

ISSDP Conference Workshop

08.30 – 12.00, 17th March 2010, Santa Monica, USA.

Drug policy, culture and society: Sociological and anthropological contributions.

Studies in the field of drug policy increasingly reveal the importance of social and cultural processes in influencing patterns of illicit drug use, drug-related harms and the policies intended to reduce them. This workshop will provide an opportunity for interested participants at the ISSDP conference to focus on the contribution that sociological and anthropological research can make to understanding these processes.

Aims

To contribute to:

- The dissemination of sociological and anthropological research on drug policy.
- The development and wider use of sociological and anthropological methods in analysing drug policy issues.
- Fostering of further collaborations between participants in the workshop.

Questions

The two sessions of this workshop will be structured around two broad questions:

1. What do sociological and anthropological approaches to illicit drug use tell us about what drug policy should be?
2. What do sociological and anthropological approaches tell us about how drug policies have developed?

Methods

The workshop will include research that has used sociological or anthropological methods to bear on drug policy issues. Such methods could include, amongst others:

- Ethnography and participant observation.
- Qualitative interviewing and fieldwork.
- Discourse analysis.
- Sociologically grounded surveys.

Format

The workshop will bring together 20-40 people who are interested in sociological approaches to drug policy. It will include presentations of between 6 and 9 papers. The full papers will be submitted by the authors at least two weeks in advance, and forwarded to registered participants for their perusal. At the workshop itself, authors will be given 15-20 minutes to present their papers, followed by a generous time allowance for discussion of the papers and related issues by participants.

Submission of papers

Researchers wishing to present a paper should send an abstract of less than 300 words (by 9th November 2009) to a.w.stevens@kent.ac.uk. They will be told (by 9th December) whether the paper has been accepted.

Registration

Participation in the workshop is reserved for people who participate in the ISSDP 2010 annual conference¹. There will be an additional fee of \$20 to cover costs. Workshop size will be limited, and preference will be given to early registrants and to those submitting a paper. People who wish to participate in this workshop should indicate this desire when they register for the ISSDP annual conference at <http://www.rand.org/multi/dprc/issdp2010/>.

Further information

Please direct any enquiries to either of the co-chairs of this workshop. They are:

- Alex Stevens, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK (a.w.stevens@kent.ac.uk)
- Geoffrey Hunt, Institute for Scientific Analysis, San Francisco, USA (huntgisa@ix.netcom.com)

¹ Other members of the ISSDP may be admitted if space allows.