

Contemporary Drug Problems

23-25
AUGUST, 2017

HELSINKI
FINLAND



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Making alcohol and other drug realities

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: 1 MARCH, 2017

Common-sense approaches to drugs and their effects usually understand them as self-evident objects that pre-exist the responses developed to address them. However, an emerging body of scholarly work in the social sciences has begun to reverse this understanding, rethinking drugs and their effects as constituted in various forms of practice. Research methods, public policies, treatment protocols and legislative processes all help produce the very phenomena they purport to address. Sometimes called the 'ontological turn', this conceptual shift recognises that processes of studying, treating and otherwise responding to entities such as drugs do not simply 'map', 'reveal' or 'deal with' them; they enact or constitute them as realities.

The insights afforded by the ontological turn offer much to the critical analysis of alcohol and other drug issues. How might these insights reshape epidemiological debates about the methods used to monitor dynamic drug markets, estimate prevalence and map trends and causes, or the ways in which data

derived from these methods are interpreted? How might these insights enrich qualitative research on diagnostic instruments, treatment systems, government policies, legal processes, health promotion and popular culture?

Building on *CDP's* three previous conferences, which have opened up questions of how drugs are problematised; how the complexity of drug use might be attended to and managed; and how drug use might be understood as event, assemblage or phenomenon, **we now seek submissions for presentations that critically explore and debate the issues posed when we approach science, policy, treatment, law and other practices as constituting the realities they seek to address.**

We welcome research from those working in anthropology, cultural studies, epidemiology, history, public policy, sociology and related disciplines. We also encourage the innovative use of methods, concepts and theoretical tools, including but not limited to those associated with the ontological turn.

Possible topics include consideration of the realities constituted in or by:

- Prohibition and international drug conventions
- Mandated treatment
- Drug courts
- Alcohol and other drug policy
- Education/health promotion in schools and universities
- Harm reduction services and measures
- Neuroscientific approaches to drug effects and addiction
- Monitoring/surveillance systems
- Research on drug trends
- Quantitative measures of alcohol and other drug use
- Qualitative concepts of subjectivity, agency, affect and identity
- Post-qualitative research methods
- Consumer accounts and narratives of drug use, addiction and recovery
- Medical and other forms of diagnosis/assessment
- Treatment models and practices
- Youth and other drug services
- Social media websites and apps
- Popular culture enactments of drug use

Other relevant topics welcome.

CONFERENCE CONVENORS

Hosted by *Contemporary Drug Problems*, the National Institute for Health and Welfare (Helsinki, Finland), the National Drug Research Institute (Curtin University, Australia), the Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research (Aarhus University, Denmark), the Centre for Population Health (Burnet Institute, Australia), and the Department of Science and Technology Studies (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA), this conference will bring together leading international researchers in drug use and addiction studies from a range of research disciplines and methods – both qualitative and quantitative.

CONFERENCE DATES AND LOCATION The conference will be held from 23-25 August, 2017 at Paasitorni (<http://www.paasitorni.fi/en>) in Helsinki, Finland.

CONFERENCE FORMAT The conference will run over three days. The program will feature a mix of plenary presentations and concurrent streams. Presentations will run for 20 minutes to be followed by 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

CALL FOR PAPERS Delegates are invited to submit abstracts of approximately 300 words to cdp@curtin.edu.au by 1 March, 2017. Participation is limited and preference will be given to abstracts that address the conference theme. Abstracts will be reviewed by the conference committee and delegates will be notified of the outcome of their submission in late March, 2017.

CONFERENCE PUBLICATION Following the conference, *Contemporary Drug Problems* will publish a special issue featuring selected papers from the conference. The journal publishes peer-reviewed social science research on alcohol and other psychoactive drugs, licit and illicit. The orientation of *Contemporary Drug Problems* is multidisciplinary and international; it is open to any research article that contributes to social, cultural, historical or epidemiological knowledge and theory concerning drug use and related problems. Further information on the journal can be found at <http://cdx.sagepub.com/>.

FURTHER INFORMATION Future announcements will carry details of accommodation options, conference registration costs and other information for delegates. All queries should be directed to cdp@curtin.edu.au.

SATELLITE WORKSHOP: 'MAKING SENSE OF POLYDRUG USE: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES'

A satellite workshop on polydrug use, hosted by the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare, will be held on Tuesday 22 August, 2017 at Paasitorni. Guest speakers include Aileen O'Gorman (UK) and François Lamy (USA). Participation in the workshop is free. For further details, please contact Pekka Hakkarainen at pekka.hakkarainen@thl.fi or Kati Kataja at kati.kataja@thl.fi. The call for abstracts will be available soon on the main conference website.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE
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