

## CALL FOR PAPERS

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**Deadline: 22 September 2021**

This is a call for papers for a special issue of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS)* on *Getting to the Heart of Stigma*. The special issue is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and is to be published in conjunction with the 24th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022).

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## BACKGROUND

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HIV-related stigma—the devaluing, mistreatment, and constrained access to power and opportunities experienced by people living with HIV—remains a critical concern in the HIV response. HIV-related stigma is entrenched in community norms, beliefs and values, as well as institutional practices, including laws and policies. Enacted, internalized, and anticipated dimensions of stigma span social-ecological levels, including structural, community, interpersonal and intrapersonal. HIV-related stigma is intersectional, interacting with other forms of health-related stigma (e.g., tuberculosis stigma, mental health stigma) and social identity-related stigma (e.g., homophobia or transphobia stigma, sex work stigma, racism).

Studies have shown that HIV-related stigma is a barrier to accessing prevention methods, seeking HIV testing and diagnostic services, engaging with regular HIV treatment and care, and living well. HIV-related stigma impacts across the HIV care continuum—from HIV diagnosis, to linkage of care, uptake and retention in care, and viral suppression—and is often overlooked. For example, it is uncommon to present studies of stigma in relation to HIV prevention alongside studies examining lived experiences of stigma in accessing HIV treatment, care and support. Similarly, to date little attention has been paid to anticipate the potential role stigma could have in preventing effective rollout of efforts to cure HIV, once the science progresses and indeed that becomes a reality.

HIV-related stigma and other intersecting stigma continue to harm social and economic well-being of individuals, communities, societies and nations. There is an urgent need to examine HIV-related stigma and associated acts of discrimination across the HIV prevention and care continuum in different settings and contexts.

This JIAS Supplement seeks to be one of those rare examples that connects attention to HIV-related and intersecting stigma and discrimination across the HIV prevention and continuum of care. This Supplement would create a state-of-the-field body of evidence about what works, what is measured, and what gaps remain in stigma reduction efforts across the continuum worldwide.

## SUBMISSIONS

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The scope of this call is global, and we strongly encourage submissions from researchers in low- and middle-income countries, and by authors living with HIV are particularly welcome. Research, Short Report, Review, Debate, Commentary, and Viewpoint articles will be considered, with a particular emphasis on original research.

Submissions may include a range of research approaches: qualitative and ethnographic research, epidemiological research, health economics research, clinical research, health psychology and cognitive science research, behavioural and social science research, randomized controlled trials, implementation science and policy research.

Submissions may include research conducted in any setting (e.g., geographic location, population, age, health sector), encompassing, but not limited to, the following:

- Data-driven papers highlighting determinants or drivers of HIV-related stigma, in relation to internalized stigma, perceived stigma, anticipated stigma, stigma experienced in healthcare settings, and stigma entrenched in laws and policies.
- Empirical study of interventions designed to improve or mitigate the harmful effects of HIV-related stigma as well as other intersecting stigma, along with examination of mechanisms of change.
- Papers on approaches or implementation research that address HIV-related stigma, with particular attention to key populations and/or dimensions of intersectionality.
- Empirical studies evaluating differentiated models of stigma reduction, including the outcomes of innovative models and approaches to address stigma at different stages of the HIV care continuum
- Papers about programmatic innovations that work to reduce the harmful effects of stigma in specific aspects of the HIV continuum of care, including prevention, treatment, care, support and potential cure.

## ARTICLE SUBMISSION PROCESS

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- Initial contributions should be in the form of full manuscripts written in English and specify the proposed manuscript category (Research, Short report, Review, Debate, Commentary, Viewpoint).
- The journal holds Supplements to the same standards as other issues. Specifically, all manuscripts under consideration for inclusion in a Supplement must adhere to the journal's standards with regards to overall quality, types of articles, and types of content within the articles. Basic specifications as stipulated in the [Author Guidelines](#), including word counts and numbers of authors, must be adhered to.
- Authors are welcome to make initial enquiries about potential submissions by email to IAS - Heart of Stigma [nostigma@iasociety.org](mailto:nostigma@iasociety.org).
- Manuscripts should be emailed to [nostigma@iasociety.org](mailto:nostigma@iasociety.org) with the subject line (JIAS Heart of Stigma).
- The deadline for submission of papers is **22 September 2021**.

## ARTICLE SELECTION PROCESS

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- Initial submissions will be reviewed by the Guest Editors.
- All manuscripts submitters will be notified on the outcome of their submission for the special issue by **29 September 2021**.
- Only manuscripts invited after the initial guest editors' appraisal will be considered for inclusion in the special issue; however, invitation and submission are no guarantee of publication.
- The deadline for the submission of the invited manuscripts to JIAS is **6 October 2021**.
- Each manuscript submitted to JIAS will undergo editorial appraisal and peer review based on its individual merits. Manuscripts that do not meet the journal's standards will be rejected.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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**22 September 2021:** Manuscript submission closes

**29 September 2021:** Authors notified of the outcome of their manuscript submission

**6 October 2021:** Submission of invited manuscripts to JIAS

**27 July 2022:** Publication and launch of the Supplement at AIDS 2022