

Troubling the Angels: Women Living With HIV/AIDS

by Patti Lather and Chris Smithies
Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1997

Based on an interview study of 25 women in HIV/AIDS support groups, this book traces the patterns and changes of how the women make sense of HIV/AIDS in their lives. Attempting to map the complications of living with the disease, the book is organized as a hyper textual, multi-layered weaving of data, method, analysis, and the politics of interpretation that invites multiple entries and ways of reading. Networking across the interviews, angel inter texts which serves as "breathers" between the themes and emotions of the women's stories, a running subtext where the co-researchers spin out their tales of doing the research, "factoid" boxes on various aspects of the disease, and a scattering of the women's writing in the form of poems, letter, speeches and emails, the book moves outside formerly comfortable holds on sense making while still reaching toward a generally accessible public horizon. Enacting a feminist ethnography at the limits of representation, the book mixes sociological, political, historical, therapeutic and policy analysis along with the privileging of ethnographic voice so that something might be seen regarding the registers in which we live out the weight of hard-borne history.

The book will be out from Westview Press, approximately April 1997. 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80301-2877. Email: jill.rothenberg@harpercollins.com