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Compatible Discordance: On Truth, Facts, and Other Things That Are Not Necessarily All That Helpful When Thinking About HIV

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is framed by conceptual binaries meant to provide both those directly affected and the others with a rational roadmap: truth-lies, facts-myths, science-superstition... I contend that binaries, no matter how useful and mobile, fail to account for the complex *experience* of HIV/AIDS, their implicit purpose being to *capture* the infected and others as opposites. Ultimately, I propose to rethink disclosure away from discourses of truth, i.e., as sharing (a relational dynamic) rather than as confession (a policing device), thus opening up possibilities of contact between the directly and the *indirectly* affected. With disclosure as *sharing* all elements involved—statement, interlocutors, context —get reinvented each time and in relation to each other. HIV/AIDS disclosure may then be practiced to remind the uninfected that they too are participants in the experience. In a pandemic, nearness is inevitable, and discordance need not be understood as incompatibility.