This special issue on the political economy of HIV has been co-edited by Kevin Deane (University of Northampton), Deborah Johnston (SOAS) and Matteo Rizzo (SOAS, RoAPE Editorial Board). The issue contains conceptual, original research and review articles that will be of interest to those working in political economy, public health, international development, economics and epidemiology. The contributions cover a number of important current issues, including conceptual issues regarding the role of structural drivers of the epidemic, critical discussion of interventions such as microfinance and cash transfers, an assessment of approaches to understanding sexual practices such as concurrency and transactional sex, as well as challenges related to the international response, institutional architectures, and the impact the response has had on the African state. The special issue seeks to promote a strong critical social science response to the epidemic, building on and advancing previous research that addresses the economic and social drivers of the epidemic.

Articles featured in the special issue include:

**Editorial: The political economy of HIV**
Deborah Johnston, Kevin Deane & Matteo Rizzo

**Trapped in the prison of the proximate: structural HIV/AIDS prevention in southern Africa**
Bridget O’Laughlin

**The political economy of concurrent partners: toward a history of sex–love–gift connections in the time of AIDS**
Mark Hunter

**Wealthy and healthy? New evidence on the relationship between wealth and HIV vulnerability in Tanzania**
Danya Long & Kevin Deane

**Paying the price of HIV in Africa: cash transfers and the depoliticisation of HIV risk**
Deborah Johnston

**Exploring the complexity of microfinance and HIV in fishing communities on the shores of Lake Malawi**
Eleanor MacPherson et al.

**Revisiting the economics of transactional sex: evidence from Tanzania**
Kevin Deane & Joyce Wamoyi

Debates

**The key questions in the AIDS epidemic in 2015**
Alan Whiteside OBE

**15 years of ‘War on AIDS’: what impact has the global HIV/AIDS response had on the political economy of Africa?**
Sophie Harman

**Breaking out of silos – the need for critical paradigm reflection in HIV prevention**
Justin O. Parkhurst & Moritz Hunsmann

**Microfinance and HIV prevention**
Janet Seeley

Read the special issue here: