

The Reilly Center Program for Health

Humanities and Society *presents*

"I'm Not Sick!": HIV-Positive Black Women Mobilizing for Rights, Resources, & Reproductive Justice in Jamaica



Jallicia Jolly

Departments of American Studies
and Black Studies, Amherst College

Co-Sponsored by Department of Anthropology
Masks Required

12:00pm EST

278 Corbett Family Hall

Friday, Nov. 12, 2021

Dr. Jallicia Jolly's talk speaks to the ways HIV-positive Black women expand the terrain of political struggle for health, rights, humanity, and dignity in postcolonial Jamaica. Dr. Jolly asserts that young Jamaican women living with HIV/AIDS leverage embodied power and community knowledge in order to access basic resources, claim political recognition, and affirm reproductive autonomy in the face of illness, marginalization, and inequality. Through this grassroots, communal practice of care, they contest state and institutional control of their bodily experience and reproductive capacities in ways that transform HIV organizing and care on the ground. Drawing on ethnographic research and life history interviews conducted between 2015 and 2018 in Jamaica, Dr. Jolly illuminates the afterlives of imperialism and colonialism in Kingston's medical institutions and public health infrastructure, as well as in the embodied experiences of girls and women navigating structural inequities, class and gender oppression, and inaccess to quality health care and reproductive services while living in a unique era of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.



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