



Apr 16th, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

# The Effect of Gender and Cultural Expectations on Young Women in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

Myla Green

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

William Munro, Faculty Advisor

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

Green, Myla and Munro, Faculty Advisor, William, "The Effect of Gender and Cultural Expectations on Young Women in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS" (2005). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 14.  
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2005/posters2/14>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation P28

**THE EFFECT OF GENDER AND CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS ON YOUNG  
WOMEN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS**

Myla Green and William Munro\*  
Political Science Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Studies on rising HIV/AIDS rates have shown a variety of factors influencing the heightened vulnerability of South African women. Even though young people generally have an adequate understanding of HIV/AIDS, their infection rates continue to increase. Societal norms and traditional gender roles render women more vulnerable to contracting the disease, in part by denying women the rights to ensure safe sex and monogamous relationships. Accepted norms regarding men's sexual "needs" and standard sexual conduct in relationships have influenced the low success rate of condoms in preventing transmission. This presentation will examine how and why these norms, attitudes, HIV/AIDS education, governmental roles, individual economic incentives, and other factors contribute to South African young women's disadvantage in the fight against this epidemic.