

# global health inequities

POLITICS, POWER &  
RESISTANCE WEEK 4

## vaccine apartheid

'Never trust drug companies' benevolence. So that "no profit pledge" by AstraZeneca, we said: "Interrogate that. Look at the sublicensing agreements. Make sure there's data transparency." We said: "You're going to have price variations, you're going to segment markets... They're not going to respond to this from a public health [or] epidemiological perspective. The vaccines will go to the people who are the wealthiest. They'll test vaccines in our country but decide if they'll come into our country or not..." This is exactly what happened with HIV/AIDS.'

BY HADAS THIER, AFRICA IS A COUNTRY



## coloniality

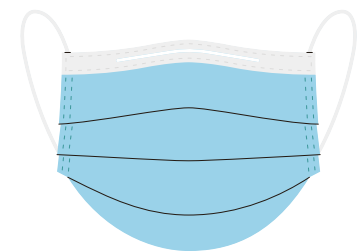
'Donor-based approaches to vaccine equity are grounded in old, even colonial ideas of aid and dependency, which have failed to serve the health needs of the Majority World or deliver on health equity. This failed model has not promoted health equity in the past and is clearly inadequate in the present, on account of dependency on donor whims (the bilateral 'leftovers' approach), persistent funding gaps and shortfalls (COVAX), and time-consuming diplomacy and filibustering over what is or is not within current trade rules (WTO)'

HARMAN ET AL. GLOBAL VACCINE EQUITY

## covid and migrant workers

Most egregiously, the Ontario government has released a plan for migrant farm workers that allows them to continue working even if they are COVID positive, as long as they are asymptomatic. Other employers across the country have infringed on the basic rights of their workers by pressuring them into signing agreements where they agree not to leave the farm and to allow their employer to use their wages to provide food and other provisions for them. The option for migrant workers is to sign the document so as to face firing and thus deportation.

M.I. ASMA NEGROCAPITALISM, CHAPTER 18



# questions

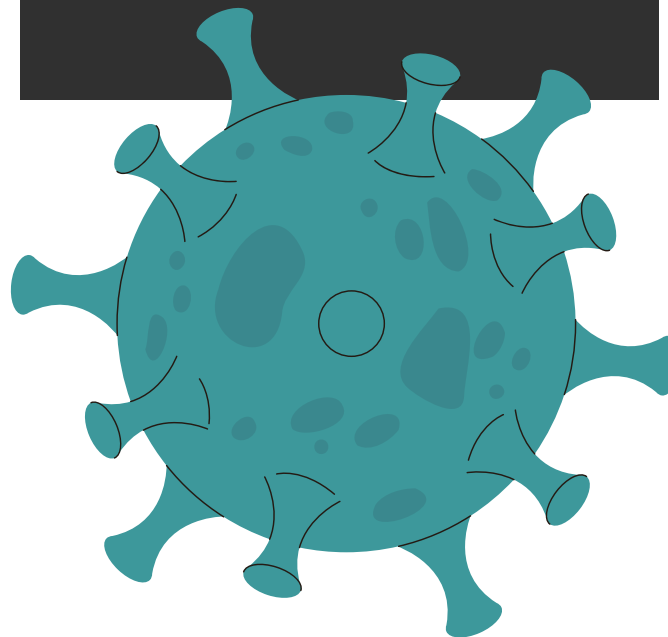
According to Thier, what can the history of HIV in South Africa teach us about Covid Vaccine apartheid?

According to Harman et al. what are the 3 solutions to vaccine inequity and what are their limitations?\*

Hint: last paragraph

According to M.I. Asma, what are the links between Covid and the exploitation of migrant labour?

Bonus:  
What is the role played by pharmaceutical companies and how does this link to 'imperialist monopolies' discussed in Week 3?



Bonus:  
What have been the issues facing 'essential workers' in Australia during Covid?