion Points

- \* Using video made our research process more congruent with Indigenous and African oral culture
- \* Opened space for individual and collective reflection
- \* Impact of work is far-reaching. Transforms our practice and personal relationships to HIV social research and the scoping review process.
- \* Also invites allies to explore with us the use of decolonizing, Indigenous and diasporic knowing

## Where can you watch the videos?

AIDS2014

- \* Canada Booth: (insert date)
- \* African Diasporic Global Village: Thursday July 24<sup>th</sup> 12pm

Web links

The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network Youtube Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CdnAboriginalAIDS>

The African Carribean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ACCHOntario>