

A gendered critique of the ABC prevention policy of the South African government  
concerning HIV/Aids: A case study of Northern KwaZulu-Natal.

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**Declaration:**

I hereby declare that this dissertation submitted for the fulfilment of the degree Magister Artium in Development Studies at the Rand Afrikaans University has not been previously submitted by me for a degree at this university or any other university; that this is my own work in design and execution, and that all material from published sources has been duly acknowledged.

Sunet Jordaan



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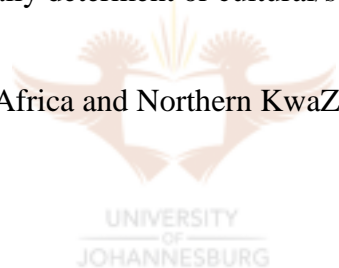
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**List of acronyms:**

AIDS	Acquired human immunodeficiency syndrome
ANC	African National Congress
ARV	Antiretroviral
ART	Antiretroviral therapy
ATIC	Aids Training and Information Centre
AZT	Zidovudine
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CGE	Commission on Gender Equality
DFID	Department for International Development
DoE	Department of Education
DoH	Department of Health
DramAidE	Drama in Aids Education
EDL	Essential drug list
EU	European Union
GAD	Gender and Development
GCIS	Government Communication and Information System
GIPA	Greater involvement of people living with Aids
HAART	Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy
HCW	Health care worker
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRC	Human Rights Commission
HRW	Human Rights Watch
HSI	WHO Initiative on HIV/Aids and STIs
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
IDU	Injecting drug user
MAP	Men as Partners
MCC	Medicines Control Council
MEC	Member of the Executive Committee (of a provincial government)
MID	Men in Development
MoH	Ministry of Health



MR, Inc	Men's Rights, Incorporated
MRC	Medical Research Council
MSM	Men who have sex with men
MTCT	Mother-To-Child Transmission
NAC	National Aids Council
NACOSA	National Aids Co-ordinating Committee of South Africa
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOM	National Organisation for Men
NOW	National Organisation for Women
OI	Opportunistic infection
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PEP	Post-exposure prophylaxis
PLWHA	People living with HIV and Aids
PPA	Planned Parenthood Association
PSI	Population Services International
SABS	South African Bureau of Standards
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SA HIVAC	South African HIV Vaccine Action Campaign
SAIMR	South African Institute of Medical Research
SAMA	South African Medical Association
SANAC	South African National Aids Council
STDs	Sexually transmitted diseases
STIs	Sexually transmitted infections
TB	Tuberculosis
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/Aids
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
VTC	Voluntary testing and counselling

WAD	Women and Development
WID	Women in Development
WHO	World Health Organisation



**Abstract:**

This dissertation will focus on the notions of masculinity in Northern KwaZulu-Natal and the impact of that on the effectiveness of HIV/Aids prevention strategies employed by the South African government. It first examines gender and gender roles in society and then questions what it means to be a man and describes the concept masculinity as a socially constructed aspect of patriarchy with reference to a particular area of South Africa today. Masculinity is extended to the relations (both sexual and social) that men have with women as well as with other men. Notions of masculinity make men vulnerable because they lead to risk-taking behaviour that may result in HIV infection. I was drawn to this field after realising that most HIV/Aids prevention programmes do not take notions of masculinity into account. This specific geographical area was chosen for its proximity as well as the very high levels of HIV prevalence. During my research I realised that the realities of manhood and masculinity in the South African context are not addressed in the HIV/Aids prevention strategies of the South African government. This gap created by the absence of gender sensitivity with regards to men enhances the vulnerability of men and women in South Africa to be infected with HIV.

My research in Northern KwaZulu-Natal included semi-structured interviews with five respondents, a focus group, questionnaires as well as in-depth literature study.