

How 21st Century Capitalism Shapes Public Health and Health Equity: Implications for Alcohol Justice



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Public health apocalypses of the 21st century

COVID-19 pandemic

Climate disasters

Rising burden of non-communicable diseases

Occupational illnesses and injuries from precarious work

Mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, alcohol and drug problems

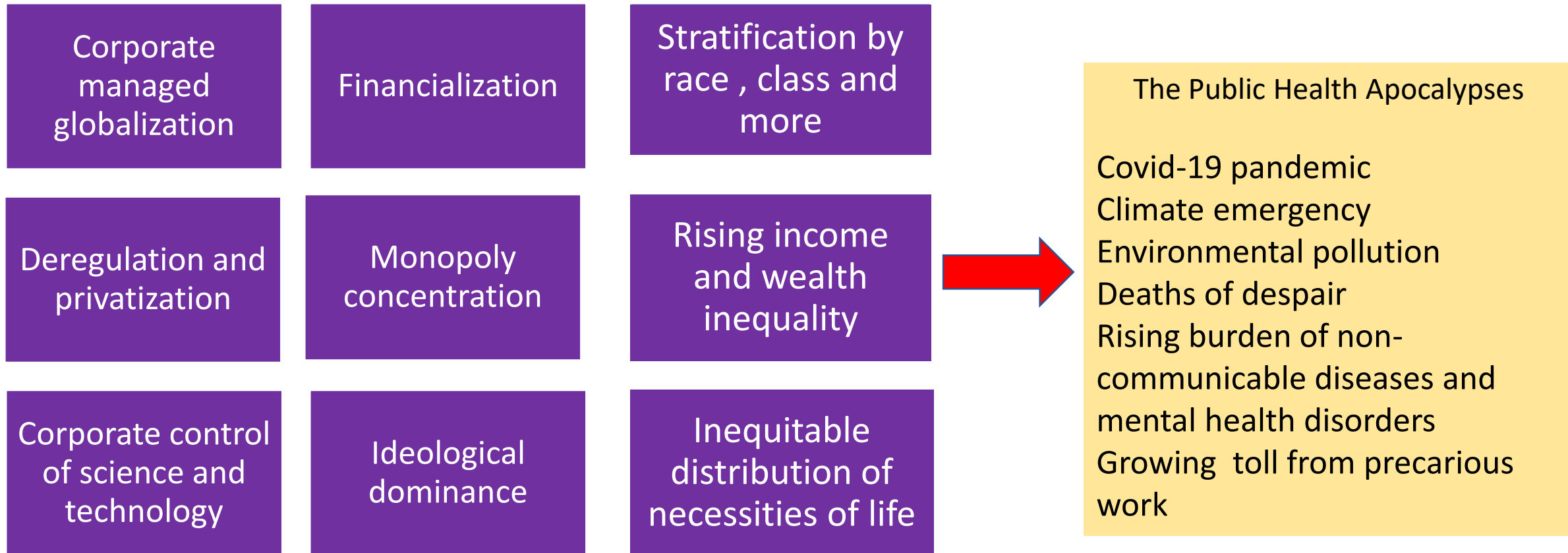
Environmental exposures to air and water pollution

Injuries and deaths from firearms



Current global economic and political system is fundamental cause of recent health crises

Drivers of transformation of 20th century capitalism



Political and economic system shapes daily living conditions and distribution of individual, community, population and planetary health

FOOD

Rise of Ultra-processed Food



MEDICAL CARE

Medical Care and Drugs for Profit



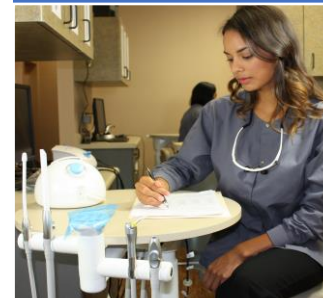
EDUCATION

For Profit Child Care, Charter Schools, and Colleges



WORK

Gig economy and Precarious Low-wage Labor



TRANSPORTATION

Uber, Mass Transit, Car Defect Coverups and Driverless Cars



SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Tech Companies Monetize Desires, Undermine Privacy and Target Children





Where does
racism fit in
with all this?

Ibram X Kendi: “the origins of racism cannot be separated from the origins of capitalism (and) the life of capitalism cannot be separated from the life of racism.” The two systems are “conjoined twins”.

10 ways consumer industries harm health

- 1. Make disease promoting products ubiquitous**
- 2. Encourage retailers to promote their products**
- 3. Supersize products**
- 4. Target marketing to vulnerable populations**
- 5. Price unhealthy products to promote sale and use**
- 6. Create monopolies that reduce bargaining power of consumers and government**
- 7. Support candidates who oppose public health policies and lobby against laws that protect public health**
- 8. Sow doubt about scientific evidence that shows harm**
- 9. Threaten to take jobs out of communities that oppose policies**
- 10. Organize Astroturf groups to oppose public health policies**

Leading forces for health and social changes are social movements



Paths to
another
world are
made by
walking

No cookbook or road map will get us
to another world

Wanted: safe spaces to forge common
ground and debate differences

Both incremental and transformative
strategies are needed

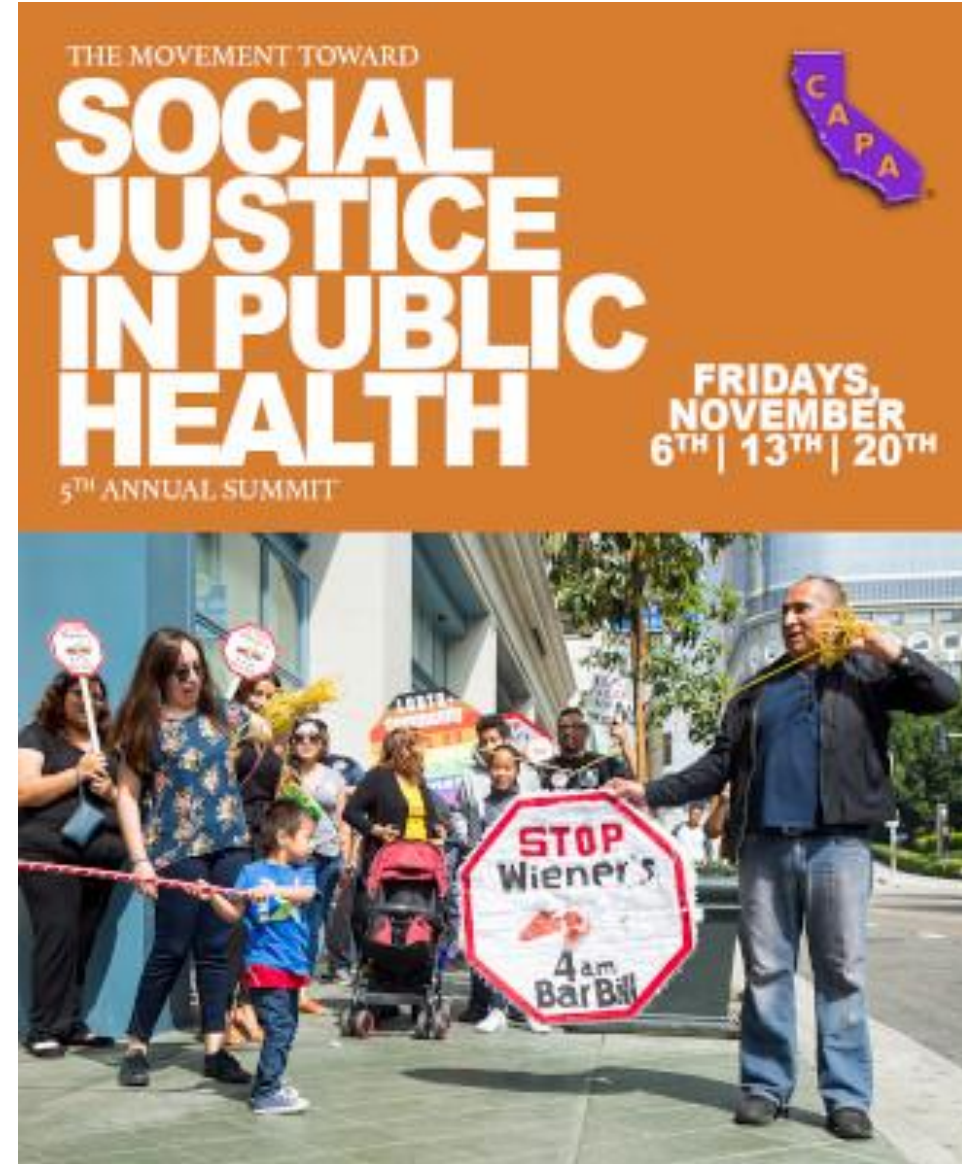
Make changing capitalism the goal

How can health professionals, service providers, and activists tackle social determinants of health?

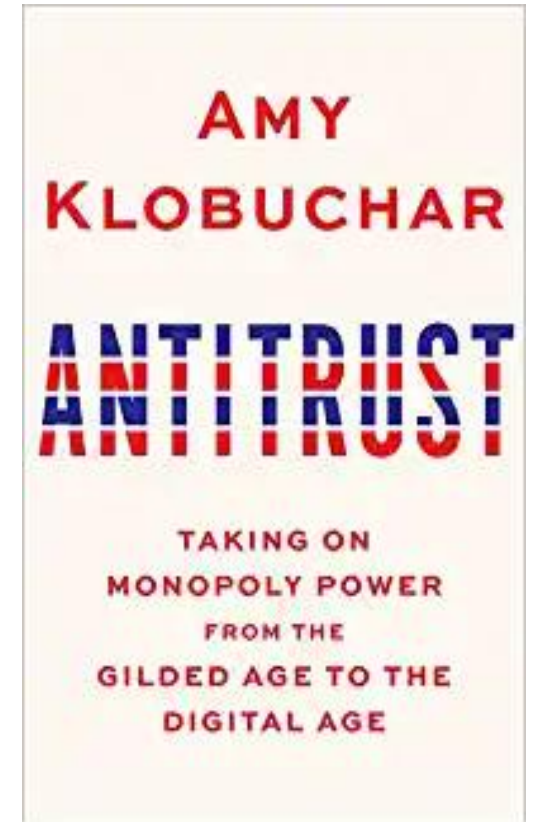
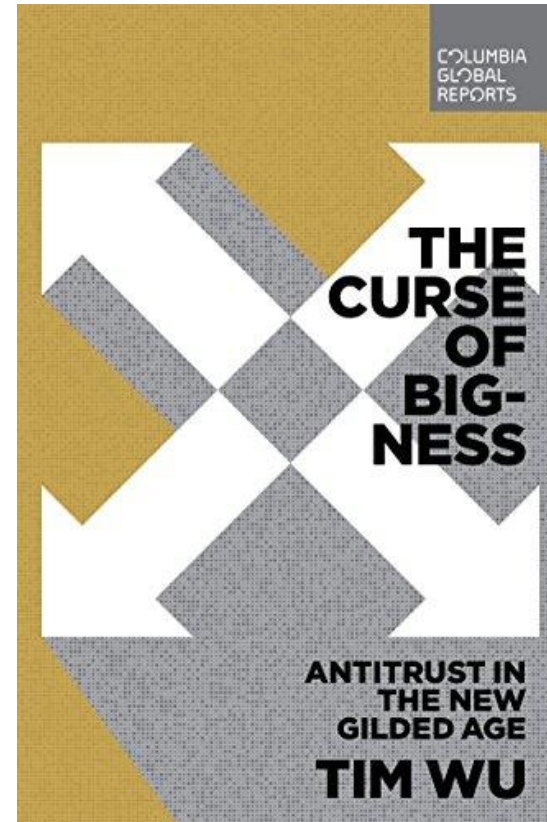
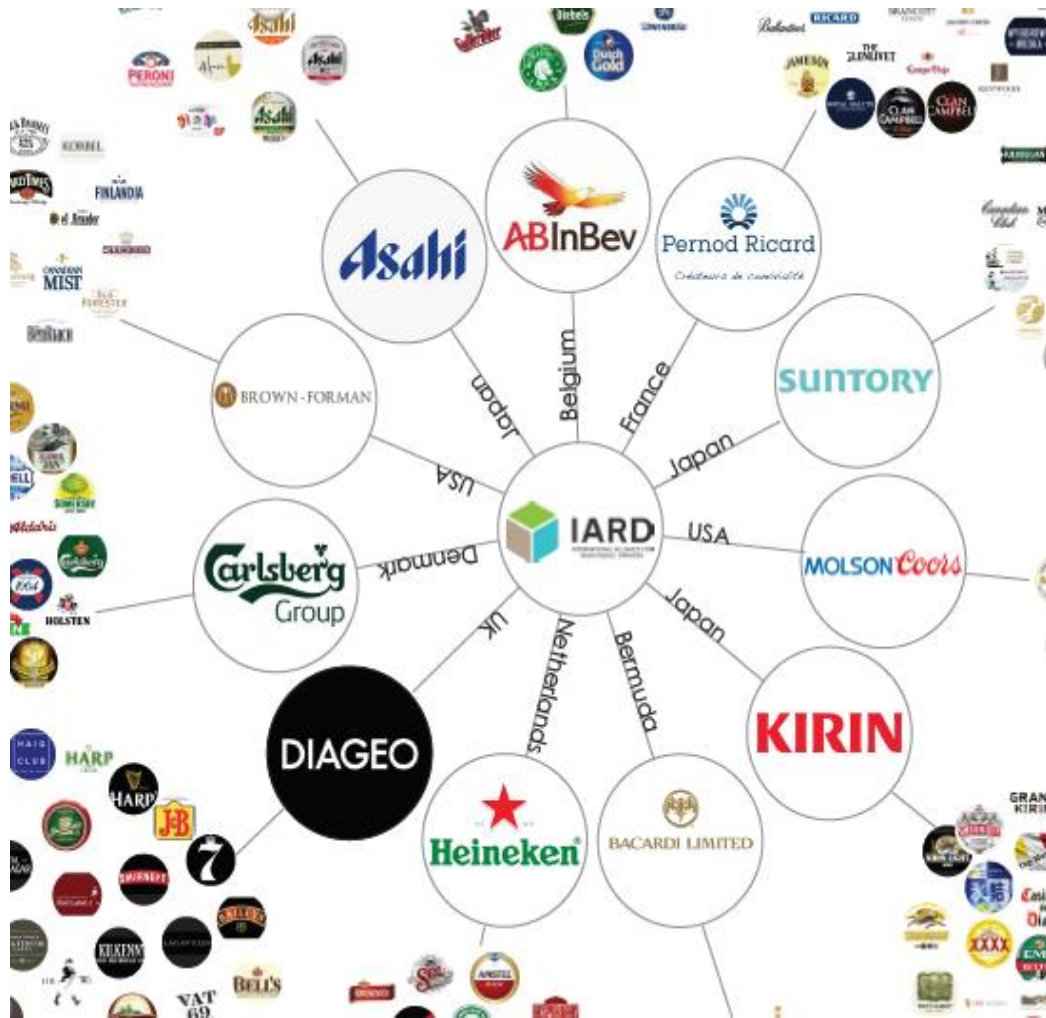
1. Search for and take on upstream drivers of ill health.
2. Talk about capitalism.
3. Ground public health and political practice in efforts of others looking to bring about change.
4. Defend truth and science.
5. Insist another world is possible.



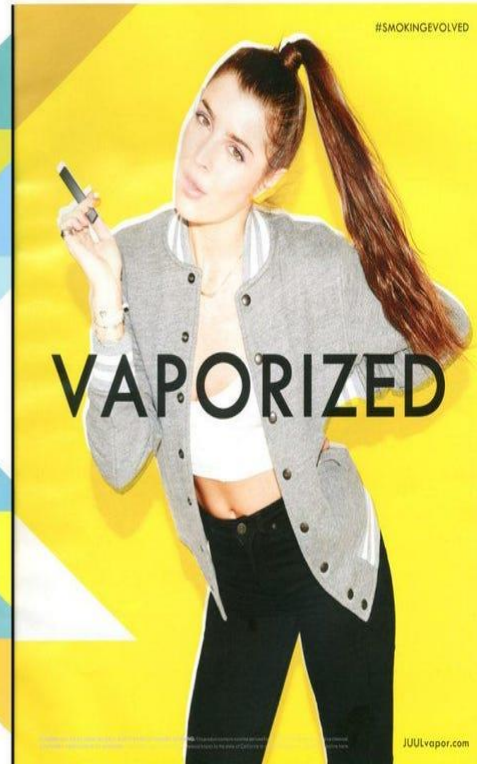
Questions for the Alcohol Justice Movement



How can we support the fight against monopoly control?

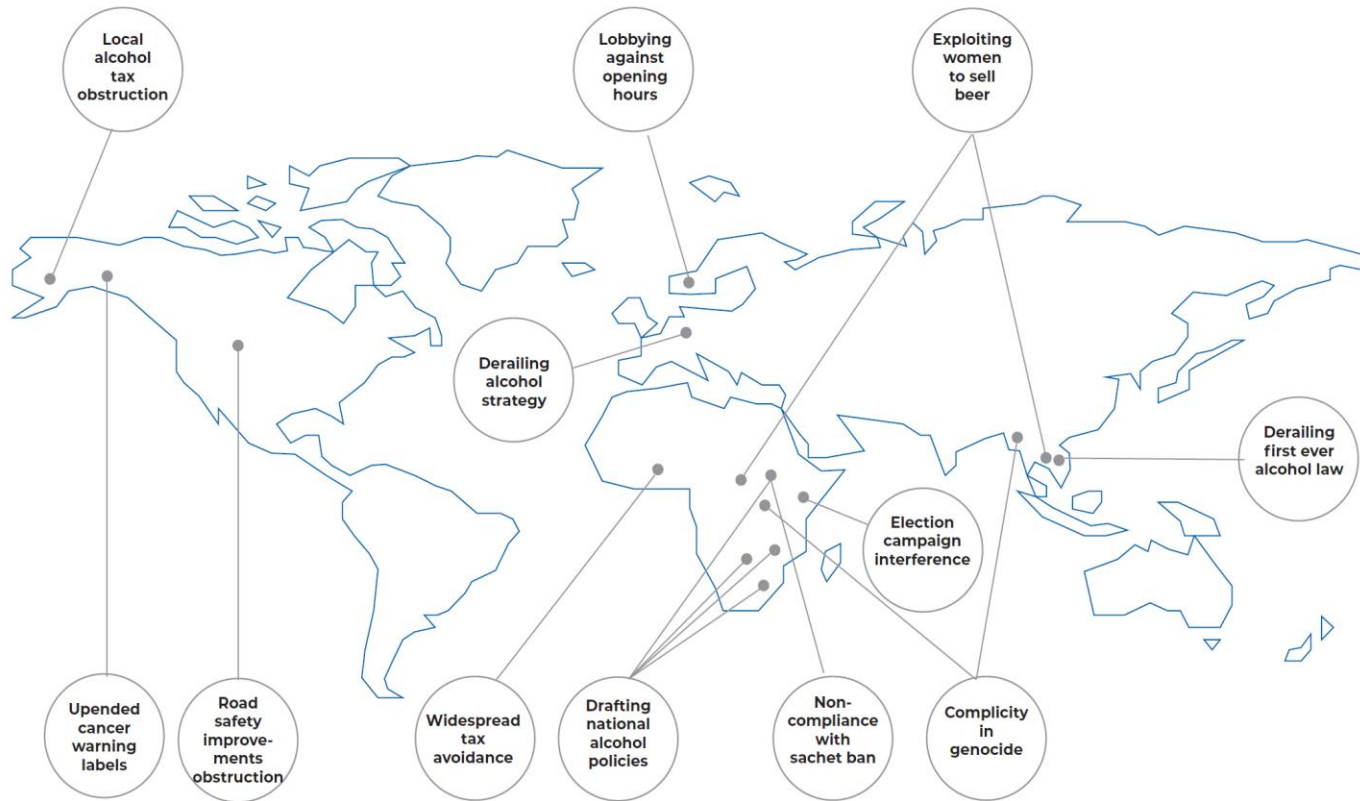


How do we join forces with others fighting predatory marketing?



How can we align our local, state, national and global work?

BIG ALCOHOL LOBBYING: WORLDWIDE FOOTPRINT OF INTERFERENCE



How can we build new, more powerful alliances?

- Framing messages to enlist new constituencies
- Respectful dialogue with potential partners who may not agree on everything
- Make the personal political and political personal
- Make young people and those most harmed by industry practices the leaders
- Take the long view

How can we
insist another
world is
possible?

