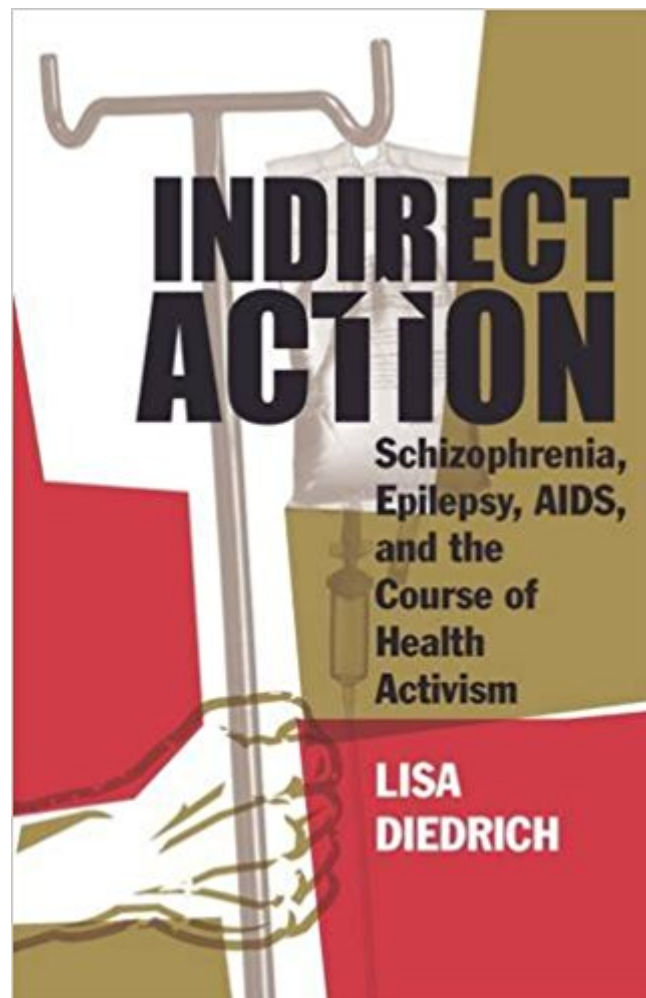




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Indirect Action: Schizophrenia, Epilepsy, AIDS, And The Course Of Health Activism



Synopsis

The experience of illness (both mental and physical) figures prominently in the critical thought and activism of the 1960s and 1970s, though it is largely overshadowed by practices of sexuality. Lisa Diedrich explores how and why illness was indeed so significant to the social, political, and institutional transformation beginning in the 1960s through the emergence of AIDS in the United States. A rich intervention—both theoretical and methodological, political and therapeutic—Indirect Action illuminates the intersection of illness, thought, and politics. Not merely a revision of the history of this time period, Indirect Action expands the historiographical boundaries through which illness and health activism in the United States have been viewed. Diedrich explores the multiplicity illness—thought—politics through an array of subjects: queering the origin story of AIDS activism by recalling its feminist history; exploring health activism and the medical experience; analyzing psychiatry and self-help movements; thinking ecologically about counterpractices of generalism in science and medicine; and considering the experience and event of epilepsy and the witnessing of schizophrenia. Indirect Action places illness in the leading role in the production of thought during the emergence of AIDS, ultimately showing the critical interconnectedness of illness and political and critical thought.

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"Complex yet disarmingly candid, Indirect Action queers the process of history itself, offering a politics of indirectness that is still action, of remembering that doesn't overshadow. Lisa

Diedrich is skilled at presenting a turn of thought or analytic term with extraordinary precision and historical weight." — Catherine Belling, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine "Moving through several sites that link illness, thought, and political action, Indirect Action is an engaged, vital, and generative critical practice. Lisa Diedrich demonstrates that when we take a longer view of complex phenomena, we discover the occluded origins and overlooked factors leading to their emergence." — Susan M. Squier, Pennsylvania State University "Beautifully crafted, Indirect Action helps us to see how present activism, specifically health activism, might be done differently. Lisa Diedrich's gift is her ability to capture the transversal view without losing sight of this important argument: There is enormous power in indirect action." — Lisa Cartwright, University of California, San Diego

Lisa Diedrich is associate professor of women's and gender studies at State University of New York at Stony Brook. She is the author of *Treatments: Language, Politics, and the Culture of Illness* (Minnesota, 2007).

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