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**De-Sexualising Dangerous Bodies and Regulating the Self**

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The emergence of AIDS in the eighties generated an extreme reaction from society. Mechanisms of regulation were activated in order to identify and control the “invader”. The initial association of the syndrome with particular stigmatised groups helped to alleviate anxiety and establish a boundary in order to protect the general population. This paper which is based on my PhD thesis argues that despite the efforts of national and international organisations working for the rights of people with HIV, mainstream discourses neglect people’s sexual rights, while focusing on the protection of the general population. Following Foucault and drawing on media analysis, particularly of letters to the editor collected during the 2003 AIDS preventative campaign in Chile, on group interviews with health workers at a hospital in Santiago the same year, and the analysis of a current case of sterilization in Chile, the paper provides evidence that sexual rights tend to be denied to people with HIV. They are to blame and their sexual practices regulated by health interventions and religious and political discourses. Furthermore, the analyses of the narratives of people with HIV interviewed in 2003-2004 show the drastic decisions some of them take for their lives and their sexual relationships.

*My name is Isabel Pérez. I did my undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Psychology in Chile, at the Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile respectively. I worked for some years as a counsellor and psychotherapist at the Fundación Arriarán, an HIV-specialised centre, while I was completing studies on Ericksonian and Strategic Therapy. At the beginning of this year I finished my PhD at the University of Birmingham. My thesis explored the social aspects of AIDS from an interdisciplinary perspective. I am currently working on research in the areas of gender, sexuality and subjectivity.*