

## **SE846 Cultural Dimensions in the Study of Drugs and Addictions**

**Thursdays 11-1, CNWS2**

### **Convenors:**

Anna Waldstein (Anthropology), Marlowe 166, Office Hours-Monday 3-5,  
[aw87@kent.ac.uk](mailto:aw87@kent.ac.uk)

Axel Klein (KIMHS), Office Hours-by appointment, [A.Klein@kent.ac.uk](mailto:A.Klein@kent.ac.uk)

**Module Description:** Drugs form an integral part of human culture, with a wide range of medical, religious and recreational applications. They are often so central to social life that they are not identified as drugs and are differentiated from drugs used by 'other' cultures. The control of such intoxicating substances has been a major social policy concern for several decades. In spite of a growing volume of research, policy responses both in the UK and in many other countries are failing to realise their own primary objective, and carry a large cost in collateral damage.

In this module we will explore the role played by drugs in different societies, and follow the dissemination of different substances in the process of cultural encounters. The first part of the module will cover an historic analysis of the changing pattern of drug use within Western societies, beginning with the function of drugs as trading commodities as a trigger for capital accumulation, economic development, and as a source of state revenue at different stages in history. We will also look at the use of drugs among modern youth and sub cultures, as well as the response by the cultural mainstream.

The second part of the module will consist of a broad comparison of use and function of different substances within different culture complexes, including coca in the Andean region, opium in South and Eastern Asia, cannabis in North Africa and the Caribbean, khat in the Horn of Africa. Development issues with regard to cash cropping and rural livelihoods will be covered and prepare the way for a consideration of the politics of drug control at an international level.

Throughout, students will engage in a reflexive exercise on the definition of drug use and the use of such concepts as addiction, altered states, and the drug induced crime. The course will enable students to understand some of the dynamics of this complex and important social phenomenon.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this module students will have:

- An understanding of the role of drugs in different cultural settings around the world
- Knowledge of the relationship between consumption, altered states and the distinction between the sacred and the profane
- An appreciation that the assessment of risk and danger of substances is largely determined by cultural values and the social framing of consumption
- The ability to critically evaluate the social, cultural and biological effects of drugs

**Format:** The course consists of 12 sessions which are divided into lectures and seminars. Students are expected to participate in discussions of the key issues of each session, and to prepare summary presentations of key texts for each session.

**Assessment:** The assessment for this module includes one 3000-word essay (20%), one oral presentation (10%) and a written examination (70%). Instructions for coursework assignments (including deadlines for submission) will be distributed during the second week of term.

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**Special Needs:** Students who have special needs to facilitate learning should make those needs known to the convenor of each module they are taking during the first week of the module.

**Attendance:** In the Anthropology Department our regulation is that students who **fail to attend 50% of the seminars in one module will not be given any coursework mark** for that module irrespective of whether coursework accounts for 20% or more of the final mark. A register of attendance at seminars will be kept.

**Late Coursework:** Students should note that the Department of Anthropology has a new regulation, which prevents module conveners from accepting/marketing coursework that is not turned in on time. However, students who can provide the senior tutor with appropriate concessionary evidence may be granted an extension for turning in coursework. **If you do not have appropriate concessionary evidence any and all late coursework will receive a mark of 0.**

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** A full statement of the university's definition of plagiarism and how it is treated within the university and of the Department of Anthropology's policy on plagiarism and the penalties - **the most extreme of which is being asked to withdraw from the university** - which might be incurred as a consequence of plagiarism are found on the Departmental web-site.

It is of the utmost importance that students constantly bear in mind the requirement that material and arguments that they are using in their essays and writing-assignments are properly acknowledged in the course of their writing. **It is not, for example, sufficient simply to list items in a final bibliography: that would not be considered to constitute adequate acknowledgement of sources.** The standard anthropological method of referencing (see relevant passages in the Essay writing section in the student handbook or in module handouts or consult any recent issue of the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* or, for BSc students the *Journal of Human Evolution*) shows you how to indicate your source material in the body of the text of your essay. These indications of sources should, it must be noted, refer not only to direct quotations but also to summaries and paraphrases and must include references to web-sites as well as any hard-copy written sources, articles, books, unpublished theses and dissertations, handouts and reports.

Other forms of academic deception, such as falsifying experimental results, concocting fictional interviews, will also, *mutatis mutandis*, be severely penalised.

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### **Outline of lectures and topics covered**

- 1) **Introduction**
  - Anthropological approaches to drugs (Sherrat et al; Rhodes )
  - Approaching topic as one that is not defined by problematic; reflexive; critical of policy and own assumption
  - Definitions and classifications of drug types (Schultes)
  - Ground rules, ethics and restrictions
  - Introduction to key concepts 1 - drugs and crime
  - Introduction to key concepts 2 – addiction
  - Themes: religion and spiritual dimension – pleasure and hedonism; production and capital accumulation; control and punishment;
- 2) **Drugs and human evolution**
  - Hallucinogens and the missing link (McKenna)
  - Drug use in human evolution
  - Plant/human relationships
  - Entheogens
  - Shamanic techniques of ecstasy

(Wasson; Fernandez; Rugley)
- 3) **Drugs in ritual**
  - Ritual and rites of passage
  - The use of drugs in ritual – Fang (Fernandez)
  - Auto initiation by drug users (Loja)
  - Explaining the disappearance of drugs from religious ritual
- 4) **Alcohol**
  - Origin and discovery (Goodman; Griffith Edwards)
  - Cultural Transmission
  - Commercialisation and production
  - Prohibition
- 5) **Europe and the rise of soft drugs**
  - Medieval spice trade (Schivelbusch)
  - Introduction of tea, coffee, cocoa and sugar (Mintz)
  - Class formation and differentiation – manners (Elias)
  - Capital formation, slave trade, taxation
  - Rationality and the role of science in discovering new drugs (Jay)
- 6) **Narcotics: Opiates**
  - Opium in antiquity

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- Recreational opium use in Rajasthan (Coomber and South)
- Opium in China (Zheng Yangwen; Dikotter)
- Opium in early modern Europe (Berridge and Edwards)
- Heroin as painkiller

### **7) Stimulants: Coca and khat**

- Mama coca – coca leaf in the Andes
- Spanish repression
- Cocaine, Freud, early 20<sup>th</sup> century, 70s wonder drug, crack
- Khat complex in Yemen/Ethiopia/Kenya
- Globalisation – changes in culture of consumption  
(Coomber and South)

### **8) Cannabis**

- Reports on cannabis – Scythians to assassins
- Cannabis in India and Africa
- Cannabis in the Caribbean
- Counter cultural icon to normalisation  
(Mills; du Toit; Klein)

### **9) Drug use in the West**

- Learning to become a cannabis user (Becker; Zinberg)
- Counter culture and social protest (Finestone)
- Taking care of business (Casey and Preble)
- Drug dealing (Bourgoise)

### **10) Drugs as a Development issue**

- Cultivating illicit substances – Afghanistan, Colombia, Caribbean
- International agencies and certification
- Drug use and HIV
- Ideology and harm reduction

### **11) Cultures of control**

- Drug control in 19<sup>th</sup> century – rise of the professions
- International diplomacy in early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Law enforcement – Anslinger
- The criminalisation of drugs 1960 -1990
- The war on drugs – costs, beneficiaries, results  
(McCoun and Reuter)

### **12) Options for control**

- Arguments for drug control summarised
- Problems emerging from system
- Different drug control arrangements

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(Transform; TNI)

### **Reading List:**

Appadurai, Arjun. 1986. 'Commodities and the politics of value.' Appadurai, *The social life of things*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Agar, M.H. 1973. *Ripping and Running: a formal ethnography of urban heroin addicts*. New York: NY Seminar

Becker, H.S. 1963, "Becoming a marijuana user", in *Outsiders*, New York: Free Press.

Berridge, Virginia and Griffith Edwards, 1987. *Opium and the People: Opiate Use in Nineteenth Century England*. Newhaven and London: Yale University Press

Blackman, Shane, 2004. *Chilling Out: The cultural politics of substance consumption, youth and drug policy*. Maidenhead, Berkshire: Open University Press

Bourgeoisie, Philippe. 1995. *In Search of Respect: selling crack in el Barrio*. Cambridge: CUP

Bourgoise, Philipe. 1998. 'Just another Night in a Shooting Gallery.' in *Theory, Culture, & Society*, Vol 15(2)37-66

Comitas, Lambros, 1975. The Social Nexus of *Ganja* in Jamaica. In Vera Rubin (ed.), *Cannabis and Culture*. The Hague: Mouton

Coomber, Ross and Nigel South (eds.) 2004 *Drug Use and Cultural Contexts 'Beyond the West.'* London: Free Association Books.

Dikotter, Frank, Lars Laamann and Zhou Xun, 2002. 'Narcotic Culture: A social history of Drug Consumption in China. *British Journal of Criminology*, 42, 317-336

Dikotter, Frank, Lars Laamann and Zhou Xun. 2004. *Narcotic Culture: A History of Drugs in China*. London: Hurst and Company. Esp. chapters 3,6,11

Douglas, Mary. 1987. *Constructive Drinking. Perspectives on Drink from Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction

Mary Douglas, 1966, *Purity and Danger*, London: Routledge

du Toit, Brian, 1980. *Cannabis in Africa*. Rotterdam: Balkema.

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Durkheim, Emile. *Elementary forms of religion*.

Eliade, M. 1958. *Rites and Symbols of Initiation*. New York: Harper & Row.

Escobedo, Antonio. 1999 *A Brief History of Drug. From the Stone Age to the Stoned Age*. US, Park Street Press.

Fernandez, James. 1982. *Bwiti: An Ethnography of the Religious Imagination in Africa*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. - Equatorial Excursions: the Quest for Revitalising Dreams and Visions.

Finestone, Harold. 'Cats, Kicks and colour in Becker, H. 1970 *The Other Side: Perspectives on deviance*. New York: Free Press.

French, Lawrence Armand. 2000. *Addictions and Native Americans*. Westport, Connecticut: Praeger.

Goodman, J., P. Lovejoy, and A Sherrat (eds.). 1995. *Consuming Habits: drugs in history and anthropology*. London: Routledge

Jay, Mike. 2001. *Emperors of Dreams: Drugs in the Nineteenth Century*. London: Dedalus. Introduction, Chapters 7, Ardent Spirits, and on 2, Opium.

Klein, Axel 'Have a piss, drink *ogogoro*, smoke *igbo*, but don't take *gbana*': Hard and Soft Drugs in Nigeria. A critical comparison of official policies and the view on the street.' *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, vo.33 (2) April – June 2001

Klein, Axel, Anthony Harriott and Marcus Day. "Caribbean Drugs: from criminalisation to harm reduction." London: Zed, May 2004.

Kennedy, John. 1987. *The Flower of Paradise: the institutionalisation of the drug quat in North Yemen*. Boston: D. Reidel.

Lebot, V., M. Merlin and L. Lindstrom. 1992. *Kava: the Pacific Drug*. New Haven, New York: Yale University Press.

Levine, Harry, 1979. The Discovery of Addiction: Changing Conceptions of Habitual Drunkenness in America.' *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 15 : 493-506

McDonald, Maryon. 1994. *Gender, Drink and Drugs*. Oxford, Providence: Berg

Measham, F., J. Aldridge and H. Parker (2002) *Dancing on drugs: risk, health and hedonism in the British clubscene*, London: Free Association Books.

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Measham, F. 2004, 'The decline of ecstasy, the rise of 'binge' drinking and the persistence of pleasure', in *The Journal of Community and Criminal Justice*, vol 51 (4) 309-326.

Mintz, Sidney. 1985. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. New York: Viking.

Porter, Roy and Mikulas Teich (eds.) – 1996 'Drugs and Narcotics in History'. Cambridge: CUP.

Preble, Edward and John Casey. 1969. Taking Care of Business – The Heroin User's Life on the Street.' in *The International Journal of the Addiction*, 4(1), pp1-24.

Rhodes, Tim and David Moore(eds.). 2001. Addiction 'On the Qualitative in Drug Research – Part 1.' *Addiction Research and Theory* vol. 9(4).

Rhodes, Tim and David Moore(eds.). 2001. Addiction 'On the Qualitative in Drug Research – Part 2.' *Addiction Research and Theory* vol. 9(6)

Rushby, Kevin. (1998). *Eating the flowers of paradise: a journey through the drug fields of Ethiopia and Yemen*. London: Constable

Scarborough, John. 'The opium poppy in Hellenistic and Roman medicine. In Roy Porter and Mikulas Teich, 1995, *Drugs and Narcotics in History*. Cambridge:CUP.

Schivelbusch, W. 1992. *Tastes of Paradise: A social history of spices, stimulants and intoxicants*. New York: Pantheon

Sheller, Mimi, 2004. *Consuming the Caribbean*,. London: Routledge

Singer, Merril, 1993. 'Knowledge for use: Anthropological community-centred substance abuse research. *Soc.Sci.Med.* Vol.37, No.1, pp.15-25.

Stein, H.F., 1985.'Alcoholism as metaphor in American culture: ritual desecration as social integration.' In *Ethos* 1985, 13: 195-235.

Strickland, S, 2002.'Anthropological Perspectives on use of the areca nut.' in *Addiction Biology*, 7, 85-97

Szasz, Thomas Stephen, 1974. *Ceremonial Chemistry: The ritual persecution of drugs, addicts and pushers*. London: Routledge, Kegan and Paul.

Van Gennep, A. 1960. *Rites of Passage*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Weir, S. 1985. *Quat in Yemen*. London Br. Museum.



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Zheng Yangwen, 2005. *The social life of opium in china*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Zoja, Luigi. 1989. *Drugs, Addiction and Initiation. The Modern Search for Ritual*. Einsiedeln, Switzerland: Daimon

### **Useful Websites:**

1. European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/>

up to date reports on drug trends in all EU member states including UK; data sets on key indicators like prevalence, drug related deaths, treatment demand; protocols defining the instruments used for measuring drug use and related problems; EDDRA data bank on different projects across the EU in treatment and prevention

2. World Health Organisation – [www.who.dk/alcoholdrugs/relatedlinks/20020611\\_1](http://www.who.dk/alcoholdrugs/relatedlinks/20020611_1)

Drug and alcohol related site – list of links to international organisations

3. DrugScope <http://www.drugscope.org.uk/>

Leading independent UK centre on drug issues with acclaimed web site providing objective information on drugs

4. Vaults of Erowid <http://www.erowid.org/> - largest independent database on drugs based in the US and storing massive information sets on all drugs; organised into (i) pants & drugs (ii) mind & spirit (iii) freedom & law (iv) mind & culture. There is a lot of information, some of it better than others

5. Release <http://www.release.org.uk/> the original drug helpline, strong on legal aspects of drug use; set up for drug uses and those working with them

6. Transform <http://www.tdpf.org.uk/> only UK organisation campaigning for legalisation of all drugs; sharp drug policy analysis and suggestions on how to regulate drug markets



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7. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html> set up as secretariat to coordinate the international war on drugs; some good stats. Like the Afghan Opium Survey, and the World Drug Report