

face has been maintained and the role of civil society organisations in reporting outbreaks has sometimes been a significant spur to reluctant governments. The 2005 Revised International Health Regulations and the narrative framing of cross-national risk have been crucial in eliciting a concerted response to severe acute respiratory syndrome, Nipah virus, and highly pathogenic avian influenza. But for some of the poorer countries in the area, the quest for effective action and cooperation in pursuit of regional and national risk has compromised capacity for dealing with locally significant outbreaks: dengue or dengue haemorrhagic fever, chikungunya, and diarrheal diseases. And among countries, there is differential capacity to identify diseases (by laboratory examination rather than symptomatology) as part of the diagnostic and notification process. Such differentials might undermine faith in the reporting systems between countries and within the region.

Davies' narrative applies a generalised theory of behaviour change (at last count this had 83 variants) to describe changes in states' reporting behaviour. In the health setting, such theory is usually

applied to individual humans. Here it is applied to countries' technical personnel, their politicians, regional institutions, and WHO—the latter torn between centralised and decentralised organisation by its own political exigencies. She shows that, here as is true at other scales, the theory of individual behaviour change is inadequate. At the scale of countries, the regional milieu was and remains important. We see, once again, that where behaviour change is advocated or achieved, individuals (whether countries or single humans) act only in relation to structures: this must inform health interventions.

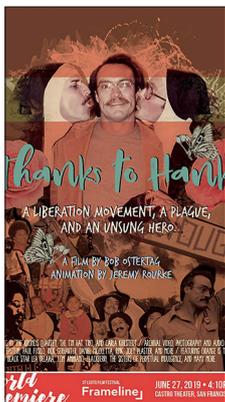
This excellent book recounts how, in southeast Asia, framing of the problem of disease emergence and spread as regional risk elicited diplomatic engagements between diverse epistemic communities and polities. In a fragmented world, history and milieu are everything. We must use this approach to behaviour change in the health field and beyond in relation to other areas of common risk.

Tony Barnett



Documentary

Do the right thing



The value of inspirational figures is often underestimated in a society that promotes mostly personal achievement and competition. Yet, inspirational figures can be instrumental in transforming the way we perceive our own capabilities and make a mark in the world around us. Bob Ostertag's documentary *Thanks to Hank* is a tribute to one of those figures, HIV/AIDS and LGBT+ rights activist Henry "Hank" Wilson, whose example inspired many people active in the care of people with AIDS.

Born in Sacramento in 1947, Wilson was already at the forefront of the fight against discrimination of LGBT+ people, in particular teachers in high school, when HIV emerged in the 1980s in the USA. Witnessing the hostility faced by people with AIDS in those years, Wilson concentrated his endless energy on finding and running a place where homeless people with AIDS could find shelter, company, and dignity. He leased the Ambassador Hotel in the Tenderloin district in San Francisco to host people with AIDS, a model of care for people with AIDS that led to the creation of the Tenderloin AIDS Network, later the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center. An AIDS survivor himself, Wilson dedicated most of his life in the following years to improving life conditions for people with AIDS and was also behind the creation of the AIDS Candlelight Vigil, which became the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial.

Many people who knew Wilson share affectionate and heartfelt memories in *Thanks to Hank*: among them there are Donna Lisa Stewart, who worked at the Ambassador Hotel, and comedian Lea DeLaria, who performed in the Valencia Rose Cafe, a gay cabaret created by Wilson. What emerges from their fond memories of Wilson is the portrait of a selfless and decisive man who did not hesitate to put himself in the service of people with AIDS in the time when society was shunning them, without renouncing his modesty and sense of humour in the most adverse circumstances.

Particularly moving are Ostertag's memories of the Wilson's last days of life in 2008, at the end of the documentary. Neglected by the nurse who had been hired to look after him when he was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer, Wilson spent his last days alone in hospital and his friends never managed to properly thank him for the help and inspiration he had provided over the years.

With *Thanks to Hank*, Ostertag succeeds in showing to those who did not know this activist the huge difference that Wilson, and his broad vision of justice, had on the lives of people with AIDS. And on their behalf, Ostertag manages with his documentary to say a proper thanks to a man who was not afraid to dedicate his life to others.

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Thanks to Hank

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