

The Choice Agenda invites you:



May 28 10 AM Eastern

Planting Seeds in These Times

Stories of Resistance and
Possibility for the
HIV Movement



Featuring:

Oni Blackstock, MD, MHS
Founder and Executive Director,
Health Justice

Thank you for joining us today.





HIV prevention research - a new forum
for advocacy on the latest

avac.org/project/choice-agenda



TCA Radio
5.28.26 playlist



fala
/fatoumata diawara

madre
/juanes

with this tear
/prince

kelen ati leen
/orchestra baobab

boba
/sofi tukker

Thanks for
sharing your
stories.





A little bit
about me

- High school honor roll (drama, student council, school paper, graduated 84 in New Berlin, suburb of Milwaukee, WI)
- Kicked closet door down 84/85
- Dropped out of college, moved to Chicago
- Waitress – fancy hotels and fine dining Indian
- Fired for insubordination 1992
- **Seroconverted 95**
- Weekly gay zine editor, writer, advertising salesperson, “sick – a body of work in progress” – 6 years
- CDPH consultant (Faces of AIDS, syphilis, substance use, abuse) – 6 years
- AIDS Foundation Chicago Sr. Director of Prevention Advocacy and Gay Men’s Health (Crystal Breaks, LifeLube, How Are You healthy?, IRMA, Project RSP, PrEP4Love) – 17 yrs
- Jim Pickett Consulting – 2022, AVAC, Northwestern

1966





a {body of} work in progress

Currently, my viral load is virtually undetectable.

"It's below 400."

Testing positive a couple
kicked my pansy ass. And
actually, so poor numbers
ing to fuck me up too bad.
that. For two years I had maintai

health v
(600-7
(10,000
one day
a couple
into th

Pickett Fences: Day and Night, Night and Day and Night

It is the day after my 35th birthday.

It is five-and-one-half years since I tested positive for HIV.

It is nearly one year since I kicked my triple combo to the curb.

It is minutes after watching, for the first time, a video journal I collaborated on three years ago...The journal opens with my segment. **I felt very uncomfortable seeing this at first, being whisked back to a more neurotic me, rather depressed, and sort of obsessive/compulsive.** I had just started on a triple combination at the time, so many pills, and had been recently released from the hospital after pulling a Code Blue -- some allergy shots sent me into anaphylactic shock, turned purple. Sick as Old Yeller. **Pills, pills, everywhere pills.** My relationship was in tatters, and my sex life consisted of jacking off to *Machismo* and the entire family of *Inches* magazines. And not that I understood this then, but I was compensating for the lack of control in my life by cleaning my apartment constantly. I was forever sweeping and wiping, polishing, straightening, and tidying up behind myself and anyone else who displaced a dust particle. **When I wasn't streamlining the household, running to doctor and clinical trial appointments, or working, I was smoking a lot of medicinal pot and spraying Windex.** A lot. The video captures images that recall all this, lots of pills and one-hits and hits on the asthma inhaler, supermodel Linda Evangelista, *The Planet of the Apes*, sleazy bars, brooms, and more, set alternately to East Indian chanting, George Michael's "Freedom," and the song featuring the refrain "I think I'm going out of my head" -- **because I thought I was going crazy, see.**



December 27, 2017





TRANSMIT
love



2005



2025

Planting Seeds in These Times

Stories of Resistance and
Possibility for the
HIV Movement



Oni Blackstock, MD, MHS
Founder and Executive Director,
Health Justice





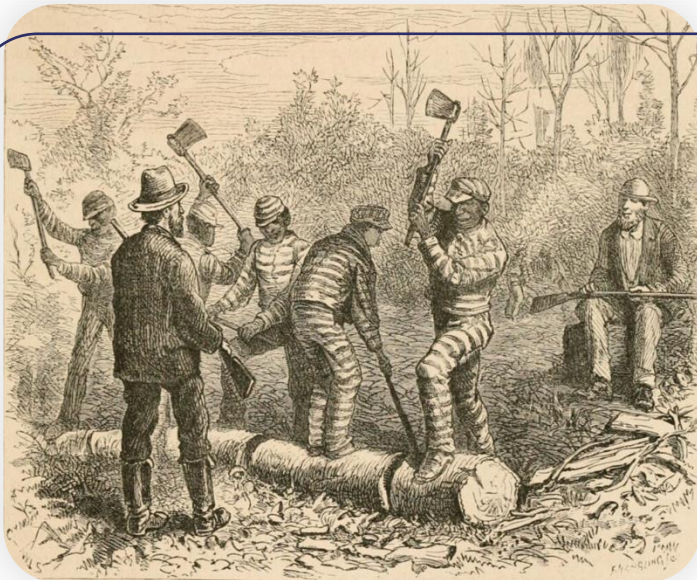
Planting Seeds in These Times: Stories of Resistance & Possibility for the HIV Movement

Oni J. Blackstock, MD, MHS

Founder & Executive Director, Health Justice



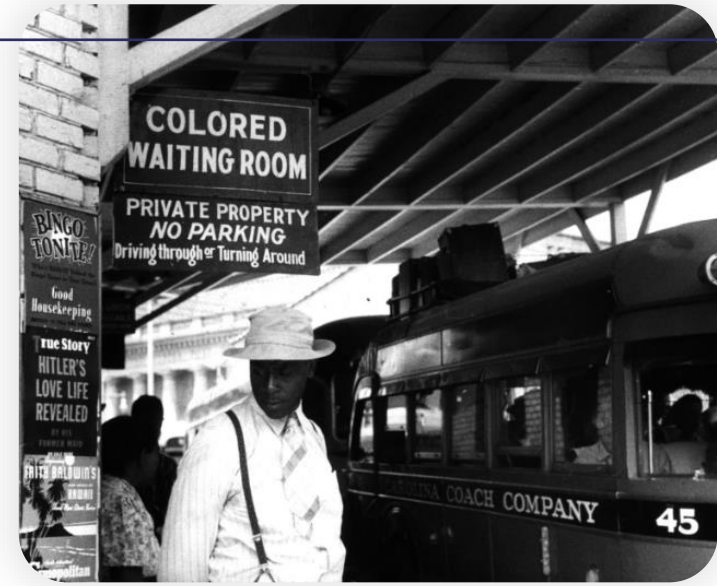
Backlash to Reconstruction



Convict Leasing image from page 138 of "The Southern states of North America" (Flickr)

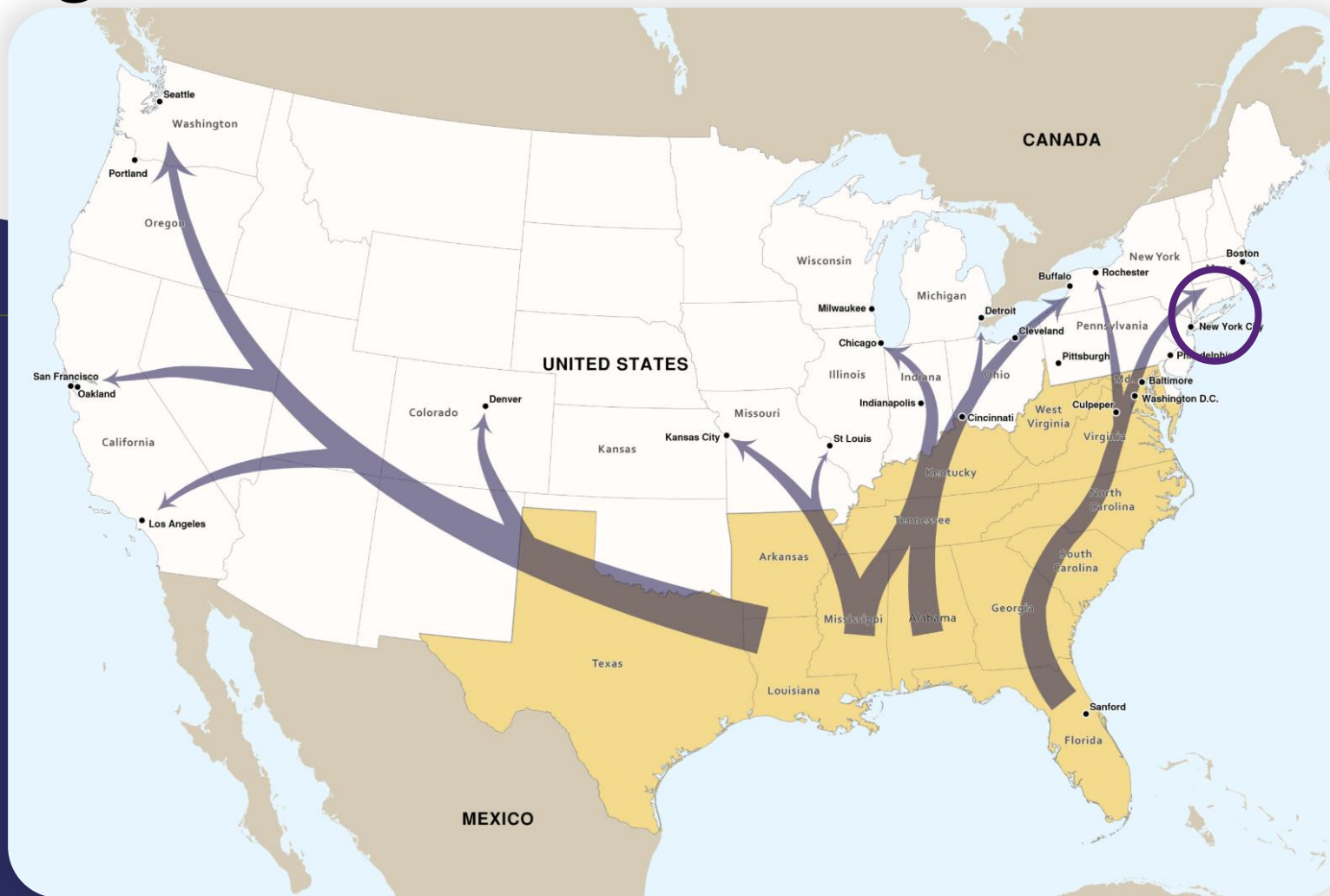


An etching of Black families gathering the dead after the Colfax Massacre published in *Harper's Weekly*, May 10, 1873. Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons



Source: Howard University Law School

Fanning Out like Seeds, Carried by Hope: The Great Migration (1910-1970)



Source: Clarissa Uprooted;
<https://www.clarissauprooted.org/exhibit/the-great-migration/>; Map adapted from the Pathstone Antiracist Curriculum Project by mapmaker, Blair Tinker

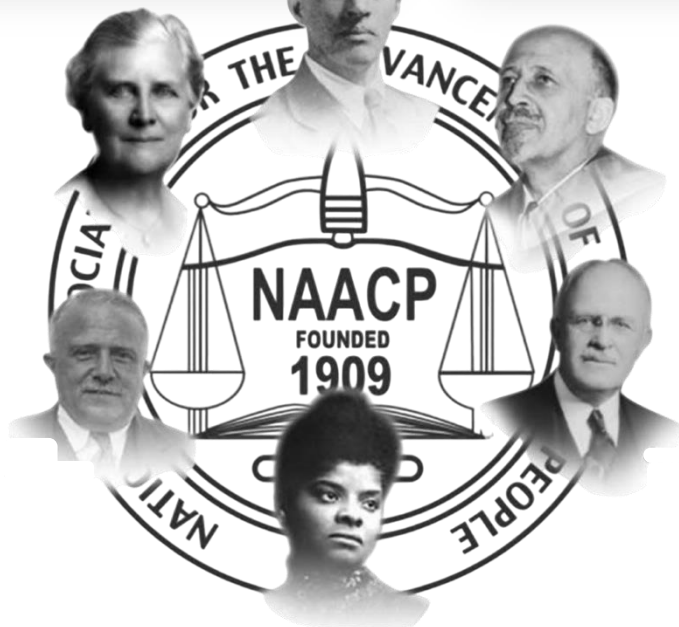
Seeds Planted: New York City



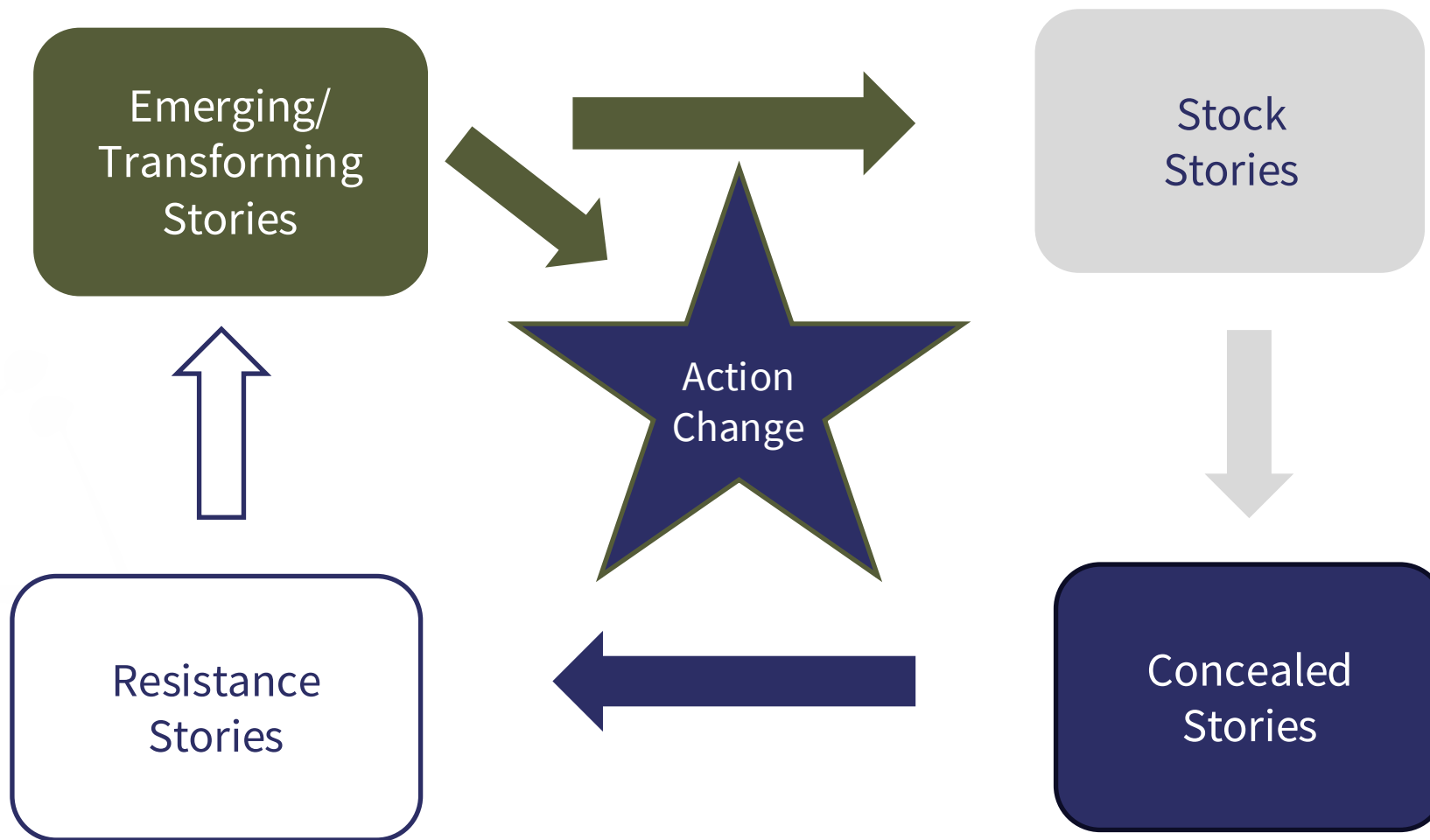
Legendary singer Billie Holiday with musicians including Ben Webster, left, and Johnny Russell, right, in Harlem in 1935. JP Jazz Archive, Redferns



The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Library of Congress



Creating Counter Storytelling: The Storytelling Project Model by Lee Anne Bell



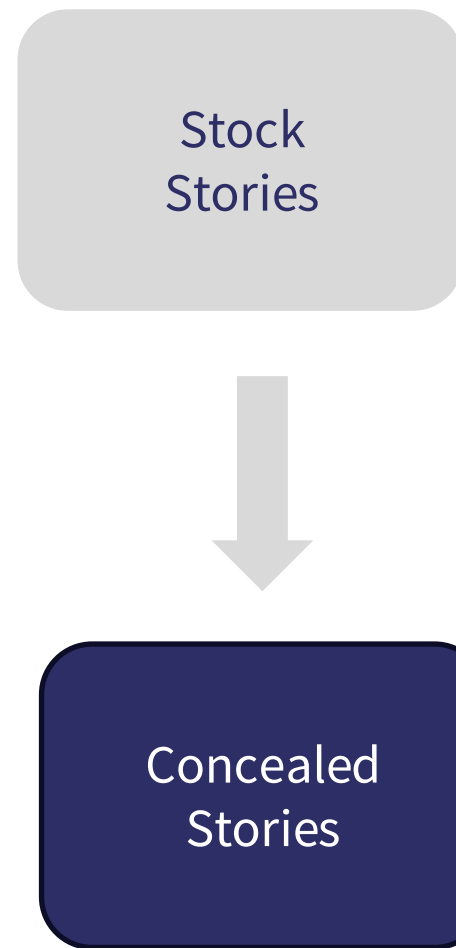
Creating Counter Storytelling: The Storytelling Project Model by Lee Anne Bell

Stock
Stories

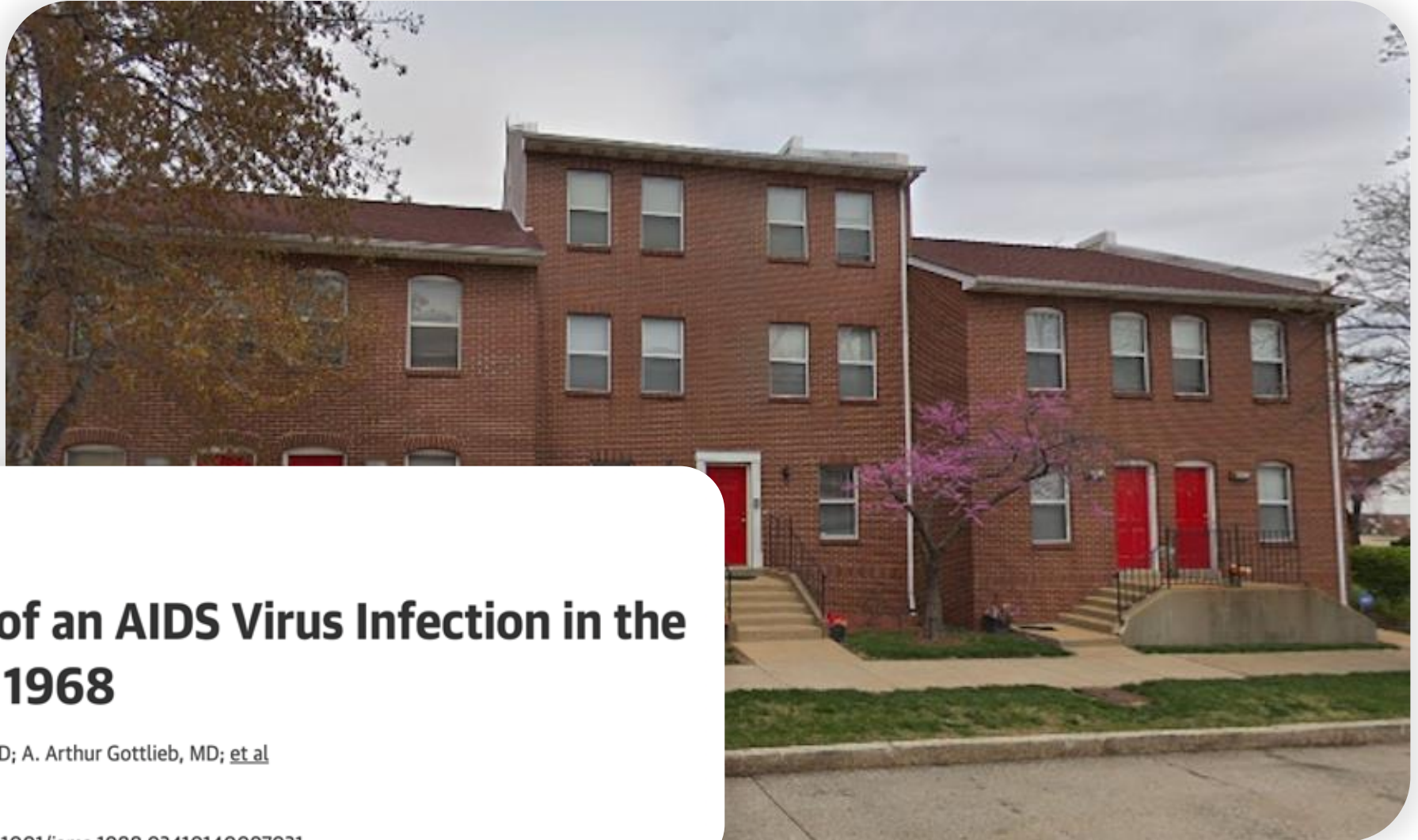
Stock Stories: The Stories that (Try to) Maintain the Status Quo



Creating Counter Storytelling: The Storytelling Project Model by Lee Anne Bell



Concealed Stories: Have you heard of Robert Rayford?



Article

October 14, 1988

Documentation of an AIDS Virus Infection in the United States in 1968

Robert F. Garry, PhD; Marlys H. Witte, MD; A. Arthur Gottlieb, MD; [et al](#)

» [Author Affiliations](#)

JAMA. 1988;260(14):2085-2087. doi:10.1001/jama.1988.03410140097031

Photo Source: The BodyPro - <https://www.thebody.com/gallery/article/st-louis-impact-project>

The “Delmar Divide,” St. Louis, Missouri

Lift expectancy

North of Delmar: 67 years

South of Delmar: 85 years



The Hyperinvisibility of Black Americans Early in the Epidemic

SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH & ILLNESS

Sociology of Health & Illness Vol. 39 No. 7 2017 ISSN 0141-9889, pp. 1068–1082
doi: 10.1111/1467-9566.12552

Two regimes of HIV/AIDS: The *MMWR* and the socio-political construction of HIV/AIDS as a ‘black disease’

Kevin M. Moseby

Department of Sociology, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA

‘Invisible to the CDC’: Kevin Moseby, Ph.D., on the Whitewashed History of HIV/AIDS Research

Part of [Addressing Disparities in HIV Care](#)

Jun 29, 2021 | 19 Min Read | [Terri Wilder, M.S.W.](#)

TheBodyPro

The Erasure of Transgender Women

Absence in HIV Epidemiologic Data

San Francisco Breakthrough (1996)



Source: "Marsha Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and the history of Pride Month", Smithsonian Institution (June 7, 2021).



Sylvia Rivera (holding banner) and Marsha P. Johnson (carrying cooler) representing their organization, the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), at the Christopher Street Liberation Day March, New York City, June 24, 1973. Credit: Leonard Fink, courtesy of the LGBT Community Center National History Archive.

'Women Don't Get AIDS, They Just Die From It'

Gran Fury Collective

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL

January 7, 1983 / Vol. 31 / No. 52

MMWR

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

- 697 Immunodeficiency among Female Sexual Partners of Males with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) — New York
- 698 Formaldehyde Exposures in a Gross Anatomy Laboratory — Colorado
- 700 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Prison Inmates — New York, New Jersey
- 702 Update: Influenza — United States
- 707 Classification of Measles Cases and Categorization of Measles and Elimination Programs

Epidemiologic Notes and Reports

Immunodeficiency among Female Sexual Partners of Males with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) — New York

CDC has received reports of two females with cellular immunodeficiency who have been steady sexual partners of males with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Case 1: A 37-year-old black female began losing weight and developed malaise in June 1982. In July, she had oral candidiasis and generalized lymphadenopathy and then developed fever, non-productive cough, and diffuse interstitial pulmonary infiltrates. A transbronchial biopsy revealed *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP). Immunologic studies showed elevated immunoglobulin levels, lymphopenia, and an undetectable number of T-helper cells. She responded to antimicrobial therapy, but 3 months after hospital discharge had lymphadenopathy, oral candidiasis, and persistent depletion of T-helper cells.

January 7, 1983

CDC documents first cases of AIDS in cisgender women:

A 37-year-old Black woman

A 23-year-old Latina woman

The Activism That Changed Everything



Protestors, including Katrina Haslip (right), participate in a 1990 AIDS protest in front of the National Institutes of Health building in Washington. Credit: Donna Binder

AIDS Definition Excludes Women, Congress Is Told

By PHILIP J. HILTS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 6 — Women with AIDS have more trouble getting government disability payments than men because the standard definition of AIDS does not take into account many of the symptoms experienced by women, witnesses told a Congressional hearing today.

An increasing number of AIDS patients are women, rising from a few percent in 1982 to about 12 percent of all AIDS cases reported in the United States last year.

In New York City, about 40 percent of those who are known to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, are women, said Representative Ted Weiss, a Manhattan Democrat who is chairman of the House Government Operations Committee's Human Resources Subcommittee, which held the hearing today.

What is at issue is when an HIV infec-

tion is clearly disabled to the point that they cannot work.

Theresa McGovern, director of the Mobilization for Youth Legal Services HIV Project of New York City, a non-profit social action agency, said the rules were sometimes applied inequitably. She said several of her clients had died before getting any benefits, and had spent their final months "dragging themselves and their children into my office, to Social Security offices, to welfare and to the hospital one more time."

Ms. McGovern said the Social Security Administration relies too much on a definition of AIDS that was written by the Centers for Disease Control for a different purpose, and the result was "sometimes absurd." If a poor person is HIV positive and has a single skin lesion of Kaposi's Sarcoma, she said, the

Excerpt of a *NYT* article from the June 7, 1991 edition

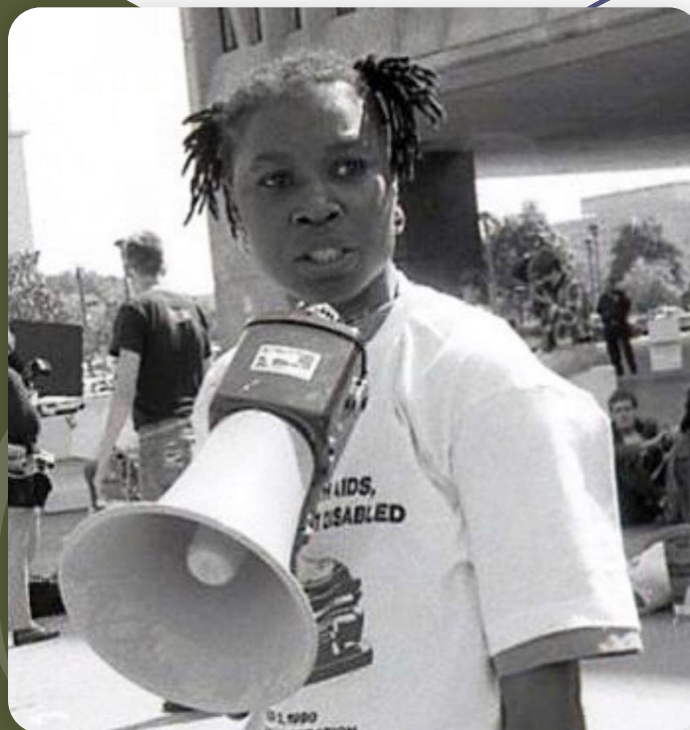
Katrina Haslip



“I am, and have been, a woman with AIDS, despite the CDC not wishing to count me. We have compelled them to.”

The Victory She Never Saw

December 2, 1992

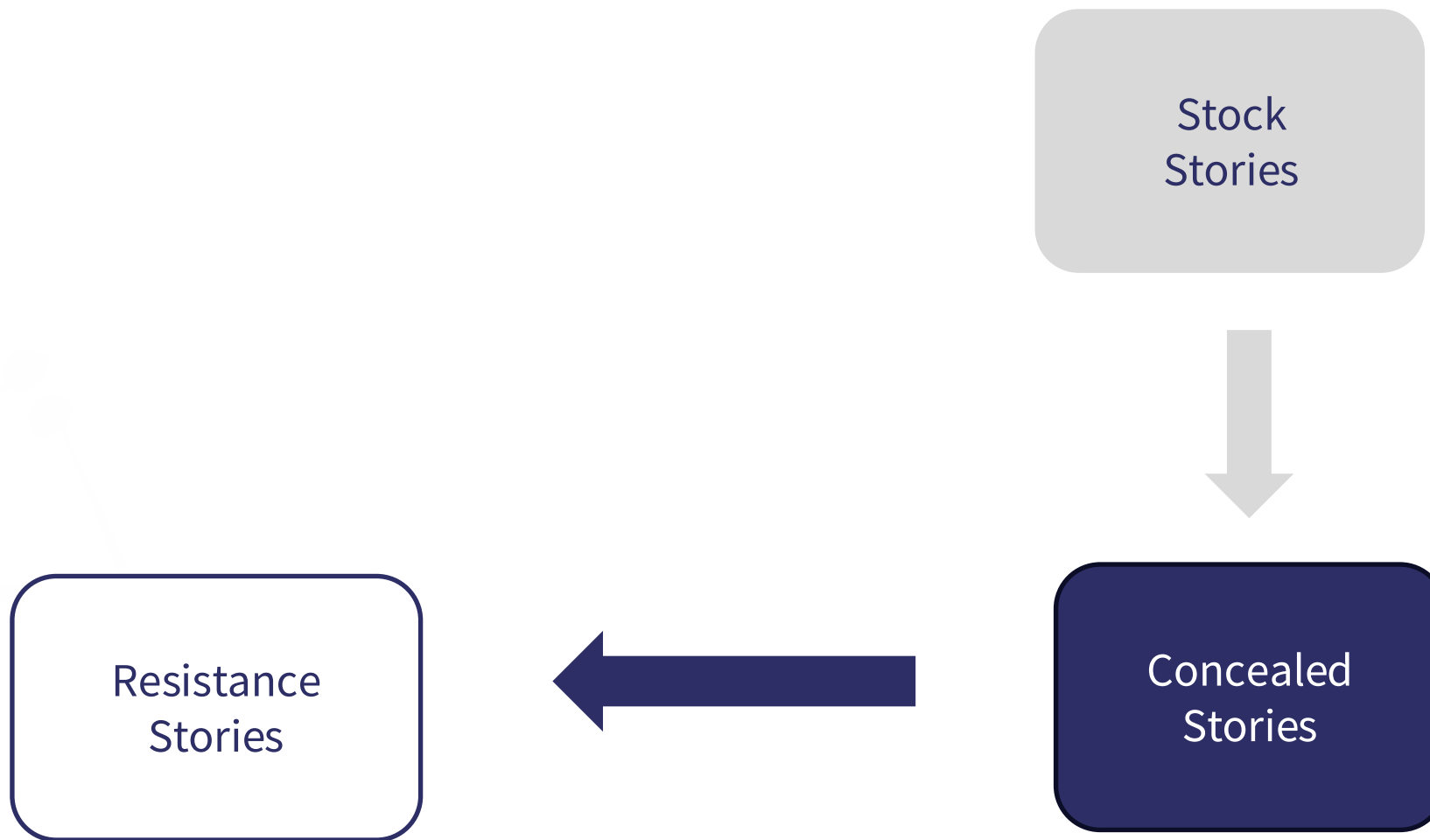


January 1993

CDC revised AIDS definition to include conditions common in cisgender women



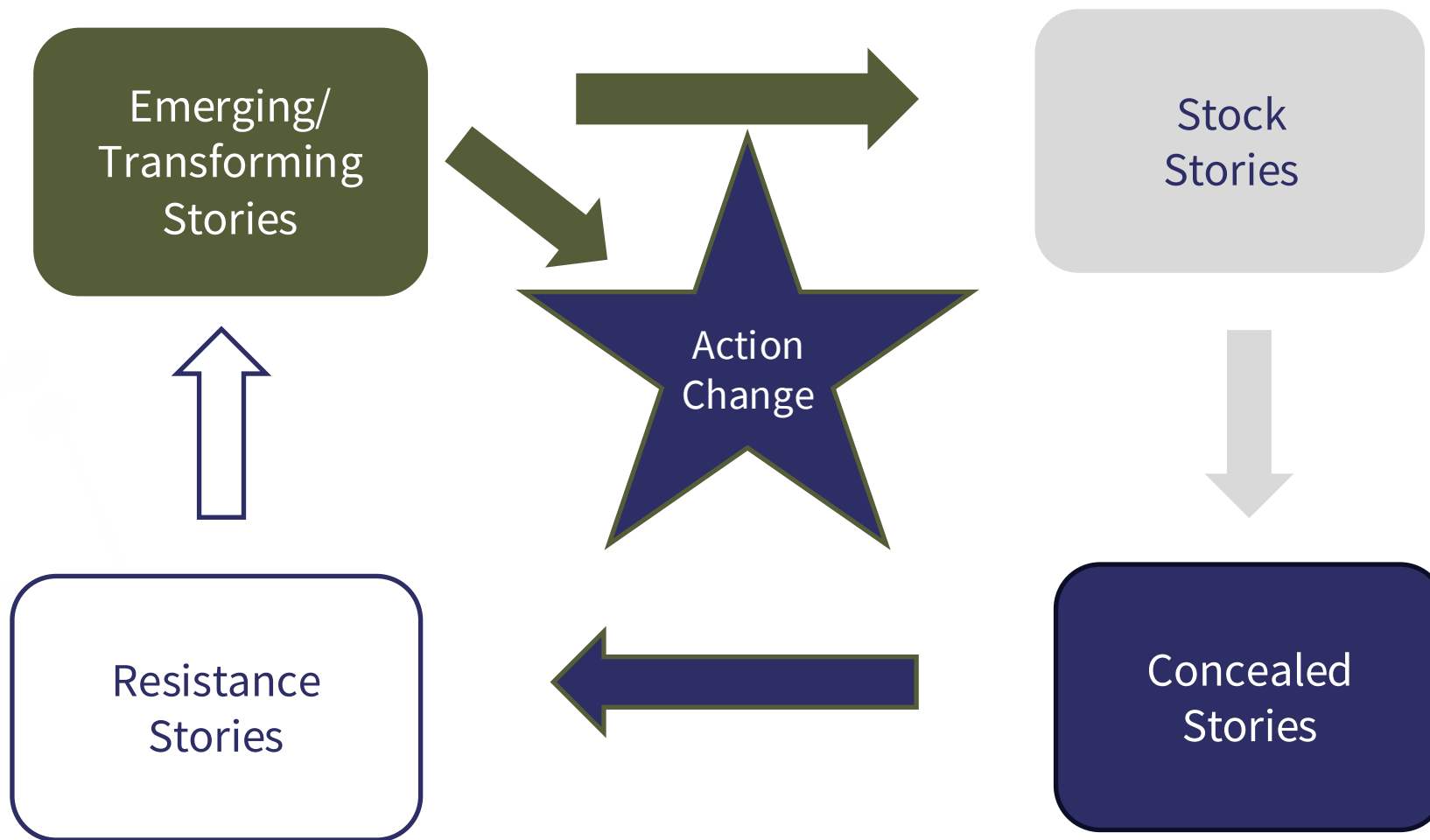
Creating Counter Storytelling: The Storytelling Project Model by Lee Anne Bell



HIV Resistance Stories: Your Turn



Creating Counter Storytelling: The Storytelling Project Model by Lee Anne Bell



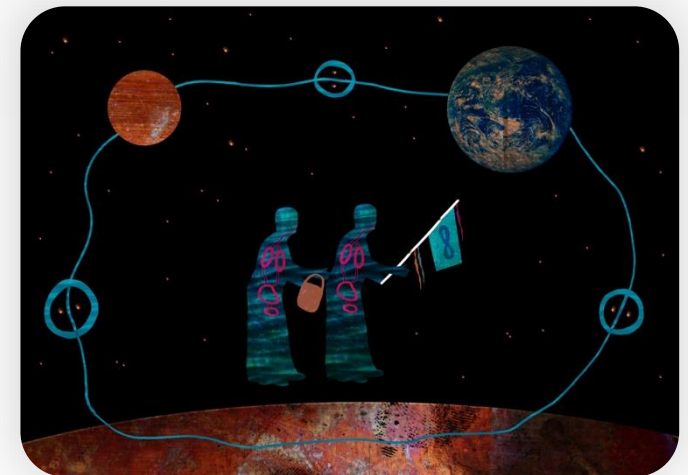
Emerging Stories

**When vision fails,
direction is lost.
When direction is
lost, purpose may
be forgotten.**

Parable of the Talents,
Octavia Butler



Beautifully Vibrant Afrofuturism Collages, by Kaylan Michel. Published on February 21, 2020. Licensed by Moss



Elizabeth LaPensée, Our Grandmothers Carry Water from the Other World





“There’s no single answer that will solve all our future problems. There's no magic bullet. Instead, there are thousands of answer - at least. You can be one of them if you choose to be.” 🌱

Octavia Bulter