

BREAKING CONVENTION



Fifth International Conference on Psychedelic Consciousness

16th - 18th August
2019



University of Greenwich
London

LUKE BROWN

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BREAK TIMES - ALL DAYS

11:00 – 11:30	Break
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
16:30 – 17:00	Break



Welcome to the fifth Breaking Convention! Where scientists, hippies and everyone in between collide for Europe's largest conference on psychedelic research and consciousness!

The blood, sweat, thousands of emails, hoops to jump through, juggling family and work life (in addition to running the conference) and tears, are all worth it when we see the fantastic interactions and magic that happens over the weekend that is Breaking Convention. To see people from all different walks of life, academic and non-academic converge is really a sight to behold.

The executive committee would like to thank everyone involved in Breaking Convention, in whatever capacity, without you the conference would not be the amazing event that it is. Breaking Convention is run entirely by volunteers, so we appreciate everyone's continued support they give us during the mammoth task that is conference organisation.

The Directors, Aimee Tollan, Cameron Adams, David King, David Luke, Hattie Wells & Nikki Wyrd would like to thank the superstars that are the wider committee, without whom we would not be able to function. The first shout out has to go to Mark Lewis for his amazing work on our website, app and all things IT related. Mark has taken on a huge amount of extra hours for us and we extend our deepest thanks. Cara Lavan for the epic task of organizing the filming hundreds of talks, an essential legacy for psychedelic culture, thank you Cara. Adam Malone for putting on a splendid knees-up after each conference, and the stellar line up of bands and DJs, this year's one looks set to be a banger. Thank you to Stuart Griggs


for curating the visionary art exhibition, you bring that extra special element to BC. Ashleigh Murphy-Beiner & Ali Beiner for your hard work, in your already busy lives, as our sponsorship team, which gives us more financial freedom to put on such a unique event. Paul Callahan for curating the Psychedelic Cinema, a fantastic line up this year, and thanks to Sam Oliver for stepping in last minute to help with this, great work! Andy Millns for stepping up in programming our installations, thank you! Darren Springer for your contribution to the academic programme, your perspective always brings new light. Andy Roberts for your help with merchandising, and your enlightening presence. Julian Vayne, another enlightening and uplifting presence, thank you for your contribution! To Rob Dickins for producing the 8 circuit booklet for the welcome packs, and organising the book stall, your expertise is always valuable. To Maria Papaspyrou for bringing the sacred feminine and TRIPPth. Ros Stone, you have been beyond a superstar, thank you for being such a wonderful Press Officer and spreading the message outside of the psychedelic bubble. Peter Sjöstedt-H, for your design skills on our awesome programme booklet.

Thanks to those outside of the committee; Ben Sessa for your contribution to the academic programme and your continued love and support, we miss you! A massive thank you to Paul Guest aka 'Monkey', for the blotter art donations for the name tags, what a star. To Eric Maddern, for hosting our last team meeting at the beautiful Cae Mabon, and your wonderful storytelling. Luke Brown for the outstanding art for the cover. Jonathan Greet for our infamous group photo. Miranda Pitcher for the iconic BC gerberas. Tom at Done London for the t-shirt design and printing. To the staff at The University of Greenwich, Greenwich Student Union, The University of Greenwich Psychedelic Society and the Lower Deck bar for hosting us. To our families for putting up with us all.

A HUGE thank you to our absolutely amazing team of volunteers, your dedication and time means so much to us. To all of the wonderful speakers, workshop facilitators, artists, filmmakers, musicians, performers, DJs, VR gurus, stallholders, thank you for what you bring, you ARE the conference. A shout out MAPS, Psychedelic Press and The Beckley Foundation for your unwavering support over the years. Last but not least, to all of the delegates, thank you for investing your time and money in attending BC and making the event what it is.


Here's to BC 2019, let's make it one to remember!





**BECKLEY
FOUNDATION**

For the past 20 years the Beckley Foundation has been initiating groundbreaking research into psychedelics while also working towards the reform of global drug policies, led by the vision of its founder and director Amanda Feilding.



THE TIME FOR PSYCHEDELIC RESEARCH IS NOW

Psychedelics have the potential to create a revolutionary paradigm-shift in mental health. There is now a unique window of opportunity to accelerate research so that the therapeutic value of these compounds may be recognised and used to their full potential.

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF PSYCHEDELIC KNOWLEDGE

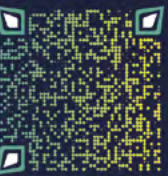
Amanda Feilding is committed to using this momentum to further push the limits of scientific knowledge, with a wide spectrum of ongoing projects looking at LSD, psilocybin, DMT, ayahuasca and 5MeO-DMT.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF PSYCHEDELIC THERAPY

Our aim is to refine our understanding of how these compounds can be used to treat a wide range of different health conditions, and optimize the various ways they can provide help to patients in need.

Many thanks to our donors!

The Beckley Foundation relies exclusively on the generosity of our supporters. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and help us develop and expand our science, policy and outreach programmes.



Hold your phone camera up to the QR code to access our Scientific Brochure and support the work of the Foundation.

To donate, please visit beckleyfoundation.org/donate

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Adam Aronovich

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 09:30

Ayahuasca as Relational Medicine: Intimate Encounters at the Frontiers of Liquid Modernity

The aim of this talk is to address the social and political dimensions of health and wellbeing as elucidated by participants' ayahuasca experiences and contextualised by the setting provided by the structure of a retreat centre in the Peruvian Amazon. The interaction between ayahuasca and a group setting that promotes intimacy, horizontality and mutual responsibility amongst participants often encourages a social dynamic where participants can both safely express and listen to each others' affliction narratives, difficulties and breakthroughs. This break with the individualistic, pharmacologically-oriented focus of bio-psychiatry alone greatly contributes to counteract the feelings of alienation and isolation that exacerbate psychic suffering when it remains private. Ethnographic approaches, I propose, can elucidate the modern multilayered complexities of affliction and healing that often are lost through a purely quantitative or biomedical lens.

Adam Bambury

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 09:30

Frank Lake: Birth, Christ and LSD

The pioneering LSD studies of Czech psychiatrist Stanislav Grof are relatively well known in psychedelic and therapeutic circles. But the work of his British contemporary Frank Lake, who in the 1950s and '60s provided controlled doses of LSD to patients as an adjunct to psychotherapy, is a less recognised story that deserves a greater hearing. Like Grof, Lake found that while under the influence of then-legal LSD his patients encountered strange sensations and memories that seemed to be a re-experiencing of their own births. This talk will put his research into context, and explore his insights into the potential effects of pre- and peri-natal experience.

Adam Knowles

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 12:00

Our telephone line back to source' and what those in the UK make of their ayahuasca experiences. A report on IPA research.

Last year I met with four people from the UK who told me the sense they make of their ayahuasca experiences here and abroad. In this presentation, I analyse their tales of trouble, terror, temerity and transcendence. Some said to me that their ayahuasca experiences made a profound change to their lives thanks to insight and healing, while others were less enthusiastic. I will describe the five themes that I developed using interpretative phenomenological analysis. I will make the case as to why psychotherapists should research psychedelics, and how existentialism questions the common language, ontology and epistemology of research.

Adam Winstock

Friday, 16 August – Shulgin Shack – 17:00

The acceptability of psychedelics in psychiatry: data from 20,000 people (GDS2019)

Global Drug Survey runs the world's largest drug survey. Over 700,000 people have shared their experiences. Using our data, our last survey GDS2019 had a big focus on psychedelics to create free harm reduction resources and help people use drugs more safely. Specifically we sought to determine the acceptability of different psychedelic assisted psychotherapies compared to traditional psychiatric interventions and factors associated with high v low acceptability. Over 23,000 people shared their opinions. Using a hypothetical scenario, and data that included drug use and mental health history, our data provides an insight into the challenges both modern psychiatry and psychedelic advocates face in the coming years.

Adam Strauss with Shane Mauss

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 17:00

Psychedelic Comedy Panel Discussion

This panel will bring well known American comedians Shane Mauss and Adam Strauss to discuss their stand-up comedy and recent shows surrounding the theme of psychedelics. We would like to bring more attention to the relationship between psychedelics and comedy, which has a rich history with many comedians such as Bill Hicks, George Carlin and Doug Stanhope being explicitly influenced by their experiences with psychedelic substances. This topic continues to be popular within the comedy community and the closely associated podcast community, through which a medium has been provided to allow for broader discussion, more acceptance and legitimisation of these topics.

Adrian Fisk

Saturday, 17 August – Psychedelic Cinema – 16:00

A journey to photograph plant medicine ceremonies

Ayahuasca, Peyote and Iboga can enable powerful visionary hallucinations and a deep sense of spiritual awakening. These strong transformative plants can evoke everything from divine euphoria to suffocating fear. Photographer Adrian Fisk has spent the last four years documenting this experience. Attending underground ceremonies where he too takes the psychedelic medicine and is guided by plant spirits, he photographs what he sees. Inspired by both the Renaissance and Romantic art movements, these extraordinary images take you on a profound visual journey from fear to love, with a series of photographs that seek to reflect the essence of what it is to be alive.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Akua Ofosehene

Sunday, 18 August – Hofmann Hall – 10:30

Can psychedelics change our racist world order?

Akua believes that we can change our current unjust world through the use of psychedelics with the simple intention to let go of all deeply held beliefs that prop up our current white supremacist world order. Akua is Co-founder of Hub and Culture, an African and Caribbean cooperative life style shop and event space in Peckham and a psychedelic fashion designer. She's also an advocate of individual therapeutic uses of psychedelics to combat depression, illness and white supremacy racism.

Alexander Beiner

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 10:30

Why We Must Never Talk About Psychedelics

For thousands of years, psychedelics were often available only to those initiated into a sacred tradition. In the 1960's, they burst into mainstream culture, leaving a powerful but controversial legacy. Now they're gaining popularity in a post-truth world facing existential crises. Narcissism runs rampant in politics and culture, social media is driving us mad, while Silicon Valley execs fly to Ayahuasca retreats to get an edge on the competition. Drawing on Rebel Wisdom interviews with leading psychedelic voices, this talk asks whether psychedelics still can still change culture – and whether they belong in the mainstream at all.

Alex Dymock and Ben Mechen

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 14:30

Women, sexuality and psychedelics: past and present

Women's use of psychedelics in sexual contexts has often been understood as a coercive practice. A conventional history of psychedelic psychiatry suggests that women have been treated as guinea pigs for experimental intervention, particularly in the context of psychosexual therapy, where psychedelics were used to 'cure' women of their so-called 'frigidity'. This paper will present new archival and qualitative data on the shifting relationship between women, psychedelics and sexuality in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The paper will account for the ways in which women have in fact historically subverted the psychiatrisation of their sexuality through self-directed experimentation with psychedelics in both therapeutic and recreational settings.

Amanda Feilding

Friday, 16 August – Hofmann Hall – 11:30

Microdosing: Big Steps in Small Doses

"In the 60s, I used LSD on a regular basis, like a psychovitamin, to enhance work, creativity and self-discovery and to get a new and more profound insight into psychology, physiology and the science of consciousness. This period of my life fundamentally influenced my future endeavours. 50 years later we did the first brain imaging study with full dose LSD, and now I am working on a network of lab-based studies investigating the effects of microdosing." The Beckley Foundation Research Programme, led by Amanda Feilding, includes microdosing studies investigating the effects on mood, cognition and wellbeing. The Beckley/Imperial naturalistic microdosing study uses a novel self-blinding procedure to gather placebo-controlled data. The Beckley/Maastricht Research Programme is conducting a series of lab-based studies of repeated dosing. Amanda will discuss the preliminary results of these and also studies from the Beckley/Brazil Programme investigating LSD and neuroplasticity, before looking at the future of psychedelic research.

Andrea Jungerberle

Sunday, 18 August – Osmond Auditorium – 17:00

Essential Questions: Psychedelics, Death and Dying

Dr. med. Andrea Jungerberle, a doctor in critical care, will draw upon both her own experience and existing scientific findings to describe how altered states of consciousness, (especially the psychedelic experience) can help us come to terms with our own existential limitations and mortality. Our culture has outsourced the natural physical processes of birth and death to the remote worlds of hospitals and nursing homes. Several scientific studies on classic psychedelics have been conducted with patients with end-of-life anxiety—often leading to an increased sense of calm and lessened fearfulness. This talk attempts to bridge the apparent gap between academic medicine and holistic approaches to death.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Andrew Gallimore

Saturday, 17 August – Hofmann Hall – 10:30

Alien Information Theory – Using the Neuroscience of Information to Understand the Reality-switching Effects of DMT

Whether you believe that DMT merely elicits highly complex hallucinations or somehow grants admission to autonomous worlds, its effects are astonishing in their complexity and power. Although the realms DMT users find themselves tumbling into are ineffably strange, the DMT space and the normal waking world are unified by their fundamental nature as emergent patterns of information represented by the brain. Using the neuroscience of information, I will show how the structure of one's subjective world – whether awake, dreaming, or during a breakthrough DMT trip – can be explained as a complex emergent pattern of information distributed across, and unified by, the activity of the cortical system. I will then use this basic model to explain the effects of psychedelic drugs in general, before discussing how DMT is able to switch the brain's "reality channel", hurling the tripper into the bizarre hyperdimensional realms experienced as the DMT space.

Andrew Gallimore

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 17:30

Towards a DMATrix Machine – Developing DMT as a Technology for Communication with Interdimensional Alien Intelligences

If we are to take seriously the idea that DMT grants access to alternate realities populated by conscious intelligent beings, and if we wish to establish and maintain stable communication with these entities, we need to develop DMT as a technology fit for purpose. The most popular modes of administration of purified DMT – vaporisation in a glass pipe or modified e-cigarette or bolus IV injection – are efficient but deliver an extremely time-limited journey into the DMT space. This often frustrates the voyager by dragging them out of the space just as it begins to stabilize and before stable bipartite communication with intelligences can be initiated. I will discuss how we can move beyond pipe and injection, and explore 21st century techniques for extending the DMT state from the order of minutes to the order of hours or even days. I will explain how target-controlled intravenous infusion can be used to reach and maintain a stable concentration of DMT in the brain over extended periods, allowing a subject to be brought into the DMT space and held there for a theoretically unlimited period of time. I envisage a DMATrix machine beside which an individual will lie down and insert a canula, input a desired journey time, and set off for the universe next door.

Andy Letcher

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 10:30

Ontological Anarchy and the Ecological Self

Can psychedelics save us from ecological destruction? One common discourse is that by occasioning animaphany – the experience of the world as alive, agentic and meaningfully interconnected – psychedelics (or perhaps 'ecodelics') truly reveal the world-as-it-is and our place within it, and so have a major role to play in steering us safely through the Anthropocene. But how seriously should we take this claim? Can't such experiences be easily dismissed as 'magical thinking'? Bracketing the ontological truth claims of animaphany, I suggest that the answer depends partly on our view of the Self. Drawing on the REBUS model of psychedelic action on the brain, Deep Ecology, Indigenous Cosmovisions, and the New Materialism, I present a typology of the Self and argue the merits of 'the Permeable Self'. Only this meets the challenges of the Anthropocene. Finally, I ask what happens if we lift the lid and take such ontological truth claims seriously. I argue that the times necessitate ontological anarchy, both to resist the episto-ontological structures that birthed the Anthropocene, but also to maximise resilience through an increased ontological 'biodiversity'.

Andy Roberts

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 16:00

Divine Rascal: From The Man Who Turned On The World to the man who turned on the world.

Michael Hollingshead, who introduced Tim Leary to LSD and thus acted as midwife to the psychedelic revolution of the Sixties is arguably psychedelic culture's most enigmatic character. Little has been known about his other adventures but Andy Roberts' biography of the zelig-like Hollingshead has unearthed new information about all aspects of Hollingshead's life from his encounter with Leary through Millbrook, his commune on the Isle of Cumbrae, his computerised I Ching installation and adventures in Scandinavia, America and London until his death in Bolivia.

Anna Ermakova

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 12:30

Peyote Conservation in the USA

Lophophora williamsii (peyote) is a psychoactive cactus growing in Mexico and Texas, USA with considerable significance to many indigenous peoples. Harvesting pressure, combined with increasing threats from habitat destruction, is rapidly decimating peyote populations. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists this cactus as vulnerable, with reports dating back as far as 30 years noting the decline and decimation of the natural populations. I will present current knowledge of peyote ecology and conservation, with a focus on the study done in collaboration with the Cactus Conservation Institute. Our findings will have direct impacts on the peyote conservation plans for this species in the USA.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Ashleigh Murphy-Beiner

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 11:30 (and see online for more)

Ayahuasca's 'afterglow': improved mindfulness and cognitive flexibility in ayahuasca drinkers

Despite amassing evidence suggesting ayahuasca has the potential to treat depression, anxiety, and addictions, little is yet known about the psychological mechanisms which may be involved in ayahuasca's therapeutic effects. This talk will present exploratory research findings which suggest mindfulness and flexible thinking may be two potential mechanisms involved. Results of the study show ayahuasca increased mindfulness and cognitive flexibility in both psychedelic naïve and experienced ayahuasca drinkers in the afterglow period (in the 24 hours after use, compared to baseline). These afterglow effects will also be discussed in light of potential clinical implications and the enhanced therapeutic window they may offer.

Ben Mechen

(See Alex Dymock, above)

Ben Sessa

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 09:30

MDMA Therapy: A Child Psychiatrist's Perspective

As a clinical child psychiatrist I take a developmental perspective to adult mental disorder and addictions. My work with abused children, seeing them grow into damaged and addicted adults, has brought me to the door of MDMA Therapy as psychiatry's best opportunity for a therapeutic breakthrough. I will illustrate my talk with a description of our current ongoing world's first MDMA-for-Alcoholism trial, the preliminary results of which was recently published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Bia Labate

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 15:00

The Chacruna Institute Ayahuasca Community Guide for the Awareness of Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse and misconduct towards female participants in ayahuasca circles and underground contexts involving psychedelics is quite prevalent. This is especially shocking considering many women who attend these circles are seeking healing for sexual traumas they suffered in the past. To inspire helpful dialogue about this issue, and positive collaborative action within our community, the Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines developed The Ayahuasca Community Guide for the Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Abuse. These guidelines were created through a collaborative process involving consultation with women and men in the ayahuasca community across different cultural contexts, including indigenous and Western survivors of abuse, ayahuasca healers and ceremonial facilitators, researchers and legal experts. Bia will present the guidelines, discuss the response to their creation, and the potential for their wider application.

Britta Love

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 14:30

What Could a Conscious, Psychedelic #MeToo Look Like?

Increasing awareness of sexual abuse and exploitation by ayahuasqueros and other healers has been disconcerting for the psychedelic community, where "shamans" are often idealized and romanticized. But sexual harm by healers and others in positions of power is ubiquitous in patriarchal cultures around the globe. Indeed, instances of abuses of power have already come to light among public figures and established leaders in the psychedelic movement. Discussion: The limitations of #MeToo, power dynamics and patriarchy, building accountable communities, restorative/transformational justice, a role for psychedelics in this work, a trauma-informed cultural somatics approach to social change, and non-hierarchical healing models.

Bruce Parry

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 11:30

Tribal Insights: Power and Revolution

Did you know that for 90% of our time on the planet, humankind lived as equals without hierarchy? Bruce Parry has lived with tribal people the world over and has much to share. In this talk Bruce will reveal what it is like to live with people who exist in a world without leaders, shaman or even competition. Bruce offers a vision of life before the need for plant medicines and rituals, where we knew intuitively the kinds of things which psychedelics give us insight to today. He will tell us of the tools such people use to maintain societal balance, and most significantly, how they came to create this type of society in the first place.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Cameron Adams

Sunday, 18 August – Osmond Auditorium – 12:00

The Feminine Enshadowed: The Role of Psychedelics in Deconstructing the Gender Binary

Ethnographic research on psychedelics forums shows that it is common to associate a feminine spirit with psychedelic substances; even, perhaps, the Jungian archetype of the sacred feminine. A perusal of cross-cultural materials seems to support the feminine nature of psychedelic plants. However, the concept of the feminine cross-culturally is inconsistent except that it contrasts with that which is masculine and vice versa. This undermines the concept of a unified feminine archetype and rather suggests a situation where we find multiple femininities. One facet shared by these femininities is that they constitute one possible means to access the Jungian shadow, and further depths of the psyche due to their socially defined hierarchical position. Instead of being an autochthonous psychic given, the perception of a feminine nature to psychedelics is a perceptual artefact of cognitive and cultural filters and the psychedelic experience lays bare these filters; the masculine/feminine contrast is an echo of the contrast between the socially promoted normal waking state of conscious and downplayed altered states of consciousness.

Carl H Smith

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 14:30

Exploring Double Consciousness using Holotech to Develop Hyperhumanism

Roy Ascott states: "techno-shamanism" may lead to an evolution of cognition where the subject/object relationship is dissolved and reality begins to be actively constructed rather than passively observed". Double Consciousness gives access, in parallel, to two distinctly different fields of experience. Hyperhumanism involves the deconstruction of the human through understanding that the human condition is not a fixed, but an open notion. HoloTech concerns combining techniques into stacks of experience in order to create a myriad of altered states and altered traits. We will explore various ways of producing Double Consciousness including: Journal Writing, Macroscopes, Moistmedia, Life Reviews, Linear Perspective, Umwelt Hacking and Context Engineering.

Cavan McLaughlin

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 15:00

Psychedelics, occulture and the mediation of entity encounters

The psychedelic experience and occulture are intimately connected. Originally coined by Genesis Breyer P-Orridge, occulture is a "reservoir of ideas, beliefs, practices, and symbols" (Partridge, 2004) that people may drink from. The psychedelic period of the 1960s and 1970s, psychedelic trance music, rave culture, the free festival movement and contemporary commercial music festivals, have all informed the countercultural and occultural. I will theorise a redefinition of occultural processes that requires (at least phenomenologically) agency from outside. The occultural encounter is central, where the interpretation is framed by way of entity phenomena—where the 'message' itself can be the intermediary—especially with regard to psychedelic-induced entity encounters.

Charlotte Walsh

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 15:30

Beyond Prohibition of Plant Medicines

If prohibition of plant medicines were to end, what should replace it? I propose a new paradigm for the regulation of plant medicines, separate from either the strictures of criminalisation under which they are currently subsumed, the medical model they could potentially be transitioned into, or, indeed, any other form of stringent, compulsory regulation. Let's not distort the unique beauty of these ancestral plants by wrenching them from their chaos magic, neutering their inherent wildness, constraining their unbounded potential, in a misguided attempt to render them more palatable, to fit into models that have proven themselves not to work, not least late stage capitalism. My vision is one of decriminalisation twinned with self-regulation. I will explain why, offering some tentative thoughts on the promises – and challenges – of such an approach.

Chiara Baldini

(See Maria Papsyrou, below)

Chris Timmerman

Saturday, 17 August – Hofmann Hall – 09:30

Dynamic Transitions Of Consciousness: An EEG Study Using DMT

Studies using LSD, psilocybin and Ayahuasca have shown that the effects of psychedelics on blood perfusion, functional connectivity, spectral and BOLD activity are reliably captured in a safe manner in brain imaging environments. However, the slow onset and long duration these drugs have, render the study of transitions between the normal waking to the psychedelic state a difficult challenge. In this study a potent and short-acting psychedelic drug, N,N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) was used to capture these dynamic transitions, while EEG was recorded and subjective responses were collected during the onset, offset and peak effects of the drug by administering three different doses of DMT fumarate (7mg, 14mg and 20mg) and placebo intravenously (IV) to healthy participants. The results from the neural and subjective effects will be discussed as well as assessing the safety of IV administration of DMT in imaging environments.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Christa Mackinnon

Sunday, 18 August 2019 – Osmond Auditorium – 10:00

She Dances and Trances Again – Embodying the Feminine

This talk will very briefly outline how human development from hunter-gatherer tribes to ‘civilised societies’ inevitably led to the de-valuing, distortion and suppression of embodied feminine aspects of the human psyche and the over-valuing and dominance of dis-embodied masculine aspects. This development not only created generations of deeply wounded women, but a collective psyche that is to a dangerous extent out of balance. The talk then looks at trance dance, an ecstatic embodied earth-based practice in its shamanic and contemporary forms as a means to explore and re-claim the ecstatic of the feminine, healing its wounding, expressing its powers and aiding transformational processes.

Christian Ratsch

Saturday, 17 August – Hofmann Hall – 14:30

Plants and Flesh of the gods – How to Follow the Path of Shamans in the Digital World

Ready to explore the wisdom of those rather archaic and anachronistic terms in digital worlds? Raetsch, ethnopharmacologist and renowned author of the *Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Plants*, provides provocative insights, far beyond outraged old fashioned layers of the dust.

Ciara Sherlock & Laura Kaertner

Friday, 16 August – Shulgin Shack – 11:30

The Ceremony Study – Findings from The Experience Retreats

This presentation describes the findings of the Ceremony Study—a project coordinated by the Centre for Psychedelic Studies, Imperial College London—completed by participants of the Experience Retreats, a psilocybin-assisted retreat programme in Europe. The intention is to share tools that guide participants through the preparation, navigation and integration of the psychedelic experience. This presentation will focus on how individual traits, and variables pertaining to set and setting, shape this acute experience. It describes aspects that shape long-term responses to ritualised psychedelic use; focusing on the effects on general well-being, feelings of connectedness and nature-relatedness, political perspectives and metaphysical assumptions.

Clancy Cavnar

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 10:30

“It’s Cool to Be Gay”: Psychedelics, Sexuality and Self-Acceptance

This presentation will explore the capacity of psychedelics to help people accept themselves, with a focus on acceptance of sexual orientation and gender. The tendency for psychedelics to reinforce positive qualities associated with mental health and spiritual attainment will be reviewed and the ways these qualities influence self-acceptance will be explored. Psychedelics are once again being used in psychiatric settings for various mental health indications, including to alleviate end-of-life anxiety, to combat depression and PTSD and to treat addiction; I suggest that psychedelics may be of use in helping gay, lesbian, and transgender people accept themselves in face of cultural resistance and judgment and thus live happier, more fulfilling lives. Using psychedelics to help deconstruct negative introjects absorbed from moribund cultural frameworks can be a way to utilize these substances to heal an oppressed population.

Claudia Müller Ebelling

Saturday, 17 August – Hofmann Hall – 15:30

Visions Impossible – Painters and Poets in the Modern Art Market

Why do we still acknowledge Charles Baudelaires’ Artificial Paradise but despise painters inspired by psychedelic experiences? Art historian and anthropologist Mueller-Ebelling explains discriminating rules of the art market, yet underestimated.

Claudia Schwarz-Plaschg

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 10:30

Transforming illegal molecules into licensed medicines: Medicalization imaginaries in the psychedelic community

In 2019, Phase III clinical trials with MDMA and psilocybin are ongoing, led by a non-profit (MAPS) and a for-profit (Compass Pathways) organization respectively. If successful, these psychedelic substances are expected to be approved as licensed medicines in drug-assisted psychotherapy. The concept of “sociotechnical imaginaries” (Jasanoff 2015) refers to collectively held visions of how to reach desirable, or avoid undesirable, futures through innovations in science and technology that are built on shared conceptions of social life and social order. This talk aims to stimulate consideration in the psychedelic (research) community about how best to transform psychedelics into legal medicines and re-integrate them responsibly into Western society.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Dani Gordon

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 17:00

Cannabis Medicine in Practice: Past, present and future

In this presentation Dr Dani will talk about her experience in Canada treating thousands of patients with medical cannabis, her own journey with medical cannabis, how the UK industry is progressing and where she sees the medical cannabis industry going. She will share patients cases, stories, dispel myths and you will learn how cannabis works in our bodies.

Daniela Ramirez

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 17:30

Regulatory challenges in contemporary world and the politics within the Ayahuasca community

Demand for ayahuasca has increased in the modern world both within and outside of its original cultural and historical context. This paper explores how collective strategic action can be a source of both social change and stability for the governance of ayahuasca. It describes interviews and discourse analysis of documents during the episode of contention in 2014, between the Ethnobotanical Stewardship Council (ESC) and a group of academics and other experts who disagree with the ESC’s approach. Coercion and influence as power, from the opposing group, suggested that the ayahuasca community has an underlying political issue that has been overlooked since the ESC’s dissolution.

Danny Nemu

Friday, 16 August – Shulgin Shack – 10:30

The Shadow of the Academy: Prejudice and Neo-colonialism in the Academic study of Ayahuasca

All tribes maintain taboos, including tribes that hunt and gather in university libraries. Certain prohibitions have been followed for centuries in the indigenous world when working with ayahuasca, but celibacy and food exclusions have barely been studied in decades of scientific research. While anthropologists are no longer caging Pygmies in the zoo, the academic project remains steeped in racism. How can researchers with one foot in the jungle and one in the city overcome the traditional arrogance of their lineages, and begin to incorporate traditional wisdom into their inquiry into the nature of ayahuasca?

Darren Springer

Sunday, 18 August – Hofmann Hall – 10:00

Psychedelic healing potential in African Communities

Darren will share his research that looks at the important historical and current events that have impacted and shaped the lives of African people in the diaspora. He will provide insight into some of traumatic experiences that we as the current generations inherit and how it affects us today. Exploring some of the healing modalities accessible through rites of passage which include the use of entheogenic plants, Darren will highlight some ground breaking research that supports these activities as a way to start the healing process. With the renaissance gaining momentum, how do we ensure that all people across the world, from all backgrounds, are represented at the table and consulted about the future applications of these psychedelic experiences?

Darryl Bickler

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 17:00

Illegal Drugs Do Not Exist!

Language creates reality, and nowhere is this more apposite than with the law, and in particular drug law. Prohibition casts a censorial dragnet over humanity, blocking our natural permeability with the environment for psychoactive molecules. However, advocates for liberalising access to controlled drugs are generally focussed only on gaining entitlements for special cases, rarely, if ever, is cognitive liberty mentioned. The discourse is based on problematic quasi-legal constructs used in everyday speech, yet these are fatal to human rights when co-joined with the concept of ‘legality’. Learn why it is important that illegal drugs do not exist!

Dave Luke

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 17:00

Hyperspatial journeys with your goods’elf: Experimental DMT field research

This presentation reports on an ongoing experimental DMT field research project exploring intuition, entity encounters, shared visions, telepathy and precognition among seasoned psychonauts (N = 20+) having breakthrough vaporised DMT experiences under supervision.

Dave Luke with Chris Timmerman, Mendel Kaelen, David Schwartzman, Bethan Bell-Langford, Aimée Tollan, Viktor Hadzhiyski & Gabriella Bergin-Cartwright

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 12:00

Non-drug altered states as psychedelic experiences

An exploration of personality predictor variables (absorption and temporal lobe lability) and acute experience measures (5D-ASC) in the comparison of several non-drug induced altered states (darkroom anechoic chamber, floatation tank and holotropic breathwork) with psychedelic altered states (e.g., DMT, psilocybin, cannabis).

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

David Erritzoe

Friday 16th, 10:30, Hofmann Hall

What we (don't) know about psychedelic microdosing

What is microdosing, why do people microdose, and what is the evidence for its effect? A new “self-blinding experiment” approach will be presented, and preliminary data from an Imperial College prospective online survey will be shown and discussed.

David Nutt

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 14:30 & Friday, 16 August – Hofmann Hall – 15:30

The Roots of Cannabis Policy Change (14:30 talk)

David's talk will explore the basis of cannabis being a controlled drug with a focus on the political machinations behind the decision to make it illegal in the 1930s. He will then describe the efforts that the charity he set up in 2009 [DrugScience.org.uk] have made to reverse this unevidenced action, and share the plans they have for improving access for UK patients, who have been badly let down by the current intense regulations that followed cannabis being moved to Schedule 2 of the MDAAct1971 in November 2018, that have meant that not a single NHS patient has been able to obtain a prescription.

David Heuer

(See Regina Hess, below)

Devin Terhune

Friday, 16 August – Hofmann Hall – 10:00

The effects of microdose LSD on time perception and response to suggestion

As attention to microdosing increases, it is important to elucidate its impact on cognition and perception as well as top-down regulation of these functions. I will present two randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled microdose LSD studies. In the first study, participants completed a temporal reproduction task. The LSD conditions were reliably characterized by over-reproduction of temporal intervals of 2000 ms and longer. In the second study, participants were given associative suggestions prior to completing a colour-shape association task. In the LSD conditions, participants displayed greater performance for suggested than unsuggested associations. These results suggest that microdose LSD produces temporal over-reproduction and enhances response to suggestion. I will conclude by considering multiple interpretations of these results including those drawn from Bayesian and predictive coding models.

Devin Terhune

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 10:00

Acquired synaesthesia following 2C-B use

Synaesthesia is a neurodevelopmental condition in which stimuli reliably and automatically elicit atypical concurrent experiences. The induction of transient episodes of synaesthesia with serotonin agonists has been widely reported with potential implications for the neurophysiological bases of hallucinogen persisting perception disorder, multisensory processing, and cortical plasticity. However, drug-induced synaesthasias do not seem to meet standard behavioural adjudication criteria for this condition. We investigated whether a case of acquired synaesthesia following the ingestion of 2C-B meets standard diagnostic criteria. These results demonstrate a case of acquired synaesthesia through drug use thereby implicating serotonin in the development of synaesthesia and challenging dominant neurophysiological models of this condition.

Diana Stein

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 12:00

Stimulants and Stimulating Rituals in the Ancient Near East

Thanks to improved excavation techniques and the availability of an increasing range of scientific methods of analysis, we are today much better informed about early ritual behaviour in the ancient Near East. It appears that as early as the 13th millennium BCE, alcohol was part of ritual practice, and it is possible that the beverages included hallucinogenic additives. This lecture surveys the earliest evidence for trance experience in the ancient Near East. In presenting my assessment of the art, I hope to encourage more collaborative work among those within the field and open engagement with specialists from other disciplines.

Dimitris Liokafos

Friday, 16 August – Hofmann Hall – 09:30

Representations of microdosing psychedelics in mainstream media: a critical analysis

Microdosing psychedelics is the use of sub-perceptive threshold drug doses on a regular basis. Recently, the practice has attracted significant attention in mainstream media, and can be seen as part of a wider psychedelic renaissance. Such media coverage typically presents microdosing as a multi-enhancer. Focussing on a representative sample of print and online pieces dedicated to the phenomenon, I will critically explore recurring core themes, the place of risk, vocabularies used and narratives constructed around the practice and practitioners. Investigating the ways in which different uses of psychedelics are framed within a dominant cultural paradigm, I will trace the expectations and perceptions that such media representations help produce. These can play a significant role in how people think about and engage with the drugs.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Dirk Proeckl & Engelbert Winckler

Sunday, 18 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 15:30

Neuropsycholysis

Dirk Proeckl and Engelbert Winckler developed “Neuropsycholysis” as a new approach in the application of a neurological induced altered state of consciousness for self-exploration and therapy. Neuropsycholysis is a natural process which can be experienced and observed on the physiological and psychological levels and promotes sustainable self-exploration through altered states of consciousness. After more than nine years of neuropsycholitical work in a variety of contexts into the implementation of neurostimulation, they will present for the first time a comprehensive discussion of the topic. The therapeutically relevant extension of consciousness in Neuropsycholysis will not be achieved through a drug, but through optical neurostimulation with Lucia N°03.

Don Eugenio & Eusebio

Sunday, 18 August – Hofmann Hall – 14:30

Hikuri (Peyote) and the Wixarika Way

Mara'akame Don Eugenio Lopez Carrillo (Uru Muile) lives in the north of Jalisco, Mexico, in the Wixarika Laguna community between San Andres and Santa Catarina region.

Emily Goddard

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 11:30

Ritual Reset: radical ethnographies of liminal spaces

This talk explores ethnographic research into examples of radical immersion art-forms and therapies. The liminal is conceptualised as where we reconstitute the self and transition through different identities to develop the evolving theoretical self. The ethnographic data comes from studies conducted using participant observation and auto-ethnographic practices from two ethnographies: The first uses radical art and immersive performance. The second is a sound healing group that uses trans-personal psychology, and ‘sound yoga’. They create ways of effective thinking for better development of ‘theory of mind’ and modes of logic, benefiting all states of consciousness in liminal and non-liminal spaces.

Emily Maschauer

Friday, 16 August – Hofmann Hall – 15:00

Ketamine and its use for alcohol relapse prevention

Ketamine, a medication globally used for anesthesia and pain relief has found its way into the promising treatment of several mental health disorders. Current research has focused on its use in its effective management of treatment resistant depression, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, suicidal ideations, and addiction. Ketamine for Reduction of Alcohol Relapse (KARE) is an innovative multi-disciplinary clinical trial, which is exploring the combined use of psychological therapy and a low dose of ketamine as a possible treatment for alcohol dependency. KARE is a joint research project between the University of Exeter and UCL will be discussed along with current lessons learned from the study. The history of Ketamine, its uses, KARE, and current lessons learned from KARE will be discussed.

Emily Sinclair

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 10:00

Western Participation in Amazonian Ayahuasca Shamanism: Cultural Appropriation or Exchange?

The growth of Western participation in ayahuasca ceremonies in Peru and other Amazonian countries has been widely criticised as a form of “cultural appropriation”. Based on long-term fieldwork experience in the Iquitos region of Peru, the hub of the “ayahuasca industry”, I argue that this claim is in contrast with local and historical perspectives. Ayahuasca is not the cultural property of any one group but has been a nexus of cultural interchange historically and developed to be used across diverse cultural contexts and communities. Although many practitioners and researchers make romantic claims that ayahuasca shamanism has its roots thousands of years ago with indigenous Amazonian groups, much evidence suggests that Peruvian vegetalismo in its current form is a product of colonialism, which has developed during the past 300 years through relations with outsiders in the context of mestizo (“mixed blood”) communities.

Emmanuelle Schindler

Saturday, 17 August – Hofmann Hall – 11:30

Role of Neuroendocrinological Systems in the Effects of Psychedelics

Several biological and psychological mechanisms have been investigated in the consideration of the therapeutic effects of psychedelics, particularly their unique ability to produce lasting changes after limited dosing. The known actions of the drug class on neuroendocrine systems warrant continued exploration, as there are also neuroendocrinological aberrations in the medical conditions shown to benefit from psychedelic therapy. Dr. Schindler will discuss the relevant neuroanatomy, hormonal functions, and circadian rhythms involved, with a particular focus on cluster headache, a debilitating headache disorder reported to benefit from treatment with psychedelics and related compounds. Methodological considerations for future investigations will also be discussed, as such factors as timing and pattern of drug administration may influence therapeutic outcomes.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Engelbert Winckler

(See Dirk Proeckl, above)

Eric Vermetten & Rick Doblin

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 10:30 (Check online for times)

MAPS discussion

Erika Dyck

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 17:00

What about Mrs Psychedelic? A Historical Look at Women and Psychedelics

We are familiar with some of the major historical figures in the history of psychedelics, but the role of women, particularly as investigators and leaders in this history has often been muted. The emphasis on male contributions is partly reflective of a 1950s context, where men tended to be the main income earners, but this feature downplays the role of women, and undermines some of the major contributions to psychedelic research that emerged because women, particularly wives, participated directly in the research environment. Many of the well-known early experimenters had their first experiences with their wives. Some husbands even admitted that they were initially anxious about trying LSD, and wanted to share the experience with the person they trusted most. Wives helped write up experiential reports, not just using a typewriter, but at times coached their husbands or friends in how to articulate an experience that routinely defied simple explanations. This paper will examine some of the early experiments from the 1950s and consider the role played by women and how their participation has shaped our historical understanding of gender and psychedelics

Fiona Heckels & Karen Lawton (Seed SistAs)

Friday, 16 August 2 – Osmond Auditorium – 09:30

The Mythical Medicinal Story of Fly Agaric

Long associated with magic and fairytales, the image of the polka-dotted toadstool is deeply imprinted in the modern psyche across our globe. Introduced to this powerful mushroom by a time travelling wizard, the Seed Sistas have spent many years exploring and studying the Amanita family and the Fly agaric in particular. There has been a recent resurgence in the therapeutic use of this mushroom amongst herbalists, and there is still much to learn about potential actions and applications. We will look at modern day uses from Ayurveda to adaptogenic tonic, and experience the myth and magic of this beautiful, fairytale underground messenger.

Francisco Montes Shuna

Sunday, 18 August – Hofmann Hall – 16:00

Ayahuasca and the Capanahua

Gabriella Tavini

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 17:00

Three Psychonautical Women: The Spiked, the Channelled and the Transgressive

Charlotte Brontë, Maria Sabina and Anaïs Nin are psychedelic feminists. But what is psychedelic feminism? Zoe Helene, founder of Cosmic Sister coined the term. The phrase was popularised to describe a sub-genre of feminism that embraces psychedelic evolutionary allies from nature for women's healing, self-liberation and empowerment, and for exploring core feminist issues in fresh and exciting ways. To understand how female writers influenced psychedelic feminism, I will focus on three literary works. *Villette* by Charlotte Brontë, 1853; *Mazatec Magic Mushroom Ritual Chant* by Maria Sabina; and *The Diary of Anaïs Nin*, Volume 5, 1947–1955.

Gail Bradbrook

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 12:00

Extinction Rebellion and the Role of Psychedelics – Personal and Beyond

Dr Gail Bradbrook, a co-founder of XR will share her stories and thinking on the use of psychedelics to support social and personal change and how those two issues interlink. She will be looking at intention, trauma healing, community and ceremony as key themes.

George Fejer

Friday, 16 August – Shulgin Shack – 14:30

The Effects of Psilocybin Microdosing on Multisensory Integration, Aesthetic Perception and The Sense Of Awe: A Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled within Subjects Study

Microdosing LSD has recently been shown to induce temporal dilation within the suprasedond range during a temporal reproduction task. We investigated effects of psychedelic truffles on basic temporal factors involved in multisensory integration of audio-visual speech. We prepared a cognitive task battery to replicate the effects of temporal dilation and examine further effects of microdosing on multisensory integration, depression, aesthetic perception and the sense of 'Awe'. Although we could not replicate the effects of temporal dilation nor detect any changes in the average point of subjective simultaneity, people did exhibit a wider perceptual bandwidth for the window wherein speech could be perceived as simultaneous.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Giorgia Gaia

Friday, 16 August – Shulgin Shack – 09:30

Paranormal Ethnographies of Ketamine

Investigating the vast realm of paranormal experiences induced by the use of psychoactive substances, Ketamine journeys appear to be of a central relevance. A paradoxical substance, Ketamine's psychedelic potentials are often shaded by its addictive qualities. This lecture aims to explore the 'magical' sides of Ketamine, capable of giving access to a hyperdimensional space. Ketamine is gaining popularity in an underground 'occulture' of psychonauts—interested in the esoteric potentials of psychedelic substances—and in the broader community of psychedelia. Featuring a collection of interviews, weird phenomena and manifestations of alter(n)ate realities—as reported by intrepid psychonauts encountered in various set & settings.

Giorgio Samorini

Saturday, 17 August – Hofmann Hall – 17:00

The Archaeology of Psychoactive Plants: A Worldwide Look

The human use of psychoactive plants is lost in the mists of time – as increasingly evidenced by archaeological research. In this talk the author, specialised in the archaeobotany of intoxicant plants, provides a general picture of these findings, covering the main psychoactive plant sources of the world. For the first time, a list of the most ancient dates so far evidenced by archaeology is presented. There appears to be a general diffusion of the use of plant drugs from at least the Neolithic period (for the Old World) and the pre-Formative period (for the Americas). For many renowned psychoactive plants – such as ayahuasca, jurema, iboga – no reliable archaeological data has yet been established; this lack is explained by the author in different ways.

Greg de Hoedt

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 15:00

Cannabis Rights

Why do people break the law when it comes to cannabis? And why do others stick their head above the line to try and change the law even when it could get them in more trouble? Greg's talk will look into the reason cannabis activism is thrust upon some people, explore the origins of the UK Cannabis Social Club (UKCSC) movement and discuss the way cannabis consumer groups have organised to keep their communities safe and try to change the law. UKCSC will also be launching their research work with the Global Drug Survey at Breaking Convention 2019.

Greg Donaldson with Michelle Baker Jones

(See Michelle Baker Jones, below.)

Hamilton Hudson

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 11:30

New Religions: Legal Challenges for Sacramental Ayahuasca Use in the U.S.

The use of ayahuasca has been spreading. In the U.S., the expansion has included the appearance of the Brazilian ayahuasca religions Santo Daime and União do Vegetal (UDV), underground ceremonial circles, workshops with itinerant Amazonian shamans, and spiritual retreat centres. This trend has included the recent emergence of groups and organisations that publicly advertise "legal" ayahuasca ceremonies and retreats. This talk maps the existence of a series of organizations and actors who have controversially claimed legal protection through various means, including incorporation as "branches" of the Native American Church (NAC), and it reviews the legality of these churches in light of governing law. It brings in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), and pertinent court cases involving the UDV and the Santo Daime, as well as ethnographic accounts of the historical Native American Church, examining petitions for religious exemptions from the CSA from two new ayahuasca churches, Ayahuasca Healings and Soul Quest Church of Mother Earth, and speculating on the possibilities of the future of the legalisation of ayahuasca in the US.

Hannes Kettner

Friday, 16 August – Shulgin Shack – 12:00

Psychedelic communitas: Exploring the Role of Intersubjective Experience During Ceremony

Legal in many countries, retreats working with psychedelics and plant medicines offer a structured, supportive environment for an ever increasing group of individuals seeking healing, insight, or personal growth through the use of these compounds. Yet, little empirical research has been done on the psychological, social, and environmental factors—'set' and 'setting'—which determine acute subjective and long-term responses to guided experiences in ceremonial and other naturalistic environments. In this talk, I will focus on the social components at play during psychedelic ceremonies and retreats, proposing a conceptual framework for the interpersonal dimension of psychedelic experiences inspired by anthropological research on ritual process and rites of passage.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Heather Hargraves

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 15:30

Technicians of Consciousness: Brain Computer Interfaces and the Psychedelic Experience

This presentation journeys through various mindfulness practices, including the use of various plant and shamanic technologies, and the current therapeutic use of brain-computer technologies. Adept meditators use methods of altering attention to move more deeply into various awareness practices, while shamans use states of trance, as well as plant medicines, as therapeutic tools. Neuro and biofeedback technologies can help highlight the proposed neural structures and predictive patterns reflected in both deep states of meditation, and the symbolic world of shamanism. I will discuss the potential for a synergistic practice wherein various neuro and biofeedback brain-computer interfaces are used as supportive therapeutic tools for meditative, shamanic and psychedelic experiences.

Helle Kaasic

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 10:30

Chemical Composition of “Ayahuasca”

Ayahuasca is a complex natural remedy. Chemical analyses of concoctions ceremonially used in different locations and traditions showed that some psychedelic brews offered to participants at ceremonies as ‘ayahuasca’ in fact contain no significant amounts of bioactive principles of Banisteriopsis caapi. Analyses indicated known “analogue plants” Mimosa tenuiflora and Peganum harmala and even non-plant substituents such as mocllobemide and psilocin. Among samples of “genuine” ayahuasca, interesting patterns emerged in relation to the traditions where the samples came from. Reasonable evidence-based legal regulation of ayahuasca use could create favorable conditions for open information sharing and ethical self-regulation among ayahuasca practitioners, leading to improved safety and ethics of ayahuasca use.

Jaïs Frédéric Elalouf

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 11:30

Psychedelics and Protest Movements in Society in the 1960s

A visual journey through the Psychedelic Art Center unreleased art collection. Visiting the 1950s social context. The effects, values & distinctive features of LSD. A panorama exploring the values of the Provo movement, the Diggers, the SDS, the free press, the revolution of May 1968, the Communes, big events like 1966 Trips festival, the Summer of Love, the 14th Hour Technicolour Dream... What was the role of psychedelics both in the production of art and in the social/political engagement of the artists? How come most of the 1960s counterculture topics are even more relevant today with Extinction Rebellion or the Yellow Vests?

Jake Aday

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 15:30

Can Psychedelic Drugs Attenuate Age-Related Changes in Cognition and Affect? A Critical Review

Older adulthood is characterized by various cognitive and affective changes. In general, older adults show declines in creativity and executive functioning, score lower in openness to experience, empathy, and suffer from a paucity of meaningful experiences. Further concerns are depression, pessimism, and suicide. Although there are few interventions that can effectively treat these symptoms, recent findings from psychedelic science suggest myriad parallels between the effects of these drugs and the cognitive/affective shifts seen in older adulthood. We assess whether these drugs have potential to be incorporated into older adult research. Increased neuroplasticity, neurogenesis, connectedness, and mystical experiences have been argued to underlie cognitive/affective changes.

James Rucker

Sunday, 18 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 12:30

Psychedelics, Clinical Trials and the Profit Motive. Some Thoughts from the Psychedelic Trials Group at King's College London

In July 2019, the Psychedelic Trials Group completed the largest ever healthy volunteer study of psilocybin in collaboration with Compass Pathways Ltd, giving psilocybin to groups of up to 6 participants simultaneously in a randomised controlled design. The Group is now undertaking two randomised controlled trials of psilocybin therapy in treatment resistant depression and performing systematic reviews and patient acceptability work in other clinical areas such as post traumatic stress disorder, functional neurological disorder and persistent anxiety problems. Through the Group's not-for-profit public engagement organisation, The Maudsley Psychedelic Society, we run a programme of educational events for academics, patients and the public, as well as a monthly psychedelic integration group and training for psychotherapists interested to learn about the principles and practices of psilocybin assisted therapy. The culture of our Group strives to reflect, in all the work that we do, the core qualities of openness, empathy, respect, humility and compassion that embody good psychedelic therapy. We work with the commercial power of industry, but not for it. Through our connections with our patients, the psychedelic community, the psychological and medical professions, the NHS, academia, industry and politics our aim and our passion is to bring a safe, supportive and sustainable form of psychedelic therapy to those who suffer with mental health difficulties and for whom existing paradigms of treatment may have failed.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

James W. Jesso

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 17:30

Psilocybin, Healing, and The Examined Life

In an era where medical interventions, neurobiological research, occult magick, and high-dose psychonautic exploration are taking the psychedelic center stage, what about psychedelics as a part of the simple quest to live an examined life and become a more mature person? In this talk I look at the role psilocybin can play in our lives as an agent of insight and how it can help us mature and develop into whole people, trustworthy partners, and healthy citizens.

Janis Phelps

Friday, 16 August – Hofmann Hall – 16:00

Training the Next Generation of Psychedelic Therapists

Contributions in setting and implementing guidelines for the training of therapists who integrate MDMA and psilocybin into clinical treatments and research will be reviewed. As innovators of the first accredited training program in psychedelic therapies, we have learned much in the past 3+ years of training medical and mental health professions at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. Highlights of the training methods include experiential and didactic learning, volunteer work, mentoring, online hybrid content, and retreats. Recommendations for future training programs are the inclusion of non-licensed people trained as the second facilitator and public education in risk management in the use of psychedelics and empathogens such as MDMA. The most recent development of decriminalization in some cities in the U.S. necessitates the implementation of training for wise use of plant medicines for the general public and civic leaders. In light of the current global political climate, innovations for training clinicians and educators in academic and community settings are a necessary reality.

Jasmin Thomas

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 16:00

Setting Up a Business in the Legal Cannabis Industry and What You Need to Be Aware Of

The legal cannabis industry is the biggest growth industry since the dot com boom. This talk will outline the basics of what it is really like to set up a business through the confusion of the legal cannabis market here in the UK. Highlighting some of the struggles and the joys that come with working in a nascent industry.

Jay Griffiths

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 10:00

Shapeshifting: A Kneeling Kind of Knowing

This talk explores metamorphosis, shapeshifting and the essential life-force. Based on time spent with shamans in the Peruvian Amazon, the author Jay Griffiths speaks of how ayahuasca, as a plant teacher, encourages an ecocratic vision of life, a wild and radical way of knowing. The talk explores ayahuasca's powerful and profound effects on the ecology of the human mind, and how this translates into an urgent need to take environmental action.

Jazmin Romaniuk

Sunday, 18 August – Hofmann Hall – 15:30

Entheogenic Medicine in Canada: Healing a Marginalized Population

The Legend of the Miskwedo, released by the Anishanaabeg Elder Keewadinoquay, highlights the ancestral use of the Amanita muscaria among Indigenous people surrounding the Great Lakes in North America. The legend sheds light on a tradition that has been forgotten since new medicine practices came to Turtle Island. Entheogenic medicines open our hearts to special learning, showing us how to understand medicine directly from the plants. Our brothers from Peru taught us and have helped us to heal the illnesses of our people in Canada through the Camarampi path. Little by little, the people uncover ancient teachings.

Jeronimo Mazarassa

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 17:00

After the Psychedelic Renaissance: Cultural Challenges and the Law of Unintended Consequences

Since psychedelics were rediscovered in the West more than half a century ago, they have presented us with a considerable cultural challenge. We have no place for spiritual practices that include mind-altering substances, or for medicines that require accompaniment during the experience and interpretation afterwards. Although we can, and we should, imagine a post-prohibition world, I posit that ending prohibition of psychedelics, far from ending the challenges associated with them, will only make these challenges more visible. The problem underlying prohibition is deeper than restrictive laws, it is that western culture has very little in its past, in its rule books, or in its traditions, to help it accommodate these substances. In this talk we will look at some of these challenges, possible paths forward, dead-ends, half-solutions, and examples from other cultural practices that have been successfully integrated into our own culture.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Jerry Brown

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 11:30

The Psychedelic Gospels: Evidence of Entheogens in Christian Art

Based on stunning photographs of psychoactive mushrooms found in churches and cathedrals in Europe and the Middle East, this presentation documents original research on the presence of entheogens in early and medieval Christian art. After making the surprising discovery of a sculpture of an Amanita muscaria mushroom in Rosslyn Chapel, Scotland, my wife/co-author Julie and I set out to investigate the presence of entheogens in Christian art: in frescoes, illuminated manuscripts, mosaics, sculptures and stained-glass windows. If the theory of the psychedelic gospels is validated, the scientific and religious communities will have to rethink the history and perhaps even the origins of Christianity.

Jesse Gould

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 17:00

From Battlefields to Breakthroughs: How Military Veterans are Leading the Charge towards Psychedelic Acceptance

Ayahuasca and other psychedelic based therapies are revolutionizing the mental health field, but research and advancement are still severely restricted due to deeply ingrained stigmas. In the meantime, the veteran community is suffering from a suicide epidemic. While the government drags its feet, PTSD is claiming thousands of veteran lives prematurely. Psychedelics can be part of the solution, but public perception must first change. This discussion will also review early results from the ongoing HHP study about the effects of ayahuasca on the gut's microbiome and how this relates to personality changes.

Joanna Paschedag

Sunday, 18 August – Osmond Auditorium – 14:30

Homer, Walker Percy, and the Re-Entry Experience: Writing Our Way to Psychedelic Integration

The author Walker Percy examined what he called “the re-entry problem” – the plight of the writer who creates a universe out of nothing but the contents of their own cortex, achieving “the successful launch of the self into the orbit of transcendence,” but who must then face the almost inevitable state of disenchantment and confusion when the work is finished. The struggle of the creator is the same as that of the psychedelic voyager – to integrate what they've learned on their extraordinary journey with their everyday reality. In this presentation, we'll consider what guidance the writer's journey might provide for the essential process of psychedelic integration.

Joe Mays

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 12:30

Cosmology and Visionary Plants in Biocultural Conservation: Exploring the Role of Religious Cosmology Influenced by Visionary Plants in Human-Environment Relationships in Non-Western Societies

Jon Urquidi

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 10:00

Harm-reduction for the Masses: Addressing Community Limitations Using A Biopsychosocial Approach

Communities which use substances recreationally have hierarchies through which they pass accumulated wisdom. This form of received wisdom provides basic information to novel drug users, but it suffers from major limitations for minimising physical and psychological harm due to drug use. Many first-time drug users rely on the internet to learn how to take drugs safely. This information is often dispersed, indigestible and unreliable. We have worked with neuropsychologists, pharmacologists and educators to create a validated, reputable and accessible alternative: www.drugsand.me In this talk, we will present unpublished data from the largest drug survey conducted within a UK university to date.

Jonathan Ott

Saturday, 17 August – Hoffman Hall – 18:00

The Marriage of Spirit and Body

In answer to the question, as to the real effects of psychotropic drugs... we shall examine the attoscopic Nature, of macroscopic Reality; by way of determining where lies the ‘hallucination’: in quotidian Materialism; or in the architecture of the Universe, as it unveils itself to us? In other words: a logical and step-wise, chemico-physical, geometric proof, concerning that peculiar Reality, within the spectres perceived by our “perishing Mortal Eye”! As it might be... Through the Looking-Glass, and What We Find There. (Technical training not prerequisite. Comprehension of simple arithmetic, and a bit of solid-geometry, withal, is.)

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Jose Montemayor Alba

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 15:00

The Great Synthesis: Exploring the Relationship Between Ancient and Modern Technologies

Modern definitions of technology have been exclusively associated with the advancement of science, rationality, secularism and purely instrumental purposes. But could it be that technology has a deeper agenda beyond just being “a means to an end” and a product of human activity? More ancient definitions of technology referred to it as the source of interpretation rather than the outcome of interpretation. With this in mind, could technologies be actual extensions of our inner epistemic dimensions? It is now possible for a multi-modal blended approach to integral growth, which may be more appealing to our modern times and minds.

Josie Malinowski

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 10:30

Hello Darkness, My Old Friend: The Return of Suppressed Emotions & Memories in Altered States of Consciousness

Similarities between psychedelic experiences and the REM sleep dream state may assist us in understanding how both can have therapeutic (emotion-processing) effects. Two of their similarities in particular may be enlightening: 1) they can bring forth the return of suppressed / unprocessed emotions, thoughts, or memories (particularly those that are dark or difficult); 2) they involve the brain entering an intensely interconnected neurochemical state (i.e. the “entropic” or hyperassociative brain). Re-experiencing suppressed emotions within this hyperconnected brain state may be what gives rise to the therapeutic effect of both psychedelics and REM sleep dreams.

Jules Evans

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 14:30

Psychedelic Therapy and the Multiverse

Do psychedelics lead to mystical union with the divine, or nothing but alterations to neurological processes? How should one react to entities one might encounter? Because of the power of set and setting, clinics' cultural assumptions around these questions actively shape people's experiences—mystical experiences are more commonly reported at the mystically-inclined Johns Hopkins' lab than the materialist-inclined Imperial lab. Choosing a psychedelic therapy centre necessitates choosing a particular metaphysical universe. Drawing on my own experience, I argue that the Temple of the Way of Light offers a model for a sympathetic agnosticism, in which clients are supported in their healing.

Julian Wayne

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 12:00

Tribes Get High: Power, Practice and Politics in the Psychedelic Renaissance

This presentation explores some of the key debates within the contemporary psychedelic community including ethical, ideological and tactical considerations for those who believe that psychedelic substances should be accessible in better ways. An exploration of these debates will be set within an account of the author's recent psilocybin experience at King's College Hospital. This paper will present reflections on issues such as the medicalization of psychedelics, the imagined tension between scientist and shaman, and the relationship of research data to wider social discourse. The embodied experience of the author's participation in the medical trial will provide the vantage point for analysis.

Karen Lawton

(see Fiona Heckels, Seed SistAs, above)

Kilindi Iyi

Sunday, 18 August – Hofmann Hall – 12:00

Accessing Kemet Sub Quantum Intelligence through Hallucinogens

Kim Kypers

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 10:00

MDMA, Emotional Processing and fMRI

Kitty Sipple

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 15:30

Psychedelic Accessibility: Disability, Chronic Illness, & the Psychedelic Experience

The psychedelic experience is a place of intentional vulnerability, which for some can be a magnification of a lived state of vulnerability. Many aspects of the medicalization of psychedelic experiences follow the paradigm of toxic wellness culture—in order to feel better one must get better. This restricts access to psychedelic science research studies for chronically ill individuals who have disabilities that are considered extreme mental health conditions, including conditions that are a result of severe trauma. This presentation illustrates what it means to live with a disability and chronic illness as a psychedelic advocate, and generates discussion around psychedelic accessibility.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Leor Roseman

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 11:30

Palestinians, Israelis, and Ayahuasca: Can Psychedelics Promote Reconciliation?

Several ayahuasca groups in Palestine/Israel include both Jewish and Arab participants. In this talk, a qualitative analysis of these groups will be presented, based on 31 interviews conducted with participants/facilitators of these groups. The main research question was whether psychedelics can promote reconciliation, and if so, how? The stories of the interviewees will be shared, and several themes will be discussed. These interviews support the idea that psychedelics can be used for reconciliation and conflict resolution, and the themes found in these interviews can inform and support an intentional use of psychedelics for such means.

Levente Móró

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 12:00

How (Not) To Have a Bad Trip? A Systematic Categorisation of Difficult Psychedelic Experiences

Psychonauts are explorers who journey into their psyche by using hallucinogenic drugs or other consciousness altering techniques. Properly planned and duly integrated, these exceptional experiences may lead to long-term and positive benefits. Nevertheless, psychedelic substance use may occasionally go wrong and cause ‘train wrecks & trip disasters’. Plausible causes for a difficult experience may vary widely and include drug, set, and setting factors. We carried out a systematic charting and categorisation of data collected from multiple sources, considering the user’s mindset, intention, preparation, environment, substance use parameters, and activities or happenings during the trip which might have contributed to the troubles experienced.

Liana Gillooly, Jade Ullmann, Rick Doblin

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 12:00

Fundraising for Psychedelic Research

Lindsay Elizabeth Kimpel

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 15:00

Opioid Odyssey

“Opioid Odyssey” explores my therapeutic use of psychedelic medicines in order to recover from opioid use disorder. The seeds for my addiction were arguably planted generations ago, and became ripe for sprouting through child sexual abuse, trauma, physical illness, and sports injury. Caught between worlds, I found myself at a crossroads of either continuing to be a slave to addiction, or taking many deep dives into the darkest parts of myself and our world. Deciding to choose consciousness, I underwent six psychedelic medicine treatments. My talk is an honest presentation of how the true course of nature graciously led me to the path of psychedelic therapy for the ultimate healing of my mind, body, and soul.

Lindsay Jordan

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 15:00

‘Smart Drugs’: Psychedelics, Nootropics, and Cognitive Enhancement

Psychedelics are often reported to have effects on cognition that persist long after the substance itself has left the body. The psychedelic state is often described as an ‘experience’, and by some as an educational event. Here, I present the developmental use of psychedelics as a form of educational enquiry with cognition-enhancing potential, and discuss what bearing this might have on how we conceive the use of psychotropic substances generally, including so-called ‘smart drugs’ such as Ritalin and Modafinil, in educational contexts. I argue that a concept of ‘psychedelic enquiry’ may also include the use of nootropics, on the basis that an individual who takes a nootropic stimulant with the intention of learning from the experience is undertaking an educational endeavour.

Lorna O’Dowd

Sunday, 18 August – Osmond Auditorium – 11:30

Critiquing the ‘Divine Feminine’ and Whiteness in Psychedelic Research: Western Women, Ayahuasca Culture and the New Age

This talk focuses on the role of feminism in Western ayahuasca culture and asks how opening up a space for discussing what is meant by “feminine” within that culture might help to address gender imbalances and power relations in psychedelic discourse. I will do this by showing parts of a few films about the idea of the ‘Divine Feminine’ and femininity in ayahuasca culture. Analysing the ways in which women are positioned and theorised in Western ayahuasca research exposes some of the ways in which foundational notions of femininity can be broken down and played around with, creating spaces for pluralities and differences.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Luke Samuel Dodson

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 09:30

The Psychedelic Illuminati: Conspiracy Theories and the Counter-Culture

Conspiracy theories have long been a feature of the psychedelic counter-culture. But what about those conspiracy theories that turn inward, towards the psychedelic counter-culture itself? A counter-culture cannot help but be shaped by the culture from which it was spawned. Likewise, culture will affect the ways psychedelics are utilized. But the involvement of powerful players in the military, intelligence, and financial worlds does not have to lead to a paranoid, us-and-them mentality. By taking a clear and honest look at ourselves and the culture which we are a part of, could we begin to heal the psychic wounds that have been inflicted on us?

Malin Vedøy Uthaug

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 17:30

Prospective Examination of Synthetic 5-methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine Inhalation: Effects on Salivary IL-6, Cortisol levels, Affect, and Non-judgement

5-methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine (5-MeO-DMT) is a psychotropic substance found in various plant and animal species, and can be synthetically produced. Despite the use of 5-MeO-DMT by people in naturalistic settings, current scientific knowledge on the effects of 5-MeO-DMT in humans are relatively scarce. Thus, the first objective of this research was to assess the effects of inhalation of vaporized synthetic 5-MeO-DMT on neuroendocrine markers. The second objective was to assess effects of the substance on affect and mindfulness. This research also assessed whether ratings of subjective measures were associated with changes in stress biomarkers and immune response. A summary of the results will be presented.

Mandy Hazard

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 15:30

Cannabis : Medicine of the Gods... Heroic doses of THC versus Pancreatic Cancer

In 2014 I was told that I had a recurrence of Pancreatic Cancer. The primary tumour had metastasised to my liver and I was handed a death sentence. Imagine my surprise when a Princess offered to be my benefactor and pay for my cancer treatment at a private oncology clinic in Germany! My husband and I started researching what we could do to compliment the treatments at the clinic and one thing kept coming up... Medical Cannabis. What we have learnt at the coalface of medical cannabis is nothing short of remarkable. I look forward to sharing our discoveries with you.

Manuel Aicher

Sunday, 18 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 12:00

How to Train for Therapy which Uses Psychoactive Agents

There are many people using psychoactive substances for healing purposes, be it in a more shamanic way or influenced by the Western understanding of psychotherapy. As most of the work is illegal, not only the work with clients itself, but any discussion about training in psycholytic therapy, stays underground. This presentation is a result of studies of different practitioners and their approaches, and of the rare attempts to forward knowledge and personal experience between them. The presentation is meant to prepare people for the day the work with psychoactive substances might become legal. This presentation describes a possible structure and elements of such training.

María Almena

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 16:00

Transcendence: How Live Performance Art in Combination with Interactive Technology Can Induce Altered States of Consciousness

Altered states of consciousness have been pursued by humans consistently throughout our known history. However, only recently there has been a resurgence in attempts to understand the cognitive and neurological processes. Combining scientific, anthropological and psychological research with visual arts, interactive technology and live performance, Transcendence will explore how to create an immersive experience that will attempt to activate an altered state of consciousness in its audience. The research will attempt to answer to what degree biochemical modification is required to alter consciousness and whether ritualistic, hallucinogenic spaces or audiovisual experiences can be created through external, sensory stimulus alone.

Maria Balaet

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 12:00

The impact of Psychedelic Drugs on Memory Processing

Memory plays an essential role in the human experience—it is a fundamental adaptive feature that allows us to carry out daily activities and plan for the future, based on previously acquired information. It has been argued that episodic memory, a component of autobiographical memory, lies at the core of subjectivity, and is a requirement for self-awareness. In humans, memory processing is dependent on the serotonergic system, which calls psychedelic drugs into the equation. This would be useful in the further exploration of the brain, understanding the basis of human consciousness, and how these drugs are effective in psychiatric disorders.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Maria Papspyrou & Chiara Baldini

Sunday, 18 August – Osmond Auditorium – 09:30

On Manifesting a Vision of Wholeness

The 2015 Breaking Convention panel “Femtheogenesis” brought together a collective of female voices exploring the links between the feminine principles and altered states of consciousness. The anthology arising from that panel, *Psychedelic Mysteries of the Feminine*, seeks to restore the balance between the masculine and feminine principles. Re-membering the vitality of feminine consciousness will be a much-needed resource for our challenges ahead. What is the message of feminine consciousness and altered states? How do we relate to age-old paradigms, hierarchies, values and the existential threat of mass extinction and environmental collapse? What needs to be done for wholeness and balance to be achieved?

Mark Agacan

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 15:30

Music, Psychedelics and The Limitations of The Scientific Approach to Studying DMT

From the songs of the shaman, to the electronic rhythms of the late 20th century, the beat of the drum has facilitated the altered state of mind. In this multimedia audio-visual presentation, I—as a chemist, DJ and music producer—explore the relationship between electronic dance music and psychedelics, with particular reference to the DMT experience. While other psychedelics make excellent bedfellows with house, techno, jungle and ambient rhythms, the 5–15 minute duration of the DMT experience makes choosing music a defining factor. I will also comment on the limitations of the contemporary scientific approach in the study of DMT and other psychedelics.

Mark Gallagher

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 15:00

Ronald Sandison, LSD and the ‘Beyond Within’ Powick Hospital

Drawing upon untapped sources in Dr Ronald Sandison’s collection of papers at the Wellcome Library, Mark’s talk will locate the birth of the LSD Clinic in psycho-geographical and geo-political contexts, arguing that landscape and the ancient needs of myth and war shaped the emergence of LSD as a therapeutic tool, as much as the pursuit of scientific and medical progress. By seeing the history of LSD therapy through the eyes of one its forgotten pioneers, the talk will unearth some of its hidden histories and consider what we might learn from the past in our efforts to understand the present ‘psychedelic renaissance’.

Mark McCloud & Paul Guest

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 18:30

Occupation of the Smallest Billboard: An Update on Blotter Art

A conversation between Mark McCloud and Paul Guest, facilitated by Julian Wayne. In this talk these two giants of the blotter art world will wax lyrical about the continuing phenomenon of highly desired tiny square bits of paper, archetypal tickets to worlds of artistic vision. Includes a Q&A session with the audience.

Mark Juhan Schunemann

Friday, 16 August – Shulgin Shack – 10:00

A Field Filled with Shepherds, But No Sheep?

The image of sheep is unappealing to our individualistic milieu: we want to be the drivers of our own destiny, the definers of our own reality. This talk explores the anthropological corpus on the nature of psychedelics and society, specifically the nature of entheogenic rituals as generative of value. Moreover, psychedelics can detraditionalize and make the practitioner question socialisation and enculturation, bringing them out of imposing narratives; yet entheogens can also retraditionalise and emplot practitioners into a collective narrative. Does the individualistic insistence in the writings of Leary, Watts and McKenna, perhaps at moments betray a neglect of the social?

Marta Kaczmarczyk

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 09:30

Possible Side Effects of Psychedelic Substances

The Psychedelic Renaissance manifests not only in psychedelic research but also in a flood of positive media coverage of the mental health benefits from the use of psychedelics. These substances are not a magic pill, however, and in most cases, the improvements are a product of a combination of the assisting therapy and the effect of the drug. In the talk, I will discuss the most common side effects that can result from the psychedelic use including hypomania, depersonalization, HPPD, depression relapse and increase in anxiety. Possible underlying neural and cognitive mechanisms of these phenomena based on the existing scientific literature will be discussed.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Matthew Clark

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 12:30

Cannabis Use in India: Ancient and Modern

In this talk we will survey what is known about the use of cannabis in India from the earliest records until modern times. Although there are a few occasional references in the Vedas to what may be cannabis, the plant does not appear in medical texts until around 1,000 years ago. The use of cannabis for recreational purposes was mainly introduced into India by radical Sufis in the 13th century. The use of cannabis was made illegal in India in 1986, since when recreational use has declined. However, in some areas cannabis use is still legal, and bhang is freely available in some places.

Mauro Frigerio

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 14:30

Expanded Access from the Inside—A First Hand Experience

Switzerland has a compassionate use program of MDMA and LSD assisted psychotherapy. I’m one of 40–50 participants allowed in recent years. In my presentation I would like to share insights and impressions on what substance-assisted therapy looks and feels like. Group vs. individual setting, the importance of music, trust and confidence, integrating the experience and freeing from narratives, differences and similarities between MDMA and LSD, therapeutic use vs. recreational use. My experience is of course subjective and hopefully useful for anyone, whether therapist or patient, who works or considers working with MDMA and LSD in a therapeutic context.

Michael Albert

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 10:00

Psychopharmacology in an Age of Planetary Crisis: What Role for Psychedelics?

We live in an age of converging crises, and the fields of psychotherapy and psychopharmacology have a critical role to play in addressing them. However, these fields continue to naturalize the consumer capitalist “reality principle” that is at the root of these crises: a vision of the human as a rational, ego-centric, utility-maximizing agent autonomous from nature and community. I suggest that psychedelics have the potential to constitute an alternative paradigm of mental health and psychopharmacology, though this requires challenging the consumer capitalist reality principle head on rather than merely promoting a novel form of therapy that helps individuals adjust to the stresses of capitalist existence.

Michelle Baker-Jones & Greg Donaldson

Sunday, 18 August – Osmond Auditorium – 15:00

Psychedelic Integration – The Archetypal Dance of The Mystic and The Pragmatist

Michelle Baker Jones and Greg Donaldson, co-facilitators of the first UK Psychedelic Integration Group will consider psychedelic integration through the lens of the archetypal dynamics of the pragmatist and the mystic, one of the many dualities which has emerged through their experience of group integration. They will explore whether working archetypally might deepen the integration process, with its ability to assist in the release of ego defences, somewhat mimicking the psychedelic experience by creating a bridge between the conscious and unconscious. They propose that archetypal images are akin to the transformative eidetic theatre of images that can unfold in an individual’s psychedelic experience.

Michiel Kiggen

Sunday, 18 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 15:00

San Pedro: An Unexplored Psychedelic Plant Medicine”: Investigations into Affect and Consciousness Changes due to the Use of a Mescaline Containing Cactus in a Therapeutic Context

This study aims to map the common phenomenological features of the psychedelic state caused by ingesting San Pedro during a ceremony and, test if differences in the intensity of these features predict affect-related changes before and after the ceremony. It investigates if individual differences in set and setting predict differences in the experience of the psychedelic state. Finally, it explores which of these effects influence the acute drug state and, in turn, psychological outcomes. In his talk, Michiel will discuss his current project, covering the background story, the theoretical rationale, the scientific/societal relevance, the methodological approach, and the preliminary results.

Mike Jay

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 15:30

Mescaline: A Global History Q&A

Mike Jay is one of the world’s leading historians of science, medicine, drugs and consciousness. His latest book, *Mescaline: A global history of the first psychedelic* (Yale University Press, due May 2019), traces mescaline’s many lives: from the ancient use of San Pedro and peyote to the origins of the Native American peyote rite, its first encounters with Western science, the laboratory synthesis of mescaline in 1919, and the century of modern engagement with psychedelics that has spanned art, psychology, spirituality, medicine and culture. This Q&A session will explore these remarkable and little-known stories, and the challenges Mike faced in researching and writing mescaline’s panoramic history.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Natalia Mojzych

(See Isak Gundrosen, above)

Natasha L. Mason

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 11:30

(Sub-)Acute Effects of Psilocybin on Creativity, Empathy, and Satisfaction with Life

Creative thinking and empathy are crucial for everyday interactions and subjective well-being. This is emphasized by studies showing a reduction in these skills in populations where social interaction and subjective well-being is significantly compromised (e.g. depression). Anecdotal reports and recent studies suggest a single administration of psilocybin can enhance such processes and could therefore be a potential treatment. However, it has yet to be assessed how long effects last. The present study found a time and construct-related differentiation of effects of psilocybin on creativity and empathy. Findings could suggest that psilocybin opens up a “window of opportunity” where therapeutic interventions could prove more effective.

Niall Campbell

Sunday, 18 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 16:00

Hypnosis and Psychedelics – Useful Adjunct or Pointless Accoutrement?

‘HYPNODELICS’—Could hypnosis prove a useful non-pharmacological adjunct in the therapeutic use of psychedelics? The therapeutic use of hypnosis could be said to mirror that of psychedelics in that it has enjoyed periods of generalised acceptance—whilst also suffering periods of denunciation. It seems there is some phenomenological overlap between the two treatment modalities. This lecture seeks to explore both the validity of the term hypnosis and the possibility of future investigations into synergistic use. Could hypnosis provide a useful non-pharmacological adjunct to help prepare, guide and integrate the psychedelic experience, or is hypnosis a parlour trick best reserved for the stage?

Nicole Amada

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 10:30

Psychedelic-Induced Changes to Narrative Self-Construction: an Exploratory Qualitative Study

Narrative self-construction is considered a fundamental process of human development with the function of organizing, interpreting and unifying experience, as well as guiding decision-making and the investment of motivational resources. While an adaptive narrative self is active, integrated and authentic, a maladaptive narrative self is passive, fragmented and alienated. Psychedelic substances have been found to alter self-related cognitive processes, generating altered states of consciousness characterized by the loss of an independent, stable and coherent sense of self. The present study investigates psychedelic-induced changes to narrative self-construction. Results suggest the psychedelic experience has the potential to generate lasting change to narrative self-construction.

Nige Netzband with Simon Ruffell

(See Simon Ruffell, below.)

Nir Tadmor

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 10:30

Towards a Transpersonal Psychiatry

Transpersonal Psychologists and Psychiatrists have been researching the interrelationships between body, mind, spirit and cosmos for the last 50 years. Yet there has been little impact on mainstream psychiatry. Rather than promoting a specific set of beliefs, it acknowledges spiritual experiences as universal human experiences deserving rigorous scientific research. As psychedelic-assisted therapies return to psychiatric practice, it is crucial that psychiatrists will have a better understanding of the spiritual dimension of their patients’ experiences. Here I present the core challenges that are standing in front of mainstream psychiatry, discuss different ways of integrating spiritual knowledge and practices into psychiatric training and shed light on the differences and similarities between the Shaman and the Psychiatrist.

Nzambe Divanga

Sunday, 18 August – Hofmann Hall – 15:00 (check online for latest times)

Iboga and Bwiti

This talk will allow people curious about the African root Iboga to engage a personal dialogue with a traditional Bwiti shaman (nganga) who incarnates deep experience with this entheogen, both on therapeutic and mystical levels. The discussion will explore the particular dynamics of iboga, that distinguish it from other entheogens, as well as the ceremonial framework that evolved indigenously and interpenetratively with the plant. The dialogue will open us to an exploration of the meaning of transmission, the power of sacred context, the impact of intentional language, intrapersonal group dynamics and ancestor communication. It’s a talk that may provoke insights that challenge the dominant narratives both about plant medicines and spirituality itself.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Oliver Williams

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 12:30

Psychological Trauma or Unexperienced Experience. The life work of Ivor Browne, M.D.

During his Transpersonal Training Stan Grof introduced me to the hypothesis of Ivor Browne, “Psychological Trauma or Unexperienced Experience”. Browne posits that when we are traumatized, the psyche cuts us off from our ordinary consciousness by involuntarily throwing us into non-ordinary consciousness within which we may retain zero memories of the experience. We then go forward as best we can, over-living the experience that resides ‘incohere’ within us, surviving but not thriving. If we are able to approach work that reliably gives access to a non-ordinary state, we can revisit the hidden trauma in a way that allows for its durable release.

Pascal Michael

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 16:00

Preliminary results of the DMT field study: Acute phenomenology and qualitative analysis

In my presentation I intend to discuss the results of part of my current PhD exploring DMT and epileptiform activity as an integrative model for the NDE and mystical phenomenology. The DMT experience is intense and bizarre, typified by fractal-geometric visuals, entering other worlds and encountering other beings. Despite a plethora of trip reports online, the major published phenomenology on DMT amounts to few original reports. All of these in some way noted tropes surrounding the divine, dying and deities, but also experiences of the ‘little people’. As an endogenous psychedelic in the human being, DMT may be implicated in many spontaneous extraordinary experiences.

Patrick Smith

Sunday, 18 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 14:30

Salvia divinorum and “The Wheel”: What Can We Learn From This Persistent Phenomenon?

Salvia divinorum has been an important part of Mazatec culture for generations. Most accounts of the Salvia experience mention a distinctive rotating sensation; like a conveyer belt, carousel, wheel, or turning pages. This talk reviews the neuropharmacology of Salvinorin A, and whether this can explain the subjective effects people experience. Comparing the Salvia journey with religious symbols and myths, we will also look at appearances of Salvia-like phenomena in sober states such as near-death and spiritual experiences.

Paul North

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 15:30

Cannabis and Politics – How Close are We to Legalising Cannabis in the UK?

As cannabis reform gathers pace around the globe, how close is the UK to following suit? What models are likely to be supported by politicians and how can deep moral objections which exist across society be addressed? Should cannabis be regulated and sold like alcohol or tobacco, or do we need to go back to the drawing board and think about cannabis in an entirely different light? Paul will share what he has learnt about changing people’s minds, from the nine years he spent working in drug treatment to his more recent role at the drug advocacy group Volteface.

Peter Yates

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 15:30

Patanjali’s Phenomenology of Non-Ordinary States of Being and Psychedelic Experience

Inevitably, various attempts have been made to provide frameworks for mapping, navigating and determining the meaning of psychedelic experiences. In this paper, I explore the usefulness of Patanjali’s account of meditative experiences as outlined in The Yoga Sutra (200 BCE–200 CE). This exploration necessarily raises a range of philosophical problems, not least the tricky matter of just how far human experience is a matter of interpretation. I argue that, interpreted in the light of Patanjali’s nuanced understanding of meditative psychology, psychedelic experiences are revealed as tremendous and versatile tools for human flourishing, especially when their use is coordinated with some ‘grounded’ meditative and creative disciplines.

Rafael Lancelotta

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 17:00

5-MeO-DMT Use in the Global Population: Insights and Perspectives for Further Clinical Development

Psychedelic medicines have shown great promise in the treatment of various mental health disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), treatment-resistant depression, and anxiety-related disorders. Although drugs such as psilocybin and MDMA are close to being approved as viable treatment options for depression and PTSD, their long duration of psychoactive effects, and thus their costly administration, may render them less accessible. The psychedelic drug 5-MeO-DMT may be a promising alternative due to its short-acting psychoactive duration. From data collection, we have found that the majority of those who reported being diagnosed with anxiety, depression, PTSD, and substance use disorders, reported improvements following 5-MeO-DMT use.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Reanne Crane

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 17:30

Laura Huxley's Metaphors in Mind: Recipes for Living and Loving

This talk will illuminate the legacy of Laura Huxley, a woman in a world of male intellectuals. Laura's 1962 self-help manual sketches 30 'recipes' for shifting our perceptions, improving our interactions and integrating altered states. Based on years of experience in psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, and guiding LSD sessions in the 1950s, these exercises target the stagnant metaphors that mould our inner and outer worlds. Laura highlights many of the Western linguistic habits that don't serve our hopes of 'integration'. I also spotlight the ripple effect of Laura's ideas throughout the first wave of psychedelic research, via figures such as Aldous Huxley, Humphry Osmond and Albert Hofmann.

Regina Hess & David Heuer

Sunday, 18 August – Osmond Auditorium – 15:30

Beyond Experience – The MIND Foundation Integration Program

The MIND Foundation Integration team has set up a structured program (BEYOND EXPERIENCE) that supports participants in getting the most out of their experiences in altered states of consciousness. This includes both harm reduction and self-development, while at the same time connecting with others and building community. We have staged five test runs in Berlin and Amsterdam (in German and English) which are being evaluated to develop a standardized evidence-based MIND Foundation Integration Manual. The speakers are members of the MIND Foundation Integration team which is developing the Integration manual and are facilitating the program in Amsterdam and undertaking the research project.

Richard Tyo

Friday, 16 August – Shulgin Shack – 15:00

Does Microdosing Increase Compassion in Front-Line Mental Health Workers? A Preliminary, Independent Study

Many reports of microdosing in the mainstream media tend to focus on how microdosing can impact productivity and the accumulation of wealth. How do we keep psychedelics, and the trend of microdosing, out of the capitalist-consumer paradigm and promote novel approaches to these substances? Rich conducted a grass-roots, independent research project looking at how mental health worker's compassion for self and other was affected by a trial of microdosing. This talk will discuss some of the anecdotal and population research findings, media portrayals of microdosing, the motivations behind and results of the study, and what may be an important use of microdosing in our society.

Rick Doblin & Eric Vermetten

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 10:30

MDMA for PTSD in the US, Europe and Around the World

Rita Kocárová

Friday, 16 August – Shulgin Shack – 17:30

Potential of Psychedelic Experience in Prevention of Mental Health Issues

We hypothesize that there is a growing body of evidence suggesting that the mechanism of functioning of psychedelics could be effectively used in the so far rather overlooked area of mental health disorder prevention. Induced spiritual experience is a phenomena which seems to play an essential role in strengthening certain traits and enhancing psychological processes which are associated with mental health. The constructs of psychological flexibility and resilience seem to be directly associated with the radical increase in neuroplasticity during the acute phases of psychedelic states. If confirmed, this would be of significant importance for mental health care in therapeutic as well as preventive strategies.

Roberta Murphy

Sunday, 18 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 11:30

Screening and Recruitment for Psychedelic Research: Lessons Learnt

This talk will cover lessons learnt so far by our team in the screening and recruitment process of PSILODEP 2, a research trial investigating the use of Psilocybin for moderate to severe depression taking place in Imperial College London. Topics covered will include practicalities and logistic of the screening and recruitment process, inclusion and exclusion criteria, thinking about safety, building trust and relationships.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Robin Carhart-Harris

Friday, 16 August – Hofmann Hall – 14:30

REBUS and the Anarchic Brain: A Unified Model of the Brain Action of Psychedelics

This theoretical talk will cover the entropic brain hypothesis: what it is (i.e. a model of conscious states – inspired by the brain action of psychedelic drugs), what it predicts and what evidence there is to support it. It also covers a recent extension of the hypothesis: the so-called REBUS model (relaxed beliefs under psychedelics) – a prediction coding inspired model which maintains that a major action of psychedelic drugs is to relax the precision weighting on priors - i.e. de-weight one's confidence in one's assumptions - which are held at multiple levels in the brain/mind, e.g. the perceptual, cognitive and meta-cognitive. It concludes by discussing an as yet unpublished work on "fulcral mental states" (FMSs) i.e. mental states characterised by relaxed assumptions, hyper-sensitivity to context and a special potential to mediate major, lasting psychological change. Psychotic episodes and spiritual experiences are presented as examples of FMSs.

Rosalind Watts

Friday, 16 August – Hofmann Hall – 17:00

Psilocybin For Depression: Introducing the ACE model (Accept, Connect, Embody)

This presentation introduces the new therapeutic approach used in the ongoing Psilocybin for Depression study (Psilodep 2) at Imperial College. The ACE model (Accept, Connect, Embody) seeks to support the inherent mechanisms of psychedelic therapy through the use of metaphor, therapeutic alliance, visualisation, somatic focusing, and narrative work. In this presentation, the mechanisms of Acceptance and Connection will be explored with reference to qualitative and quantitative research findings and clinical case examples from Psilodep 2. Some general reflections from the Psilodep2 team will also be shared, such as factors which may enhance or undermine the therapy.

Sab Xew

Friday, 16 August – Sabina Stage – 09:30

A New Focus for Transhumanism: Psychedelics as Affective Technology to Resist Affective Capitalism

Do psychedelics hold potential to change the power structures of society at large? This presentation looks at the unconscious ways that the current neoliberal structure of society makes us feel, and how these implicit feelings ('capitalist affect') in turn hold up this structure; a viscous cycle exists between neoliberal structure and individual feeling. By interpreting some therapeutic mechanisms apparent in recent psychedelic therapy research, Sab applies them to this structural situation, arguing that they hold potential to help us resist this capitalist affect and thus disrupt this vicious cycle. This is by offering new feelings that directly opposes these unconscious neoliberal feelings. These psychedelic feelings involve a renewed sense of self, that queers the neoliberal narrative of the 'the individual' that is at the heart of this viscous cycle.

Sam Gandy

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 09:30

Psychedelic Biophilia: From Egoism to Ecoism

Nature connectedness is correlated with a reduction in anxiety and elevated personal wellbeing. In a recently published study, it was found that population level lifetime experience with classical psychedelics (as opposed to other consumed substances) was found to strongly predict self-reported engagement with pro-environmental behaviours through an increase in nature connection. This suggests that psychedelic usage may have significant benefits to offer at both the individual and societal level. What if rather than vilifying these compounds, we held them in the same high regard as some indigenous groups do?

Sanae Orchi

Sunday, 18 August – Hofmann Hall – 09:30

Yoga and Psychedelics

Yoga and Psychedelics are similar in the sense that both have been used for centuries to reach altered states of consciousness. Together, Yoga & Psychedelics can take one on a journey that explores the power of the mind and the full potential of the human body. Discover the Ancient African roots of Yoga and its forgotten philosophy. Learn easy tools for Yoga & Psychedelics to explore infinite possibilities of the body and mind.

Sasha Frost

Friday, 16 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 10:00

Metaphor, Myths & Psychedelics

If the general public largely gets its views about psychedelics from the media, pop culture and governments, then it's worth examining the metaphors shaping people's understanding of psychedelics and their place in society. By looking at some of the most common conceptual frameworks in use, we can see where dialogue is being blocked and where there may be opportunities for a change in conversation. Psychedelic therapists use metaphor to prepare patients for an experience repeatedly described as ineffable. Are there ways of thinking that patients and therapists find useful that could be helpful in dialogue with the general public?

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Sasha Silberberg

Saturday, 17 August – Eisner Entrance Hall – 09:30

Psychedelic Organizational and Community Development: Challenges and Solutions

This talk will cover the challenges and solutions that come with building psychedelic organizations and communities. It will illuminate a typology of psychedelic organizations, and the unique challenges that come with developing each of these organizations, including public relations, politics, advocacy and funding. Challenges in community building will be discussed—exclusivity versus inclusivity when targeting diverse stakeholders, psychedelic cultural esotericism, communicating about the psychedelic experience using subjective language versus using intersubjective language, and lack of diversity, to name a few. The MIND Foundation will be used as a case study for understanding these challenges and the solutions for these challenges.

Simon Ruffell, Nige Netzband & WaiFung Tsang

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 15:00

Modulatory Effects of Ayahuasca on Personality Structure in a Traditional Framework

Sensationalist media representations of ayahuasca have resulted in exponential increases in ayahuasca tourism, highlighting the need for a thorough understanding of the brew. This paper assesses the impact of ayahuasca on personality in a modified traditional framework catering for Westerners. Personality is typically deemed to be stable above the age of 30. Following six ayahuasca sessions, changes in personality were correlated with the extent of a perceived mystical experience. Increases in Agreeableness and Neuroticism, along with significant reductions in levels of Neuroticism, were sustained at the six month follow up. These findings support the growing body of research that suggest therapeutic avenues for psychedelic compounds.

Sophia Rokhlin

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 12:00

The Political Ecology of the Ayahuasca Boom: A Sustainability Perspective

Stevens Rehen

Saturday, 17 August – Hofmann Hall – 12:00

Biological Effects of Psychedelics in Human Neural Stem Cells and Brain Organoids

The effects of harmine, N,N-DMT and 5-MeO-DMT in human brain tissue differentiated from induced pluripotent stem cells will be presented. Harmine and NN-DMT increased the pool of neural progenitors through the inhibition of DYRK1A and the activation of 5HT2A receptor, respectively. These results suggest that both compounds influence neurogenesis, which may be associated with the antidepressant effects of Ayahuasca in patients. Human neurons exposed to NN-DMT increased the expression of synaptophysin, while analyses of human brain organoids exposed to 5-MeO-DMT revealed proteins broadly distributed on cellular protrusion, microtubule dynamics and cytoskeletal reorganization. These data suggest that neuroplasticity signaling pathways are influenced by dimethyltryptamines.

Thehseen Noorani

Sunday, 18 August – Sabina Stage – 16:00

Psychedelics Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Policing the Boundaries of Spiritual Emergency

The medicalization of psychedelics has sought to render predictable the psychedelic experience and harness its power for therapeutic ends. What are the limits of this? Historically, the term ‘psychotomimetic’ has served as a placeholder for vexed debates about the relationship between psychedelic experiences and madness. I review these debates and their relevance for this moment of psychedelic medicalization. I will focus on attempts to police the boundary between ‘spiritual emergency’ on the one hand and ‘psychosis’ on the other, reflecting on the roles that psychedelics could play in either case.

Tharcila Chaves

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 14:30

Is Ketamine the First Legal Modern Psychedelic Treatment?

This talk acknowledges the properties of ketamine as a tool to treat persistent physical and mental pains. The rapid antidepressant effect of the well-known anaesthetic drug ketamine in patients with treatment-resistant depression is considered the most important advance in the pharmacotherapy of depression in 50 years. In Europe, ketamine is still not approved for psychiatric or analgesic uses, although its off-label use, i.e. using it for different purposes than anaesthesia, is increasingly common in medical settings. The failure of conventional therapies and the rise of ketamine clinics in the United States might be the beginning of a new paradigm in mental and physical pain managements.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Thomas Hatsis

Saturday, 17 August – Sabina Stage – 14:30

Deconstructing the Mushroom Legend

In this talk, Hatsis will discuss why psychonauts have reason to doubt the supposed mushroom in Christian art hypothesis. By uncovering the true stories behind some of the most popular supposed “mushroom tree” images, Hatsis will show how easily we can trick ourselves into seeing mushrooms where there aren’t any. From the famous Plaincourault fresco to early 20th century holiday cards featuring the amanita muscaria mushroom, Hatsis will outline the naturalistic explanations for these images – all of which preclude secret mushroom cover-ups. As psychedelics find acceptance more and more in mainstream Western culture, Hatsis feels it is important to discard any dated and mistaken ideas about psychedelic history.

Thomas Varley

Saturday, 17 August – Hofmann Hall – 10:00

Criticality, Complexity, & Consciousness: Complex-Systems Approaches to Understanding Exotic States of Consciousness

One of the great uses of psychedelic drugs in a research context is as tool to explore questions of how consciousness emerges, and how what’s happening in our brains translates into what is happening in our minds. Psychedelic researchers have proposed that consciousness may emerge when the brain is in a critical transition zone between low and high-entropy states, and that the increased “richness” or “complexity” of the psychedelic state reflects a corresponding increase in the “richness” or “complexity” of brain dynamics. Using techniques from statistical physics and network science, we present results supporting this hypothesis and discuss future directions for research.

Tim Read

Sunday, 18 August – Osmond Auditorium – 10:30

The Dark Feminine

When we participate in the deeper reaches of the psyche, we become more open to the embrace of the mutative nourishing Feminine. But the encounter with the archetypal Feminine is nuanced, complex and multifaceted. Coming from a transpersonal perspective—with reference to Jungian and Grofian psychology, the psychedelic experience and the world’s spiritual tradition—I will frame the dark Feminine as an integral part of the ego’s journey. If properly supported, honoured and integrated, the darker aspect of the Feminine ultimately helps us to move beyond our conditioning and shed redundant ego structures leading us through the territory of ego death and rebirth.

Timmy Davis

Saturday, 17 August – Shulgin Shack – 11:30

THOU ART NOT THAT – Towards a Psychoanalytic Understanding of the Bad Trip

This talk will use Lacanian psychoanalysis to give an account of the ‘bad trip’, as a way of exploring the potential for a psychoanalytic understanding of psychedelic experience more generally. What is the ‘hell’ one fathoms when they experience a ‘bad trip’? And how does one end up there? In order to answer these questions we will explore Lacan’s notion of the subject, the real, the symbolic and the imaginary. I will argue that Lacanian psychoanalysis has the potential to provide a comprehensive, nuanced understanding of the subjective effects precipitated by psychedelic substances.

Tobias Buchborn

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 12:30

Using Optogenetics to Shine a Light on the Motor-Cortical Embedding of the Mammalian “Psychedelic Signature Move”

Mice do not speak and cannot tell us about how they perceive the effects of psychedelic drugs. When taking a closer look at the animals’ behavioural response to LSD-type psychedelics, a distinctive “signature move” becomes evident. This psychedelic signature move is conserved across various mammals and characterised by a benign whole-body shake. In our study, we use techniques of optogenetic voltage imaging by selectively targeting the voltage-sensitive fluorescent protein “Butterfly 1.2” to supragranular cortical pyramidal cells. Our results reveal how the (movement-governing) motor-cortex orchestrates pyramidal-cellular and haemodynamic signals at the very instant at which mice engage in the psychedelic signature move.

Tom Ray

Saturday, 17 August – Osmond Auditorium – 14:30

Is DMT an Endogenous Meta-Neurotransmitter?

When examining the receptor affinity profiles of thirty-five broadly assayed psychedelic drugs, DMT stands out in some key features. It is the only drug to have its highest affinity at 5-HT7, which is hypothesized to mediate the depth of consciousness. The many receptors that DMT interacts with can evolve their relative affinities for it, providing a mechanism for evolution to shape the relative levels of expression across the entire suite of receptor systems. DMT could be conceptualised as evolving as a “meta-neurotransmitter”, maintaining a healthy shape of the complex human mind. It is presumed that the proposed evolutionary process operates this side of the veil.

PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

Torsten Passie

Friday, 16 August – Hofmann Hall – 12:00

The Science of Microdosing Psychedelics – A Short Review

In 2011, Jim Fadiman PhD described the intake of very low doses of psychedelics (e.g. 10–20 mcg of LSD). Claims about “microdosing” include better work performance, less procrastination, better mood, more creativity, psychological well-being and healthier life habits. This lecture provides a rough overview on the history of microdosing and describes existing research on the effects of low doses of LSD, psilocybin and mescaline. Including: the place of microdosing and minidosing in the context of pharmacology, effects of psychedelics on the human psyche and organism, possible effects on performance, creativity, headaches, anxiety and depression, side effects and mechanisms of action, and concluding with thoughts on microdosing as a socio-psychological phenomenon assimilating psychedelics in our culture.

Vincent Verroust

Sunday, 18 August – Shulgin Shack – 10:00

Naive Trippers: What Can We Learn from the Historical Data about the First Intentional and Unintentional Psychedelic Experiences?

The content of a psychedelic experience is informed, at least partly, by the experimenter's knowledge, beliefs, expectations and cultural representations about what it is. That is why examining the minutes of the first intentional ingestions of such compounds by “naive trippers”, as well as the medical reports of unintentional ingestions, can prove useful to better understand their psychopharmacology and also the way in which different cultures deal with their psychological effects. In my talk, I will share some findings from my investigations in the history of science. Amongst other things, I will present some experiments with volunteers on psilocybin mushrooms, in 1959 France.

WaiFung Tsang

(see Simon Ruffell, above.)

Zachary Bellman

Friday, 16 August – Osmond Auditorium – 10:00

An Unwatched Pot Never Boils

This talk is a foray into the world of applied cannabis science and the regulatory landscape it inhabits and helps shape. I will outline the latest scientific research on cannabis products with a focus on labelling accuracy. The overall aim is to help inform policy decision making processes and enhance science communication and education surrounding herbal medicine.



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MICRODOSING

Chair: Nikki Wyrđ

09:30 **Representations of Microdosing Psychedelics in Mainstream Media: a Critical Analysis** – Dimitris Liokaftos

10:00 **The Effects Of Microdose LSD On Time Perception and Response to Suggestion** – Devin Terhune

10:30 **What We (Don't) Know about Psychedelic Microdosing**
David Erritzoe

11:00 BREAK

11:30 **Microdosing: Big Steps in Small Doses**
Amanda Feilding

12:00 **The Science of Microdosing Psychedelics – A Short Review**
Torsten Passie

12:30 **Panel Discussion** – Microdosing

TRANSFORMATION, EDUCATION, EMPATHY, BRAINS, AND POLITICS

Chair: Ben Sessa

14:30 **REBUS and the Anarchic Brain: a Unified Model of The Brain Action of Psychedelics** – Robin Carhart-Harris

15:00 **Ketamine And Its Use For Alcohol Relapse Prevention**
Emily Maschaeur

15:30 **Talk Title T.B.C.**
Dave Nutt

16:00 **Training the Next Generation of Psychedelic Therapists**
Janis Phelps

16:30 BREAK

17:00 **Psilocybin For Depression: Introducing the ACE Model (Accept, Connect, Embody)** – Ros Watts

17:30 **Panel Discussion** – Transformation, Education, Empathy, Brains, and Politics

AWARDS

Chair: Cameron Adams

09:30 **Psychedelics to Resist 'Affective Capitalism' and Queer the Notion of the Individual**
Sab Xew

10:00 **Psychopharmacology in an Age of Planetary Crisis: What Role for Psychedelics?**
Michael Albert

10:30 **Towards a Transpersonal Psychiatry**
Nir Tadmor

11:00 BREAK

11:30 **Ayahuasca's 'afterglow': Improved mindfulness and Cognitive Flexibility in Naïve and Experienced Ayahuasca Drinkers**
Ashleigh Murphy-Beiner

12:00 **Our Telephone Line Back to Source and What Those in The UK Make of Their Ayahuasca Experiences – A Report on IPA Research**
Adam Knowles

12:30 **Visionary Plants and Thinking Forests in Biocultural Conservation (Exploring ontology in human-environment relationships in the Amazon)**
Joseph Mays

13:00 BREAK

CANNABIS

Chair: Aimée Tollan

14:30 **The Roots of Cannabis Policy Change**
David Nutt

15:00 **Cannabis Rights**
Greg De Hoedt

15:30 **Cannabis and Politics - How Close are We to Legalising Cannabis in the UK?**
Paul North

16:00 **Setting Up a Business in the Legal Cannabis Industry and What You Need to Be Aware Of**
Jasmin Thomas

16:30 BREAK

17:00 **Cannabis Medicine in Practice: Past, present and future**
Dani Gordon

17:30 **Panel Discussion – Cannabis**

18:30 **David Bramwell – Performance**

PLANT MEDICINES

Chair: T.B.C.

09:30 **The Mythical Medicinal Story of Fly Agaric**
Fiona Heckels & Karen Lawton (Seed SistAs)

10:00 **An Unwatched Pot Never Boils**
Zachary Bellman

10:30 **Chemical Composition of "Ayahuasca"**
Helle Kaasic

11:00 BREAK

NEUROPHARMACOLOGY

Chair: T.B.C.

11:30 **(Sub-) Acute Effects of Psilocybin on Creativity, Empathy, and Satisfaction with Life – Natasha L Mason**

12:00 **The Impact of Psychedelic Drugs on Memory Processing – Maria Balaet**

12:30 **Using Optogenetics to Shine a Light on the Motor-Cortical Embedding of the Mammalian "Psychedelic Signature Move"**
Tobias Buchborn

13:00 BREAK

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

Chair: Luke Williams

14:30 **Is Ketamine the First Legal Modern Psychedelic Treatment?**
Tharcila Chaves

15:00 **Modulatory Effects of Ayahuasca on Personality Structure in an Adapted Traditional Framework for Westerners**
Simon Ruffell, Nige Netzband & WaiFung Tsang

15:30 **Can Psychedelic Drugs Attenuate Age-Related Changes in Cognition and Affect? A Critical Review – Jacob Aday**

16:00 **Talk T.B.C.**
Ashleigh Murphy-Beiner

16:30 BREAK

HEALING

Chair: T.B.C.

17:00 **From Battlefields to Breakthroughs: Overcoming Stigmas through the Power of Story – Jesse Gould**

17:30 **Psilocybin, Healing, and The Examined Life**
James W Jesso

18:30 **Psychedelic Stories: Open Mic with Mike Margolies**

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chair: T.B.C.

09:30	Paranormal Ethnographies of Ketamine Georgia Gaia
10:00	A Field Filled with Shepherds, But No Sheep? Mark Juhan Schunemann
10:30	The Shadow of the Academy: Prejudice and Neo-colonialism in the Academic Study of Ayahuasca – Danny Nemu
11:00	BREAK

CEREMONY

Chair: T.B.C.

11:30	The Ceremony Study – Findings from The Experience Retreats Ciara Sherlock and Laura Kaertner
12:00	Social Components of Psychedelic Ceremonies Hannes Kettner
12:30	Panel Discussion – Ceremony
13:00	BREAK

MICRODOSING

Chair: T.B.C.

14:30	The Effects of Psilocybin Microdosing on Multisensory Integration, Aesthetic Perception and The Sense of Awe: A Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled within Subjects Study – George Fejer
15:00	Does Microdosing Increase Compassion in Front-Line Mental Health Workers? A Preliminary, Independent Study – Richard Tyo

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Chair: T.B.C.

17:00	The Acceptability Of Psychedelics in Psychiatry: Data from 20 000 People (GDS2019) – Adam Winstock
17:30	Life Satisfaction and Mental Health of Users of Psychedelics: Epidemiological Study – Rita Kocárová
18:30	Zuma Puma – Psychedelic Clowning Workshop (Shulgin Shack or Lawn, weather permitting)

LANGUAGE & NARRATIVE

Chair: T.B.C.

09:30	The Psychedelic Illuminati: Conspiracy Theories and the Counter-Culture – Luke Dodson
10:00	Metaphor, Myths & Psychedelics Sasha Frost
10:30	Psychedelic-Induced Changes to Narrative Self-Construction: an Exploratory Qualitative Study – Nicole Amada
11:00	BREAK

NON-DRUG STATES

Chair: T.B.C.

11:30	Ritual Reset: Radical Ethnographies of Liminal Spaces Emily Goddard
12:00	Non-Drug Altered States as Psychedelic Experiences Dave Luke, et al.
12:30	Psychological Trauma or Unexperienced Experience. The Life Work of Ivor Browne, M.D. – Oliver Williams
13:00	BREAK

PATIENT PERSPECTIVES

Chair: T.B.C.

14:30	Expanded Access from the Inside – A First Hand Experience Mauro Frigerio
15:00	Opioid Odyssey Lindsay Elizabeth Kimpel
15:30	Cannabis : Medicine of the Gods... Heroic Doses of THC versus Pancreatic Cancer – Mandy Hazard
16:00	T.B.C.
16:30	BREAK

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Chair: T.B.C.

17:00	Illegal Drugs Do Not Exist! Darryl Bickler
17:30	Regulatory Challenges in Contemporary World and The Politics within the Ayahuasca Community – Daniela Ramirez

PSYCHEDELIC NEUROSCIENCE

Chair: Dave King

09:30	Dynamic Transitions Of Consciousness: An EEG Study Using DMT Chris Timmerman
10:00	Criticality, Complexity, & Consciousness: Complex-Systems Approaches to Understanding Exotic States of Consciousness Thomas Varley
10:30	Alien Information Theory – Using the Neuroscience of Information to Understand the Reality-switching Effects of DMT – Andrew Gallimore
11:00	BREAK
11:30	Role of Neuroendocrinological Systems in the Effects of Psychedelics Emmanuelle Schindler
12:00	Biological Effects of Psychedelics in Human Neural Stem Cells and Brain Organoids – Stevens Rehen
12:30	Panel Discussion – Psychedelic Neuroscience
13:00	BREAK

PALENQUE REVISITED (hour-long talks)

Chair: Hattie Wells

14:30	Plants and Flesh of the Gods - How to Follow the Path of Shamans in the Digital World – Christian Raetsch
15:30	Visions Impossible - Painters and Poets in the Modern Art Market Claudia Müller-Ebeling
16:30	BREAK
17:00	The Archaeology of Psychoactive Plants. A Worldwide Look Giorgio Samorini
18:00	The Marriage of Spirit and Body Jonathan Ott

AGM

19:00-20:00	AGM This is the official Breaking Convention annual general meeting held, breaking convention with definition, once every other year.
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PSYCHEDELICS, ECO-CONSCIOUSNESS AND ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

Chair: David Luke

09:30	Psychedelic Biophilia: From Egoism to Ecoism Sam Gandy
10:00	Shapeshifting: A Kneeling Kind of Knowing Jay Griffiths
10:30	Ontological Anarchy and the Ecological Self Andy Letcher
11:00	BREAK
11:30	Tribal insights: Power and Revolution Bruce Parry
12:00	Extinction Rebellion and the Role of Psychedelics – Personal and Beyond – Gail Bradbrook
12:30	Panel Discussion with speakers, Rory Spowers, and Paul Powlesland
13:00	BREAK

PSYCHEDELIC HISTORIES

Chair: Robert Dickins

14:30	Deconstructing the Mushroom Legend Thomas Hatsis
15:00	Ronald Sandison, LSD and the ‘Beyond Within’ Powick Hospital Mark Gallagher
15:30	Mescaline: A Global History Q&A Mike Jay
16:00	Divine Rascal: From The Man Who Turned On The World to the Man Who Turned on the World – Andy Roberts
16:30	BREAK
17:00	What about Mrs Psychedelic? A Historical Look at Women and Psychedelics – Erika Dyck
17:30	Panel Discussion

CHACRUNA

Chair: Bia Labate

09:30	Ayahuasca as Relational Medicine: Intimate Encounters at the Frontiers of Liquid Modernity – Adam Aronovich
10:00	Western Participation in Amazonian Ayahuasca Shamanism: Cultural Appropriation or Exchange? – Emily Sinclair
10:30	“It’s Cool to Be Gay”: Psychedelics, Sexuality and Self-Acceptance Clancy Cavnar
11:00	BREAK
11:30	New Religions: Legal Challenges for Sacramental Ayahuasca Use in the U.S. – Hamilton Hudson
12:00	The Political Ecology of the Ayahuasca Boom: A Sustainability Perspective – Sophia Rokhlin
12:30	Panel Discussion – Chacruna

DMT & ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCES

Chair: T.B.C.

14:30	Is DMT an Endogenous Meta-Neurotransmitter? Tom Ray
15:00	Psychedelics, Occulture and the Mediation of Entity Encounters Cavan McLaughlin
15:30	Music, Psychedelics and The Limitations of The Scientific Approach to Studying DMT – Mark Agacan
16:00	Preliminary Results of The DMT Field Study: Acute Phenomenology and Qualitative Analysis – Pascal Michael
16:30	BREAK
17:00	Hyperspatial Journeys With Your Goods’elf: Experimental DMT Field Research – David Luke
17:30	Towards a DMATrIX Machine – Developing DMT as a Technology for Communication with Interdimensional Alien Intelligences Andrew Gallimore

18:00	BREAK Déjà vu – DMT performance on the lawn
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18:30	Occupation of the Smallest Billboard: An Update on Blotter Art Mark McCloud and Paul Guest in conversation, facilitated by Julian Vayne
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19:30	Blotter Art Auction
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Roll up roll up! Make your bids on some choice examples of blotter art and related lots, including an original painting by Pete Loveday, ‘The Acid Chemists’. All proceeds in aid of Breaking Convention, UK registered charity #1159687.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Chair: T.B.C.

09:30	Possible Side Effects of Psychedelic Substances Marta Kaczmarczyk
10:00	Acquired Synaesthesia Following 2C-B use Devin Terhune
10:30	Hello Darkness, My Old Friend: The Return of Suppressed Emotions & Memories in Altered States of Consciousness – Josie Malinowski
11:00	BREAK
11:30	THOU ART NOT THAT - Towards a Psychoanalytic Understanding of the Bad Trip – Timmy Davis
12:00	How (Not) To Have a Bad Trip? A Systematic Categorisation of Difficult Psychedelic Experiences – Levente Móró
12:30	Panel Discussion
13:00	BREAK

PHILOSOPHY

Chair: T.B.C.

14:30	Psychedelic Therapy and the Multiverse Jules Evans
15:00	Smart Drugs: Psychedelics, Nootropics, and Cognitive Enhancement Lindsay Jordan
15:30	Patanjali’s Phenomenology of Non-Ordinary States of Being and Psychedelic Experience – Peter Yates
16:00	Panel Discussion
16:30	BREAK

5-MeO-DMT

Chair: T.B.C.

17:00	5-MeO-DMT Use in the Global Population: Insights and Perspectives for Further Clinical Development – Rafael Lancelotta
17:30	Prospective Examination of Synthetic 5-methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine Inhalation: Effects on Salivary IL-6, Cortisol Levels, Affect, and Non-judgement – Malin Veday Uthaug

PSYCHEDELICS IN SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY

Chair: T.B.C.

09:30	Psychedelic Organizational and Community Development: Challenges and Solutions – Sasha Silberberg
10:00	Harm-reduction for the Masses: Addressing Community Limitations Using a Biopsychosocial Approach – Jon Urquidi
10:30	Transforming Illegal Molecules into Licensed Medicines: Medicalisation Imaginaries in the Psychedelic Community Claudia Schwarz-Plaschg
11:00	BREAK
11:30	Psychedelics and Protest Movements in Society in the 1960s Jaïs Frédéric Elalouf
12:00	Tribes Get High: Power, Practice and Politics in the Psychedelic Renaissance – Julian Vayne
12:30	Peyote Conservation in the USA Anna Ermakova

TECHNOLOGY

Chair: T.B.C.

14:30	Exploring Double Consciousness using Holotech to Develop Hyperhumanism – Carl H Smith
15:00	The Great Synthesis: Exploring the relationship between Ancient and Modern Technologies – Jose Montemayor Alba
15:30	Technicians of Consciousness: Brain Computer Interfaces and the Psychedelic Experience – Heather Hargraves
16:00	Transcendence: How Live Performance Art in Combination with Interactive Technology Can Induce Altered States of Consciousness Maria Almena
16:30	BREAK

COMEDY

Chair: Oli Genn-Bash

17:00	Psychedelic Comedy Panel Discussion (one hour) Shane Mauss & Adam Strauss
18:00	BREAK
18:30	Psychedelic Seminars – open mic with Mike Margolies

PSYCHEDELIC AFRICA

Chair: Darren Springer

09:30	Yoga and Psychedelics Sanae Orchi
10:00	Psychedelic Healing Potential in African Communities Darren Springer
10:30	Can Psychedelics Change our Racist World Order? Akua Ofosuhene
11:00	BREAK
11:30	Iboga and the Bwiti Shaman Nzambe Divanga
12:00	Accessing Kemetic Sub Quantum Intelligence through Hallucinogens Kilindi Iyi
12:30	Panel Discussion – Psychedelic Africa
13:00	BREAK

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Chair: David Luke

14:30	Hikuri (Peyote) and the Wixarika Way Don Eugenio & Eusebio
15:00	Iboga and Bwiti Nzambe Divanga
15:30	Entheogenic Medicine in Canada: Healing a Marginalized Population – Jazmin Romaniuk
16:00	Ayahuasca and the Capanahua Francisco Monte Shuna
16:30	BREAK
17:00	Indigenous Perspectives Panel (one and a half hours)
19:30	Closing Ceremony

MAPS

Chair: Dave King

09:30 **MDMA Therapy: A Child Psychiatrist's Perspective**
Ben Sessa

10:00 **MDMA, Emotional Processing and fMRI**
Kim Kuypers

10:30 **MDMA for PTSD in the US, Europe and Around the World**
Eric Vermetten and Rick Doblin

11:00 BREAK

11:30 **Palestinians, Israelis, and Ayahuasca: Can Psychedelics Promote Reconciliation?** – Leor Roseman

12:00 **Fundraising for Psychedelic Research**
Liana Gillooly, Jade Ullmann, Merete Christiansen, Ana LaDou, and Rick Doblin

12:00 **MAPS Q&A Session**

13:00 BREAK

CHALLENGES FOR THE PSYCHEDELIC RENAISSANCE

Chair: T.B.C.

14:30 **What Could a Conscious, Psychedelic #MeToo Look Like?**
Britta Love

15:00 **The Chacruna Institute Ayahuasca Community Guide for the Awareness of Sexual Abuse** – Bia Labate

15:30 **Beyond Prohibition of Plant Medicines**
Charlotte Walsh

16:00 **Psychedelics Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Policing the Boundaries of Spiritual Emergency** – Tehseen Noorani

16:30 BREAK

17:00 **After the Psychedelic Renaissance: Cultural Challenges and the Law of Unintended Consequences** – Jeronimo Mazarassa

17:30 **Panel Discussion**

THE FEMININE

Chair: T.B.C.

09:30 **On Manifesting a Vision of Wholeness**
Maria Papaspyrou & Chiara Baldini

10:00 **Workshop for Women: The Archetypal Medicine Woman Within and Her Role in the Paradigm Shift** – Christa Mackinnon

10:30 **The Dark Feminine**
Tim Read

11:00 BREAK

11:30 **Critiquing the 'Divine Feminine' and Whiteness in Psychedelic Research: Western Women, Ayahuasca Culture and the New Age**
Lorna Olivia O'Dowd

12:00 **The Feminine Enshadowed: The Role of Psychedelics in Deconstructing the Gender Binary** – Cameron Adams

12:30 **Panel Discussion** – The Feminine

13:00 BREAK

INTEGRATION

Chair: T.B.C.

14:30 **Homer, Walker Percy, and the Re-Entry Experience: Writing Our Way to Psychedelic Integration** – Joanna Paschedag

15:00 **Psychedelic Integration - The Archetypal Dance of the Mystic and the Pragmatist** – Michelle Baker-Jones & Greg Donaldson

15:30 **Beyond Experience – The MIND Foundation Integration Program**
Regina Hess & David Heuer

16:00 **Panel Discussion** – Integration

DEATH

Chair: T.B.C.

17:00 **Essential Questions: Psychedelics, Death and Dying**
Andrea Jungerberle

18:30 **Psychedelic Stories From The Future** (chair: Mike Margolies)

TWENTIETH CENTURY PSYCHEDELIA

Chair: T.B.C.

09:30 **Frank Lake: Birth, Christ and LSD**
Adam Bambury

10:00 **Naïve Trippers: What Can We Learn from the Historical Data about the First Intentional and Unintentional Psychedelic Experiences?**
Vincent Verroust

10:30 **Why We Must Never Talk About Psychedelics**
Alexander Beiner

11:00 BREAK

HISTORY

Chair: T.B.C.

11:30 **The Psychedelic Gospels: Evidence of Entheogens in Christian Art**
Jerry Brown

12:00 **Stimulants and Stimulating Rituals in the Ancient Near East**
Diana Stein

12:30 **Cannabis Use in India: Ancient and Modern**
Matthew Clark

13:00 BREAK

WOMEN, SEXUALITY & PSYCHOLOGY

Chair: T.B.C.

14:30 **Women, Sexuality and Psychedelics: Past and Present (1)**
Alex Dymock, Ben Mechen & Leah Moyle

15:00 **Women, Sexuality and Psychedelics: Past and Present (2)**
Alex Dymock, Ben Mechen & Leah Moyle (Continued)

15:30 **Psychedelic Accessibility: Disability, Chronic Illness, & the Psychedelic Experience** – Kitty Sipple

16:00 **Panel Discussion** – Women, Sexuality & Psychology

LITERATURE

Chair: T.B.C.

17:00 **Three Psychonautical Women: The Spiked, the Channelled and the Transgressive** – Gabriella Tavini

17:30 **Laura Huxley's Metaphors in Mind: Recipes for Living and Loving**
Reanne Crane

TRAINING & PROTOCOL

Chair: T.B.C.

11:30 **Screening and Recruitment for Psychedelic Research: Lessons Learnt**
Roberta Murphy

12:00 **How to Train for Therapy which uses Psychoactive Agents**
Manuel Aicher

12:30 **Psychedelics, Clinical Trials and the Profit Motive. Some Thoughts from the Psychedelic Trials Group at King's College London**
James Rucker

13:00 BREAK

LIMINAL SUBSTANCES & TECHNIQUES

Chair: T.B.C.

14:30 **Salvia divinorum and "The Wheel": What Can We Learn From This Persistent Phenomenon?** – Patrick Smith

15:00 **San Pedro: An Unexplored Psychedelic Plant Medicine": Investigations into Affect and Consciousness Changes due to the Use of a Mescaline Containing Cactus in a Therapeutic Context**
Michiel Kiggen

15:30 **Neuropsycholysis**
Dirk Proeckl & Engelbert Winckler

16:00 **Hypnosis and psychedelics – Useful Adjunct or Pointless Accoutrement?** – Niall Campbell

16:30 BREAK

17:00 **Talk/Performance – Goose & Crow: Urban Magic**

INSTALLATIONS

*Breaking Convention presents a programme of psychedelic-inspired installations. The works are located in **Demeter's Den** (on the ground floor eastern corridor of The Telesterion) and on the **Metzner Mezzanine** in the Telesterion. Some installations require booking (see below).*



Isness: A meditation on matter, energy, and perception

The Intangible Realities Laboratory (IRL)

Location: Demeter's Den

At every scale, Nature is shaped by the dynamics of energy changing forms. Every so often, spontaneous fluctuations within this dynamical dance temporarily concentrate energy. Like a wave on the sea, a supernova, or a storm, concentrated energy can have significant latent potential, for both creation and destruction. *Isness* offers a mindful exploration of matter, energy, and perception, coaxing us to imagine ourselves as concentrations of radiant potential arisen out of Nature's dynamic flux of energy and matter. *Isness* combines subtle body meditation practices with state-of-the-art multi-person VR to facilitate an experimental group experience where participants perceive their emergence and dissipation as energetic essences whose interactions combine to construct larger energetic organisms.

Isness is a 40-minute, 3-stage journey, accommodating 4 participants at a time. It involves 10 mins sensory preparation, 20 mins VR group experience, and 10 mins integration & reflection. *Isness* will run six times per day during Breaking Convention on 16/17/18 Aug, beginning promptly at 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 17:00, and 18:00. Sign-up sheets will be available at the front desk.

Isness represents a collaboration between:

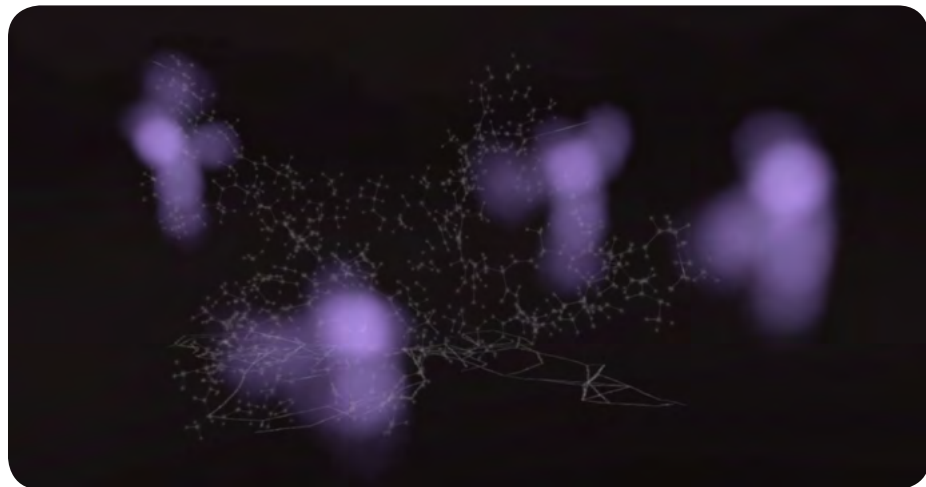
Dr David Glowacki (DRG): Royal Society research fellow & head of the University of Bristol IRL

Mark Wonnacott (MW): digital artist and IRL creative software engineer

Jamie Pike (JP): psychotherapist, community activist, and mentor

Tiu de Haan (TdH): ritual designer, creative facilitator, speaker and coach

Mike Chatziapostolou (MC): Design/systems engineer, creative producer and Gestaltist



INSTALLATIONS

Black Mirrors

Location: Demeter's Den

The BLACK MIRRORS project is an investigation of the unconscious and the spirit of uncanny adventure in a hall of mirrors.

This is a presentation of a ritual object, traditionally most favoured for scrying and other explorations, most famously used by John Dee in the 16th Century and Brion Gysin in the 20th, now updated for the new millennium. In this contemporary incarnation, the occult is removed and instead the anomalous experiences it creates in the user are explored strictly as a phenomena of consciousness. This installation is built with the help of research at the intersection of magic and neuropsychology, in synchronicity with Surrealist investigation of the unconscious and the spirit of uncanny adventure in a hall of mirrors.



San Francisco Redux No.1 (2008)

Sadia S, Tayler S W, Stern A

Location: Demeter's Den

Looping 8min video installation. A collaborative dramatic reworking of a 'psychedelically enhanced' excerpt from the award-winning film 'San Francisco'. The carefree spirit of the original 1968 film is placed in a sobering and revelatory context through the juxtaposition of the original footage with audio drawn from the seminal events of that momentous year.

No booking required.



INSTALLATIONS

Lucia N°03 Hypnagogic light experience

Dr Engelbert Winkler, Dr Dirk Proeckl

Location: Demeter's Den

The light machine Lucia N°03 was developed by Dr Engelbert Winkler (psychiatrist/psychologist), and Dr Dirk Proeckl (medical neurologist/psychologist) who are the patent-holders and it is still manufactured in the Tyrolean Alps of Austria. It allows participants to reach an altered state of consciousness very quickly. Sessions are offered for free. Bookings taken at installation.



Cyberdelics Incubator Showcase

The Cyberdelic Society

Location: Fri – Telesterion Grnd Flr | Sat, Sun – Metzner Mezzanine

The Telesterion (Τελεῖον, which means “to complete, to fulfill, to consecrate, to initiate”) was a great hall and sanctuary in Eleusis and one of the primary centres of the Eleusinian Mysteries. Devoted to Demeter and Persephone, these initiation ceremonies were the most sacred and ancient of all the religious rites celebrated in Greece. Using the technologies available to them at the time, ancient people employed drama, architecture, art, ritual and music to great effect. Such well-studied devices are believed to have been sufficiently potent to alter the consciousness of the initiation participants. Rituals such as these were once an ever-present aspect of life all over the world and provided purpose and ceremony, a lack of which may be at the root of some pervasive modern social issues such as anxiety, depression, isolation and addiction.

What does initiation mean in the modern era? The Cyberdelics Showcase @ The Telesterion will showcase a range of Cross Reality Technologies (XR) including VR/AR/MR and Sensory Augmentation experiences. By leveraging the use of these immersive technologies, combined with a scientific approach toward the creation of Cyberdelics, we aim to inspire developers, artists, scientists, techno-enthusiasts and psychonauts to collectively unite to explore this new paradigm.

INSTALLATIONS



1. Healium by Heather Hargraves, Sarah Hill and Jeff Tarrant (Moving Exhibition)
Healium is the world's first virtual and augmented reality platform powered by a brain-computer interface. In published studies Healium has reduced anxiety and increased feelings of positivity in as little as four minutes. Our patented tech allows the user to control virtual worlds with mood states. More info: www.tryhealium.com/

2. Golden Water Gong by Rachael Linton

This vibrating water exhibition uses cymatics (sound made visible), interactivity and the power of intention to make vibrations which will light up the room. Inspired by the work of Dr Masaru Emoto who believed that the intention of the mind could purify water, and Dr Hans Jenny, a Swiss medical doctor who thought that cymatics have healing potential. The Golden Water Gong project unites both of these ideas, the power of intention is carried by the voice directly into a golden gong filled with water to be charged and purified. Golden resonant light embraces the viewers and seeing cymatics for the first time somehow fulfills some primal human fascination. Come along and play the Golden Water Gong and you will see the whole cosmic universe appear before your eyes. This piece will be exhibited in Demeter's Den. More information: www.soundvisionstudio.co.uk/contact.html

3. Re-Remembering by Virtual Awakening & the Imaginarium Theater (*one day only*)
Virtual Awakening and The Imaginarium Theater brings to Breaking Convention a blended media “Cyberdelic-Psychomagic” journey exploring and bridging liminal dimensions of knowing and being. A multi-sensory and immersive deep dive into the mysteries and transformations provided by death and dying. Through this blend of ancient and modern technologies and techniques, this experience intends to catalyse a deep sense of personal and collective remembrance of elemental and primordial wisdom, as well as deep ontological and ecological insights that can aid the participants into a personal transformation. More information: www.virtual-awakening.com

4. Sound Self by Robin Arnott

Use your voice to navigate through strobing tunnels-of-light, impossible shapes, and deep into a meditative trance. SoundSelf is an elegant symmetry of image, sound and body that takes advantage of loopholes in the way you perceive to facilitate a new experience of yourself and your world. Each play-through lasts one extremely intense hour. More information: www.soundself.com

5. SUBPAC showcase

The SUBPAC tactile interface is a wearable tactile bass system that transfers the physical dimension of sound directly to the body. Whether being used to enhance music or as a vehicle for accessing physical immersion in VR, MR and gaming the SubPac adds a powerful new sensory element to any audio experience.
More information: www.subpac.com

6. Spheres by Darren Aronofsky

Fall into a black hole. Surf on Saturn's rings. Experience SPHERES, an award-winning Virtual Reality journey through the cosmos. In this three-part Virtual Reality series from writer and director Eliza McNitt and executive producers Darren Aronofsky and Ari Handel, you'll follow Millie Bobby Brown, Jessica Chastain, and Patti Smith as they take you on an adventure through the cosmos. Viewers will be thrown into another world where they'll see, hear, and feel the cosmos unlike ever before.
More information: www.slashfilm.com/spheres-vr

7. Mirrors by Barrett Fox and Martin Schubert

An embodied experience showcasing the potential for expressive movement and powerful body presence through hand tracking. Mirrors is a short, body-movement-focused demo which utilises a rigged upper body avatar driven by Leap Motion hand-tracking. Standing inside a mirrored cube, you'll begin the experience with a body composed of a cloud of white particles. Touch the first mirror and you'll burst into a rainbow of shifting colors where each particle's velocity determines its hue. Each of the four walls reflects a different particle representation. Try them all on and whether you dance, wave, wiggle or high five your reflection, the more you move the more particles you'll emit.

8. Internal-External by Roger Antony Essig

Virtual Reality can be utilised to bridge the gap between the imagination and the external world. A wood sculpture carved with power tools and a chainsaw is displayed next to a virtual version, rotating in a psychedelic art world. There's also an attempt to replicate the peak of a DMT hallucination, experienced in September, 1998.
More info: www.rogeressig.com/vrprojects

9. Nature Abstraction 2.0 by Matteo Zamagni

Nature Abstraction 2.0 is an immersive sensory experience that explores the arcane forms of fractals. Created by Matteo Zamagni (artist) Marco martignone (developer) and Daniel Ben Hur (sound designer), it is the result of ongoing experimentation and exploration of real-time 3D fractals enabling the audience to fully interact and explore, accompanied with scores designed to facilitate a meditative state. The audience is invited to explore ever-changing structures, dive into their vast complexities and interact with them through remote controls, giving insight into the seemingly familiar mathematical structures of biological and non-biological forms. The projection-mapped cube installation enclosing the VR headset contrasts with the entirely digital created world inside the VR.
More info: www.alt-o.com

10. 4D Toys by Marc Ten Bosch

What if you received a box filled with mysterious toys from the fourth dimension? In this case the 4D is not time but a 4th dimension of space that works just like the first three dimensions we are familiar with. If you count time these toys are 5D. It turns out that the rules of how objects bounce, slide and roll around can be generalised to any number of dimensions, and this unique toy lets you experience what that would look like.
More information: www.4dtoys.com

11. Visionarium by Sander Bos

Visionarium is a music driven visionary VR journey. Much of the content has been created in Google Tiltbrush by Dutch visionary artist Sander Bos. In this experience a visionary trance state is simulated. The music track is provided by one of the best psy-dub artists on the planet – Kalya Scintilla. More information: www.sander-bos.nl/visionarium.html

12. Fuji by Funktronic Labs

Fuji is designed to be a breath of virtual fresh air. You explore lush gardens filled with vibrant colors and exotic wildlife. Joining you on your journey is a little gnome, though you'll also find other wildlife to interact with. The game features three main biomes in which you'll help grow plants by watering and touching them as well as playing them music. More information: www.uploadvr.com/fujii-is-an-adorable-new-vr-adventure-from-the-makers-of-cosmic-trip

13. Nature Treks by Greener Games

Explore tropical beaches, underwater oceans and even take to the stars. Discover over 60 different animals. Command the weather, take control of the night or create and shape your own world. Relax and immerse yourself into the Nature Treks VR experience. Escape into a world of peace, calm and relaxation. Watch your surroundings react to the soundscape or play without music to experience the soothing sounds of nature all around you. Nature Treks VR is alive with animals, birds and other life.
More information: www.greenergames.net

14. Space Dream VR

Space Dream is a Music Visualisation experience for Desktop and VR. It is a cosmic adventure that immerses you in a stunning work of art, a celestial world that pulses with life. Abandoning traditional gameplay for a purely aesthetic experience, Space Dream VR interfaces with your music; pulsating to frequencies of sound.
More information: www.spacedreamvr.com

15. Saṅkhāra by Tendril

Saṅkhāra is a poetic mobile VR film inspired by T.S. Eliot's 'Four Quartets'. The story begins at the end of an astronaut's mission, as we follow him home through our awe-inspiring universe. Upon arrival back to Earth, our hero reflects upon his life choices, questions what might have been, and eventually finds solace in his decisions—a familiar emotional journey for anyone who has experienced life's drastic twists and turns. This experience was designed to experiment with the deep emotional potential of poetry in virtual reality, while pushing the boundaries of graphics in VR. Succumb to the 360-film's gravitational pull, clear your mind, and allow yourself to meditate on this virtual poem. Built to be an inclusive experience, the participant needs only to gently move their head around in order to interact with the space. More information: www.sankhara.tendril.ca

16. Crystal Vibes by Benjamin Outram

Experience candy-colored psychedelic sound rippling through an endless crystal universe. Crystal Vibes utilises the cutting edge of spatial 3D audio and sound visualisation that maps sound and light based on the science of the human senses, to push the frontiers of technology-mediated sensory experience in virtual reality. With the project's predecessor described as "transcendent" and "like traveling through a psychedelic kaleidoscope" (Forbes 2016), this piece ups the ante with music from producer Ott.
More info: www.benjaminoutram.com

17. Cyberdream VR by Jon Weinel

Cyberdream VR is a virtual hallucination taking you on a journey through the broken techno-utopias of cyberspace. Blast through the pixels of your screen and enter a psychedelic world of surrealistic rave visuals and vaporwave music in virtual reality. The project draws on VJ culture and Douglas Rushkoff's concept (via William Gibson) of the Internet as a mass hallucination, imagining a dream about the utopian and dystopian possibilities of cyberspace. The capitalist irrationality of cyberspace is revealed, yet in the broken and fragmented forms of this dream lies the euphoric possibility to reconfigure and reboot. The future is lost, crash the system, back to the tribes.
More information: www.jonweinel.com/projects.html

FRIDAY

10:00	Monochromatic Psychedelia UK 1960s 60 minutes Language: English
12:00	Ayahuasca at the Parliament of Religions (World Premier Screening) UK 2019 25 minutes Language: English & English Subtitles
14:30	Magic Medicine UK 2019 58 minutes Language: English
17:00	Híbridos, The Spirits of Brazil Brazil, France 2018 88 minutes Language: Music – no dialogue

SATURDAY

10:00	The Mind Explorers: A Psychedelic Weekend UK 2018 28 minutes Language: English
12:00	The Psychedelic Renaissance (Work in Progress Screening) UK 2019 45 minutes Language: English
14:30	The Peyote Files USA 2019 29 minutes Language: English with Spanish subtitles
17:00	Journeys to the Edge of Consciousness (Pre-Cinema Release Screening) UK 2019 87 minutes Language: English

SUNDAY

10:00	Insight Out UK 2019 50 minutes Language: English
12:00	The Twelve UK 2018 75 minutes Language: Various languages with English subtitles
14:30	Trance & Cinema – Short Film Programme France 2010–2019 90 minutes Language: Music – no dialogue
17:00	Psychonautics: A Comic’s Exploration of Psychedelics USA 2019 80 minutes Language: English

Friday 10:00 am



Monochromatic Psychedelia

UK | 1960s | 60 minutes | Language: English

Dr Mark Broughton, Senior Lecturer in Cultural Studies at the University of Hertfordshire presents a history and analysis of monochromatic psychedelic visual culture in Britain in the 1960s. Psychedelia on 1960s’ British television was mostly in monochrome by necessity but well-known examples of monochromatic art include the cover of The Beatles’ *Revolver* LP. Films like *Separation* and *Performance* also used black-and-white photography to create distinctive explorations of the psychedelic experience. Included in this special presentation are rare screenings of films and television programmes such as the R.D. Laing documentary *Stimulants* which was originally banned from TV broadcast.

Presented by Dr Mark Broughton

Friday 12:00 noon

**Ayahuasca at the Parliament of Religions** (World Premier Screening)

UK | 2019 | 25 minutes | Language: English & English Subtitles

The benefits of ayahuasca include great healing, alignment to authentic self and a profound connection to nature. It also happens to inspire an incredible drive in ayahuasca drinkers to spread awareness of the healing power this medicine can provide. Meet Benjamin Mudge: a man who has conquered his bipolar disorder, whose life has been deeply changed through his work with this medicine, as he embarks on the challenging mission of organising 15 ayahuasca experts (including indigenous Amazonians) from 10 countries to participate at a massive religious conference in Toronto.

Q&A with Maresa Stertz (Director) and Benjamin Mudge

Friday 14:30

**Magic Medicine**

UK | 2019 | 58 minutes | Language: English

Over 4 years, filmmaker Monty Wates was given exclusive access to the first ever medical trial to give psilocybin (the psychoactive ingredient in magic mushrooms) to a group of volunteers suffering from clinical depression. His remarkable film follows three of the volunteers and their families, and the ambitious staff running the trial, who are hoping this controversial treatment will have the power to transform millions of lives. With deeply moving footage of the "trips" the patients go on, this intimate film is an absorbing portrait of the human cost of depression, and the inspirational people contributing to groundbreaking psychedelic research.

Q&A with Monty Wates (Director)

Friday 17:00



Híbridos, The Spirits of Brazil

Brazil, France | 2018 | 88 minutes | Language: Music – no dialogue

Híbridos, The Spirit of Brazil dives into the sacred culture of the largest country in South America. An ethnographic journey into the world of sacred ceremonies and their diversity, as well as a trip into cinema as a pure poetic language. An exploration of trance-cinema, following only the sounds of the rituals and the chants of the devotees, *Híbridos* is a music film of a new kind.

Q&A with Priscilla Telmon and Vincent Moon (Directors)

<https://hibridos.cc>

Saturday 10:00 am



The Mind Explorers: A Psychedelic Weekend

UK | 2018 | 28 minutes | Language: English

The Mind Explorers: A Psychedelic Weekend follows ordinary people on an extraordinary trip. The documentary centres around a 4-day psychedelic retreat in the Netherlands, where psilocybin-containing 'magic truffles' are legal. With new research suggesting that psychedelics can effectively treat depression, accessible retreats abroad are appealing to a new wave of curious 'psychonauts'. Following participants before, during and after the experience, the film explores the potential of psychedelics to transform people's lives when taken in a therapeutic setting.

Q&A with Rebecca Coxon (Director) & Ciara Sherlock (Principle Cast)

Saturday 12:00 noon

**The Psychedelic Renaissance** (Work in Progress Screening)

UK | 2019 | 45 minutes | Language: English

The pilot episode of a documentary series about the worldwide re-emergence of the psychedelic movement and the crucial role of psychedelic substances in human culture from prehistory to modern times. Covering everything from the use of psychedelics in science, neuropsychology, medical research, spirituality, culture, cyberdelics (Psychedelic Virtual Reality), their environmental value, and finally their potential for healing, curing and alleviating a number of conditions, including depression, PTSD and addiction.

Q&A with Anya Oleksiuk (Director)

Saturday 14:30

**The Peyote Files**

USA | 2019 | 29 minutes | Language: English with Spanish subtitles

The Peyote Files is a documentary web-series following anthropologist Bia Labate on the search for the elusive peyote cactus in West Texas. Built around frank exchanges between Labate and cactus expert and conservationist Dr Martin Terry, this three-part series offers an eye-opening insight into Dr Terry's crucial and pioneering work to understand the threats facing the sustainability of peyote and the urgent action needed to ensure its survival.

Q&A with Bia Labate and Nick Spiers (Directors)

Saturday 17:00



Journeys to the Edge of Consciousness (Pre-Cinema Release Screening)

UK | 2019 | 87 minutes | Language: English

Take an animated journey into the depths of the human mind with Timothy Leary, Aldous Huxley and Alan Watts. This documentary combines stylish, minimalist animation with a rich, immersive soundscape to create a unique cinematic spectacle, guiding us through three psychedelic trips that changed our culture forever. Sixty years later we discuss these historic trips with twelve leading current thinkers – including Gabor Maté, Dennis McKenna and Graham Hancock – asking the question: “What can expanded states of mind teach us about ourselves, the world and our place in it?”

Q&A with Rob Harper (Director)

Sunday 10:00 am



Insight Out

UK | 2019 | 50 minutes | Language: English

In 2014 Jade had a powerful Out of Body Experience (OBE) that changed her life, she left a career in the arts and embarked on a Masters degree in Transpersonal Psychology to study this phenomena. On her journey she discovered others with similar stories whose experiences had shaped their lives in profound ways. This documentary reveals these stories, disrupts preconceived ideas about OBEs and asks provocative questions about the nature of consciousness and reality. Can consciousness really expand beyond the brain.

Q&A with Jade Shaw (Director) and Rodrigo Montenegro (Neuroscientist of sleep)

Sunday 12:00 noon

**The Twelve**

UK | 2018 | 75 minutes | Language: Various languages with English subtitles

Twelve spiritual Elders from around the globe gather at the United Nations in New York to create a unique ritual for humankind and planet Earth. By interviewing each one of them in their home environments, the film is told exclusively through the voices of these Elders. They give an unprecedented insight into their knowledge, traditions and rituals and share a long forgotten wisdom, reminding us what it means to live in harmony with each other and with nature. We follow four of the Elders as they travel for the first time to New York, and witness the powerful energy of their three day reunion. Their messages are unified in what needs to be done to change the course our planet is taking.

Q&A with Lucy Martens (Co-Director) & Peter Giblin (Co-Producer)

Sunday 14:30

**Trance & Cinema – Short Film Programme**

France | 2010–2019 | 90 minutes | Language: Music – no dialogue

Through their short film series *Collection Petites Planètes*, Priscilla Telmon and Vincent Moon have been pursuing the sounds of sacred rituals across the world. From Sufi rituals in Chechnya to shamanic techniques deep in Brazil, from oracles in Vietnam to trance ceremonies in Morocco. At Breaking Convention they present a special selection of these short films, discuss their own improvised methodology and explore the importance of ritual and ceremony in the 21st century.

Presentation and Q&A with Priscilla Telmon & Vincent Moon (Directors)

<https://petitesplanetes.earth>

Sunday 17:00



Psychonauts: A Comic's Exploration of Psychedelics

USA | 2019 | 80 minutes | Language: English

Comedian Shane Mauss wants to prove that psychedelics are not as scary as they seem, so to prove his point he decides to do all of them! He goes on a series of adventures to deepen his understanding of psychedelics. He describes the indescribable and takes us through some of his most intense experiences, while getting the added perspectives of some of the top scientists and experts in this realm. With moments of both confusion and clarity, this is as an honest account of the experiences of a genuinely intrepid psychonaut.

Q&A with Shane Mauss (Comedian & Principle Cast)

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Laboratory Tested CBD Products
From The Most Reputable Brands
Within The Industry

- Rewarding Affiliate Programme
- Unbeatable Discounts
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Products shown: CannaWell HEMP BALANCE, CBD Balm, cibdoP CBD SOFTGELS, ENDOCA HEMP OIL, PHARMA HEMP PREMIUM BLACK CBD LIQUID.

Logos: CBD, cibdoP, CannaWell, Harmony, ENDOCA, Pharma Hemp.

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These are the official Breaking Convention evening entertainments and all will be held downstairs in **The Underworld** which is located in the recently-refurbished main Greenwich University Students Union Building, the **Dreadnought** (see map at back).

– **Church of the Toad of the Nites of Eleusis** –



FRIDAY (7pm – 2am)

19:00	Alex Downey (DJ set)
20:30	Paddy Steer (Live)
22:00	SCULPTURE (Live + AV set)
00:00	Horton Jupiter (DJ set)

SATURDAY (7pm – 2am)

19:00	Aluna Gaia (DJ set)
20:30	Clandestina (DJ set)
22:30	HENGE (live)
00:30	Kermit & The Superweird System (MC + DJ set)

SUNDAY (7pm – 1am)

19:00	Alex Downey (DJ set)
20:00	Tau (live)
22:00	DJ FOOD (DJ set)
23:30	NDiPA (Darren Sangita + Matt Black) (Live AV set)



HENGE

CHURCH OF THE TOAD OF THE NITES OF ELEUSIS

HENGE

dj food **SCULPTURE**

Kermit & The Superweird System **NDiPA**

Paddy Steer **INNERSTRINGS**

Kermit & The Superweird System and more

16th - 18th AUGUST 2019

UNDERWORLD DREADNOUGHT BASEMENT GREENWICH UNI LONDON. UK

BREAKING CONVENTION

WASSON WORKSHOPS

Wasson's Workshops are located in the **Dreadnought** building (see map at back). Workshops below highlighted in blue with **dotted lines** are in the smaller area therein.

To book your space on a workshop, go to the BC sign-up desk in the Telesterion (Dreadnought).

FRIDAY

11:30 – 13:00	PsyCare: Introduction to Psychedelic Support with PsyCare UK – How to Support Someone Through a Challenging Psychedelic Experience
14:30 – 16:30	Stuart Verity: Posture, Eyes, Movement and the Entheogenic Experience
17:00 – 18:00	Skanda Gopal: PSY/QI
18:30 – 20:00	Melissa Warner: Psychedelic Assisted Mindfulness: Altered States to Altered Traits
11:30 – 13:00	Sam Knot: Poetry Workshop: Psychedelic Innocence and Experience
14:30 – 16:30	Hattie Wells & Svea Nielson: Psychedelics and Parenting – A Sharing Circle

SATURDAY

08:00 – 09:30	Akal Anand Kaur & Lani Rocillo: Kundalini Yoga Rebirth with Gong
11:30 – 13:00	Charlie Boyd: Firm Feet® Dance in the dark
13:00 – 14:30	Philip Wolfson & Monica Winsor: Ketamine Assisted Psychotherapy (KAP)—Trance and Transformation – The First Legal Psychedelic Psychotherapy
14:30 – 16:30	Maria Papaspyrou: <i>Workshop 1:</i> The Heroic Journey: A Map for Self Discovery and Integration
17:00 – 18:00	Christa Mackinnon: Workshop for Women: The Archetypal Medicine Woman Within and her Role in the Paradigm Shift
18:30 – 20:00	Phil & Jamie Richards: Psychedelic Yoga & Sound Meditation
11:30 – 13:00	Matthew Watkins: Maths for Psychonauts
14:30 – 16:30	Richard Spurgeon: Encounters with the Dark Side: Shadow-work and Light-play in Psychedelic Experience – A Therapeutic Discussion, Sharing and Support Workshop

SUNDAY

08:00 – 09:30	William Rowlandson: Drumming Meditation
09:30 – 11:30	Yakir Elkayam: A Meditative Journey into the Body's Proprioception
11:30 – 13:00	Bernadette Martinez Hernandez: Ego Death for Beginners
14:30 – 16:30	Ashleigh Murphy-Beiner & Alexander Beiner: Preparation and Integration for Psychedelic Experiences
17:00 – 18:00	Maria Papaspyrou: <i>Workshop 2:</i> Breaking Convention Systemic Constellation
18:30 – 20:00	Mark Waking Light, Jenni Roditi & Alistair Smith: A Guided Journey into the Heart of a Transpersonal Psychedelic Experience
14:30 – 16:30	Luke Davis: Poetry as the Discovery of the Undiscovered

WASSON WORKSHOPS



PsyCareUK

PsyCare

Friday 16th | 11:30 – 13:00 | Large area

Introduction to psychedelic support with PsyCare UK – How to support someone through a challenging psychedelic experience

PsyCare UK have over ten years of experience provided support for challenging psychedelic experiences at festivals and events. Providing support in the event of a challenging experience can ease discomfort for the person, help to restore equilibrium to their biopsychosocial functioning, minimise the potential for psychological trauma, and facilitate the transformation of the experience into an opportunity for personal growth.

In this workshop you will learn about the principles of psychedelic support, how a challenging experience might manifest and the practical application of the skills. Feel

confident that you would know what to do if you came across someone in need.



Stuart Verity

Friday 16th | 14:30 – 16:30 | Large area

Posture, Eyes, Movement and the Entheogenic Experience

How movement and stillness meditation and dancing are used within the Brazilian Ayahuasca lineages such as Santo Daime and Umbandaime. Ongoing daily meditation, movement and awareness practices for psyconautical health stability and integration.

Outline of Workshop Presentation:

1. What are the subtle effects on the body, mind and awareness when Lying down, Sitting or Standing while in an Entheogenic meditative state? **2.** How are the modalities of sitting, standing and coordinated line dancing used by the Brazilian Meistrei Irineu Ayahuasca/Daime lineages such as Santo Daime, Santo Alto? **3.** How are the more freestyle, archetypal and spinning dances used during Santo Daime spirit incorporation works and Umbandaime

Gira ceremonies? **4.** How meditation in lying, sitting and standing, as well as moving meditations such as Tai Chi or Qi/Nei Gong movements can help as a daily practice for integrating higher Entheogenic insights and states into permanent traits.



Skanda Gopal

Friday 16th | 17:00 – 18:00 | Large area

PSY/QI

Take a moment to come back down to ground. This workshop involves a gentle foray into foundational Qi energy work, revealing the keys to manifesting, accessing and harnessing bio-energetic feedback rhythms. Using a selection of tools and techniques that are rooted in Zen and Buddhist traditions, participants will be led through a series of heart-centering exercises that facilitate a deepening of awareness through body-sensing, guided visualisation and breathwork. Honing in on the dynamic interplay between inner and outer states, these exercises allow the practitioner to be totally present and integrated within their own personal cosmology.



Melissa Warner
Friday 16th | 18:30 – 20:00 | Large area
Psychedelic Assisted Mindfulness: Altered States to Altered Traits

With the following questions in mind, we will explore the concept of 'psychedelic-assisted mindfulness'.

While altered states can open a portal, a new perspective, what is enduring? When do altered states lead to altered traits?

We will explore the relationship between meditation and psychedelics through history, within neural networks and in practice. We will learn how anyone can use biotech advances such as biofeedback, AR/VR and neurofeedback to support their process. The workshop will empower participants with a with a practical meditation practice

adapted from the Dzogchen school of Buddhism for psychedelic preparation.process. The workshop will empower participants with a with a practical meditation practice adapted from the Dzogchen school of Buddhism for psychedelic preparation.



Sam Knot
Friday 16th | 11:30 – 13:00 | Small area
Psychedelic Innocence and Experience

It seems to me that even the barest facts of life are like artistic climax, or epic epiphany, or ultra-scientific uber-wonder. It is simply astonishing even to exist, and the natural world is a joyride through uncontainable creative vision. We are magical monkeys with multiverses at our fingertips.

Yet this is a vision we can lose. Even though it might feel like the most natural thing in the world to be alive to life in this way, it is undeniably difficult to sustain and integrate such levels of openness, sensitivity, and wonder.

We might describe such heights in terms of "seeing the poetry of life" - yet poetry can suffer the same fate: meaning sometimes seems to just evaporate. But it waits. It lurks between the words, waiting for its equally creaturely

dancing partner to animate and be animated.

William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience, in their seeming simplicity, embody this kind of "hiding in plain sight". In their innate music, and their writhing decoration, they might appear to actively resist death, waiting to burst into your life and SQUEEGEE YOUR THIRD EYE!

These poems are songs, and we know Blake himself would sing them, although the music was never written down. Various people have set them to music since, perhaps most notably Allen Ginsberg. I wish to introduce an approach to singing them spontaneously, letting them act in our bodies to reveal melodies. I personally still struggle to sing in front of people - it can be a profoundly nerve-racking thing to bare ones soul in such a way! - yet I love to do it: singing has helped me so much in keeping my spirits up through troublesome times, and in progressively deepening the presence of my own psychedelic experiences.

For me it is not about singing well, so much as being able to express oneself naturally. I am no professional, but due to my own experimental processes I do have a basic approach, an attitude, that I can share with you. I am hoping to learn something too! There will be no pressure if you are too shy - the singing is just a way to add another dimension to the poetry - the most important thing will be bringing the book to life by performing from it however we feel comfortable, and exploring its meanings together.

We will treat the book as a deck of cards - a game of sorts - reading as much or as little into any synchronicities as we may wish. It sometimes seems there is as much poetry between the poems as there is *in* them...

Eternal delight!



Hattie Wells & Svea Nielsen
Friday 16th | 14:30 – 16:30 | Small area
Psychedelics and Parenting – A Sharing Circle

The vision for this is a well-held, non-judgemental sharing circle, where parents or carers, can come and openly discuss the ways in which they integrate their work with psychedelics or plant medicines with their family lives, their role as parents and how to navigate discussions with children, given the context of prohibition. Elders who have traversed this landscape will be sharing their experiences and lessons learned.



Akal Anand Kaur & Lani Rocillo
08:00 – 09:30 | Saturday 17th | Large area
Kundalini Yoga Rebirth with Gong

In this workshop, you will be taken on a journey to connect with the source of your life force, gaining energy to activate all realms of your experience. Kundalini Yoga is a pure stream of ancient yogic practices designed to support and elevate the creative potential of all beings. The gong allows for entrainment into the vastness of the mystery beyond. Sound medicine harmonises dissonances in the physical, emotional, mental and etheric body. Facilitating the expansion of self awareness, compassionate perspective and balanced health.



Charlie Boyd
09:30 – 11:30 | Saturday 17th | Large area
Firm Feet® Dance in the dark

Firm Feet® Dance in the dark enables us to drop from our minds and into our body. Focusing on balancing everyday mental wellbeing. With little visual stimulation, we can drop deeply into meditation and connect inside. Nothing to learn or follow, nobody is watching you, simply a space to be. People often come away feeling liberated, reformed and with a deep sense of self empowerment. Dance to deep electronic, uplifting, experimental and ambient music from all over the world. We close our eyes, the room is dark and you can use a blindfold if you wish. No experience needed.



Philip Wolfson, Gita Vaid, Monica Winsor, & Wesley Ryan
 11:30 – 13:00 | Saturday 17th | Large area
Ketamine Assisted Psychotherapy (KAP)—Trance and Transformation – The First Legal Psychedelic Psychotherapy

Ketamine as an assisted psychotherapy is the first legally available psychedelic medicine in the toolbox. We have been developing KAP and training KAP practitioners—by year’s end 260 worldwide—didactically and experientially in our methodology. Workshop participants will be presented with KAP’s potentialities, our methods of practice, the generation of psychedelic psychotherapy in the KAP process, and its utility and benefits for a variety of diagnoses and human dilemmas. We invite those qualified to train and administer

KAP as a breakthrough modality. Our non-profit Ketamine Research Foundation contains the full human studies bibliography; our research projects, data collection process, and much more. Our just published first ever KAP study of 235 patients is available at the JoPD.



Maria Papaspyrou
 14:30 – 16:30 | Saturday 17th | Large area
Workshop 1: The Heroic Journey: A Map for Self Discovery and Integration

Life’s challenges, if successfully negotiated, can help us grow and mature into fuller versions of ourselves. These times require us to reach into our inner depths in order to support the shifts life calls on us to make. This experiential workshop is a combination of guided meditation and practices from systemic family constellations to support an embodied experience of the different phases of the heroic inner journey. Along the way we will explore tools and rituals that can support change when we find ourselves stuck on a particular part of the path.

We will close the workshop with sharing and reflecting on the journey, whilst revising the main tools to take home to support our integration process, whether we are called to

manage a psychedelic experience or a life crisis that calls on us to grow beyond who we already are.



Christa Mackinnon
 17:00 – 18:00 | Saturday 17th | Large area
Workshop for Women: The Archetypal Medicine Woman Within and her Role in the Paradigm Shift

The medicine woman is one of the most suppressed and persecuted archetypes in patriarchal history. She nevertheless often lies at the heart of women’s quests to re-claim and manifest their powers and embodied wisdom, coming increasingly into consciousness in one of her many aspects, such as the seer, the oracle, the sorceress, the shaman, the herbalist, the midwife, the spiritual feminine leader, the wild earth woman or the heroine. In this workshop we will utilise journeying, movement, drumming and other means to contact our specific inner wild medicine woman and discuss how we can embody her specific skills, develop and utilise them to step into our power and contribute to the necessary change.

Bring a yoga mat and drum if you own one.



Infinite Spirit Sounds
 18:30 – 20:00 | Saturday 17th | Large area
Psychedelic Yoga & Sound Meditation

Psychedelic Yoga equips participants with yogic techniques to prepare the body & mind for the psychedelic experience, whilst practicing tools which assist in navigation & integration. We will explore ‘intention setting’ (giving a focus for healing), postures (releasing tension and preparing for the journey), pranayama (quietening the mind & surrendering to the medicine), mantras & mudras (navigating planes of consciousness), philosophy & meditation (integrating the experience). The sound meditation is designed to facilitate enhanced states of consciousness & is created with 38” gongs, shamanic drumming, singing bowls, flutes, samples from nature, a loop station, overtone & medicine songs.



Matthew Watkins
 11:30 – 13:00 | Saturday 17th | Small area
Maths for Psychonauts

The “Maths for Psychonauts” session is part freestyle performance maths lecture, part open-ended Q&A discussion. Bring your most profound questions of a mathematical nature, and we’ll see where this goes! Previous workshops have been known to tangent off into philosophy, neuroscience, anthropology, physics, sociology and more. Common areas of interest in the psychonaut community tend to be infinity and transfinite numbers, fractals, e, pi, prime numbers, higher dimensions and “sacred geometry”, but Matthew is happy to talk about anything remotely mathematical, within the bounds of his knowledge.



Richard Spurgeon
14:30 – 16:30 | Saturday 17th | Small area
**Encounters with the Dark Side: Shadow-work and Light-
play in Psychedelic Experience – A Therapeutic Discussion,
Sharing and Support Workshop**

Experiences of the dark side, of seemingly evil, negative and destructive forces and energies can be the most difficult of all psychedelic experiences to make sense of, work with and integrate. In this workshop we will explore the central importance of set and setting, re-contextualizing and transforming these types of experience in a safe and supportive environment, using an eco-psycho-spiritual therapeutic perspective. It will be a space for sharing, healing and inner transformation where we learn how to find their lessons and gifts as we open to our collective wisdom, to Spirit and to the healing power of Love.



William Rowlandson
08:00 – 09:30 | Sunday 18th | Large area
Drumming Meditation

Repetitive rhythms have been employed across time and cultures for the purpose of entering altered states of consciousness. One well-documented method is the steady, quite rapid, beat of a large resonant drum. With practice and guidance, it is possible to navigate the dream-like state induced by such repetitive techniques and to follow the cascade of images towards a given objective. This may be for reflection, meditation or to summon healing energy for oneself or others, to focus on a particular dilemma, or to seek resolution to relationship difficulties.

In this workshop William will introduce the ancient story of the drum and its role in altered states of consciousness and we will introduce ourselves and share our intentions for the

drum journeys ahead. You will be invited to lie comfortably, perhaps with eye shades, and to follow the steady beat of the large frame drum into the imaginal realm. This will be followed by gentle group reflection, followed by a new drum journey and further reflection.



Yakir Elkayam
09:30 – 11:30 | Sunday 18th | Large area
Meditative Journey into the Body's Proprioception

Our senses act as the only intermediate gate between existence and the perception of the existence. The workshop will facilitate the setting required for enhanced experimentation in the interoceptive experience so that body patterns and mind itself can become more evident. The proprioception element, outlines the felt self at the present moment in the present place. The act of realising the felt body reveals the dynamic integration it has with the whole body and self. This bodily expression of the mind's habitual patterns in the way we somatically hold our emotions and memories is then encouraged to manifest fully until it becomes exhausted and released through surrendering.



Bernadette Martinez Hernandez
11:30 – 13:00 | Sunday 18th | Large area
Ego Death for Beginners

This workshop introduces simple, yet powerful, exercises that gently generate small scale ego-dissolving experiences. By means of this gentle exploration, attendees expand their awareness, presence and ability to navigate mind and body during a peak experience (with and without entheogens). Exercises are designed to be safe and playful spaces for exploration; they range from awareness games to verbal interactions. Their key marker is their simplicity, a quality that allows them to be easily replicated and built into a self-discovery practice. Attendees expand their understanding of suitable practices for the preparation, navigation and integration of an ego dissolving experience.



**Ashleigh
Murphy-Beiner
& Alexander
Beiner**
14:30 – 16:30
| Sunday 18th |
Large area
**Preparation
and Integration
for Psychedelic
Experiences**

This workshop will provide you with tools to help you stay centred and receptive during a



psychedelic experience, and integrate it into your life afterwards. It will be led by Ashleigh Murphy-Beiner (psychedelic researcher and mindfulness instructor) and Alexander Beiner (Holistic Counsellor and workshop facilitator). We'll guide you through some simple techniques we've found to be effective, including meditation, inquiry and embodiment practices. Together, we'll drop into the present moment and tap into the wisdom of the body, learn how to flow with the unfolding process of integration in the weeks and months after, and explore why these are important skills.



Maria Papaspyrou
17:00 – 18:00 | Saturday 17th | Large area
**Workshop 2: Breaking Convention Systemic
Constellation**

Systemic Family Constellations is an experiential enquiry tool that reveals the hidden and systemic dynamics behind any given issue. It can be used for personal matters as well as for conceptual explorations. In this workshop we will create a three-dimensional living map of the various elements that obstruct or facilitate the legal regulation of drugs in the UK. The aim of the workshop is to experiment with movements that support the legislative legalisation of all drugs. This is an experiential and explorative workshop and we aim to get an experience and insights to further ponder on, rather than definitive answers. The constellation will be held and facilitated by Maria Papaspyrou. The issue we will be working with will be framed and presented by

Cara Lavan who is part of the Breaking Convention team. The rest of the group will hold the outer circle for the work and step in as and when appropriate, to represent various aspects of the system we will be looking into.



Mark Waking Light, Jenni Roditi & Alistair Smith

18:30 – 20:00 | Sunday 18th | Large area

A Guided Journey into the Heart of a Transpersonal Psychedelic Experience

Once you see your original face, you cannot ever look away from its embrace. This workshop is a guided meditation, a poetic journey accompanied by harp music, taking you into the heart of a psychedelic mystical experience. This is an invitation to encounter transpersonal non-dual awareness, the essential shift from person to presence. Capturing the step-by-step process of how a life transforming experience unfolds, it is a true story of what happens when you come as a man treading a path winding through the forest and leave as the forest unwinding a path trodden by a man.



Luke Davis

14:30 – 16:30 | Sunday 18th | Small area

Poetry as the Discovery of the Undiscovered

Here the focus will be on poetry as the discovery of the undiscovered, the silence speaking, the secrets unfolding, and the membrane between Here and There becoming ever more porous.

This is poetry as communication-between the constituent parts of self and between self and not-self, the inside and the outside. Here we will learn to listen to the silence, to speak to silence, to have silence answer back.

We will learn to turn the dial and move through the frequencies, tuning in to broadcasts and transcribing what we hear. We will try to separate signal from noise, 'Frustrator' from 'Instructor', sense from nonsense, and then

we will look again and ask if perhaps, hidden in the noise, is more signal, if sense does not sometimes disguise itself as nonsense and truth sometimes speak in riddles. To both pay attention to the surface manifestations and to dive down into the depths and to ask, for every communicate we receive and transcribw "Who's voice is this? Who or what am I speaking to?"



University of Greenwich, London, SE10 9LS



Breaking Convention Multidisciplinary Conference On Psychedelic Consciousness

VISIONARY PSYCHEDELIC ART EXHIBITION



Luke Brown - Stuart Griggs - Maura Holden
 Lilian Kolster - Mark Lee - Melissa Shemanna
 Francisco Montes Shuna - Autumn Skye
 Liba Stambollion - Luis Tamani - Emma Watkinson
 And more



AUG 16 - 18TH 2019

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Adam Knowles – *Existential psychotherapist*

Adam works in private practice in London. He worked for twenty years leading technology teams, then took ayahuasca and spent the next five years training at the School of Psychology & Psychotherapy at Regent's University London. His undergraduate degree was in International Relations, which culminated in his becoming Chair of LGBT Humanists. He is a registered member of the British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy. Adam contributes articles to the Chacruna Institute for Plant Medicines and will co-facilitate an event at their 2019 conference 'Queering Psychedelics'. Current research interests are sex, gender and sexuality, crypto/blockchain and the nexus of psychedelics and psychotherapy, particularly ayahuasca.



Adam Malone – *Immersive Event Producer & Breaking Convention Entertainments Curator & Producer*

Adam is currently working as a freelance Immersive Event Producer for Phenomen Films in London. He runs Club Imaginal in Brighton, a regular lecture series as well as The Medicine Shed in Forest Row, working with the healing traditions of indigenous cultures. His current MA thesis for the Myth, Cosmology and The Sacred programme at Christchurch University, Canterbury is entitled "Transforming The World : Tarot and the Future of Immersive Narrative". In the past he has completed a BA/BSc in Film, Media and Cultural Studies, having majored in Avant Garde Film and Video and now spends his spare time experimenting with live immersive cinema.



Aimée Tollan – *Director of Breaking Convention*

Aimée is an Anthropology graduate from the University of Kent, the home of the first Breaking Convention. She joined the UKC Psychedelics Society which is where she became initiated into the psychedelic community. She has been involved in Breaking Convention from the start, firstly as a volunteer and then was invited on to the Executive Committee in late 2013. Her main area of interest is drug policy reform which inspired her undergraduate dissertation exploring public attitudes towards drugs. Residing in London, her current thoughts are concerned with the lack of diversity within the psychedelic community.



Akua Ofosuhene – *Co-founder of Hub and Culture*

Akua is Co-founder of Hub and Culture an African and Caribbean cooperative life style shop and event space in Peckham and a psychedelic fashion designer. She's also an advocate of individual therapeutic uses of psychedelics to combat depression, illness and white supremacy racism. Akua believes that we can change our current unjust world through the use of psychedelics with the simple intention to let go of all deeply held beliefs that prop up our current white supremacist world order.



Alexander Beiner – *Co-founder of both Rebel Wisdom and Open Meditation*

Alexander is a writer, facilitator and cultural commentator. He's the co-founder of Rebel Wisdom, a media platform and retreats organisation, and of Open Meditation, a non-religious meditation school based in London. He's also the author of a novel on shamanism and he is especially interested in the intersection between psychedelics and meditation, and how both can be used together safely for personal growth. This was the subject of an article in the 2015 Breaking Convention book *Neurotransmissions* which outlined an approach called TTI (Train, Trip, Integrate). He regularly interviews key figures in the psychedelic community on Rebel Wisdom, and is currently exploring the role psychedelics can play in an increasingly polarised culture.



Amanda Feilding – *Founder of the Beckley Foundation*

Amanda is the founder and executive director of the Beckley Foundation, and is widely recognised as one of the driving forces behind the current psychedelic research renaissance. By establishing key research collaborations with some of the world's most prestigious universities, she has propelled the field forward over the last 20 years, conducting several landmark studies, such as the world's first LSD brain imaging study. Amanda set up the Beckley Foundation in 1998 with two main aims: firstly, to investigate consciousness and its changing states and secondly, to reform global drug policy by developing evidence-based, health-oriented, harm-reducing, cost-effective drug policies which respect human rights. Amanda has developed partnerships with leading scientists and institutions around the world advancing the study of psychoactive substances.

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Andrew Gallimore – *Computational neurobiologist*

Dr Andrew Gallimore is a computational neurobiologist, pharmacologist, chemist, and writer who has been interested in the neural basis of psychedelic drug action for many years and is the author of a number of articles and research papers on the powerful psychedelic drug, N,N-dimethyltryptamine (DMT), as well as the book *Alien Information Theory: Psychedelic Drug Technologies and the Cosmic Game* (April 2019). He recently collaborated with DMT pioneer Dr Rick Strassman, author of *DMT: The Spirit Molecule*, to develop a pharmacokinetic model of DMT as the basis of a target-controlled intravenous infusion protocol for extended journeys in DMT space. His current interests focus on DMT as a tool for gating access to extradimensional realities and how this can be understood in terms of the neuroscience of information.



Andy Letcher – *Writer*

Dr Andy Letcher is a Senior Lecturer in Ecology and Spirituality at Schumacher College. A writer, performer and scholar of religion he began life as an ecologist, completing his D.Phil in Ecology at Oxford University. He moved to the humanities, completing a PhD in the Study of Religion at King Alfred's College Winchester. He is an expert on contemporary alternative spiritualities, especially modern Paganism, neo-shamanism and psychedelic spiritualities. A writer known for his critical approach, he is the author of *Shroom: A Cultural History of the Magic Mushroom* and a range of academic papers on subjects as diverse as fairies, animism, folklore, bardism and Druidry. He wrote the companion volume to *The English Magic Tarot*. He plays English bagpipes and Dark Age lyre, and for ten years fronted psych-folk band, Telling the Bees.



Andy Millns – *Curator of Installation Artworks*

Andy Millns is the curator of Breaking Convention's Installation programme. After graduating from Leeds University (Computer Science & Advanced Graphics), Andy went on to co-found specialist 3D production company Inition in 2001. As creative director of Inition he produced award-winning work across virtual and augmented reality, 3D printing, stereoscopy and tele-presence. Andy left Inition in 2015, 3 years after its successful acquisition, to explore interests in psychedelics, kundalini yoga, experimental photography and local community projects. Andy's current work includes psychogeography-inspired artworks, based on explorations around his SE London home. Originally from the North Yorkshire moors, Andy has been a Greenwich local for over 15 years.



Andy Roberts – *Historian*

Andy is a historian of Britain's LSD psychedelic culture and author of *Albion Dreaming: A Social History of LSD in Britain* (Marshall Cavendish 2008, 2012) and *Acid Drops* (Psychedelic Press, 2016). His other research interests include, listening to music, hill walking, beach combing, reading, landscapes and their mysteries, natural history and paranormal phenomena. Musically, he has been severely influenced and affected by the Grateful Dead and the Incredible String Band among a host of others. He first fell down the rabbit hole in 1972 and has been exploring the labyrinth of passages ever since. His views on the psychedelic experience are (basically) – You take a psychedelic and you get high. What happens after that is largely the result of dosage, set and setting.



Ashleigh Murphy-Beiner – *Student*

Ashleigh has been conducting psychopharmacological research with ayahuasca as part of her MSc Psychology degree at the University of East London. She is also a member of the Psychedelic Research Group at Imperial College London. Her dissertation is focussed on investigating psychological mechanisms of change that may be implicated in ayahuasca's psychotherapeutic effects for depression, anxiety and addictions. Her research has found that ayahuasca increases mindfulness and flexible thinking in both psychedelic naïve and experienced ayahuasca drinkers. Ashleigh is also a mindfulness meditation teacher and has completed further training in embodied therapeutic practices and is interested in the interdisciplinary application of each of these varied approaches.



Beatriz Labate – *Executive director of the Chacruna Institute*

Beatriz Caiuby Labate has a PhD in social anthropology from the State University of Campinas, Brazil. Her main areas of interest are the study of plant medicines, drug policy, shamanism, ritual, and religion. She is Executive Director of the Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines, an organization that provides public education about psychedelic plant medicines and promotes a bridge between the ceremonial use of sacred plants and psychedelic science. She is Adjunct Faculty at the East-West Psychology Program at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, and Visiting Professor at the Centre for Research and Post Graduate Studies in Social Anthropology in Guadalajara. She is also Public Education and Culture Specialist at the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS).

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Ben Sessa – *Consultant psychiatrist*

Ben trained at UCL, London, graduating in medicine in 1997. He works clinically and academically in Bristol and at Imperial College London University, with an interest in the developmental trajectory from child maltreatment to adult mental health disorders. In the last ten years Ben has been a study doctor and a test subject administering and receiving legal doses of pure LSD, psilocybin, MDMA, DMT and Ketamine. He is currently conducting the world's first clinical study using MDMA to treat addiction. Ben authors peer-reviewed articles and has published several textbooks on psychedelic medicine and a novel. An outspoken critic of current drug prohibition, he believes a more progressive policy would reduce harms, increase access to services, and provide more opportunities for psychedelic research. He is a co-founder of Breaking Convention.



Bruce Parry – *Explorer*

Did you know that for 90% of our time on the planet, humankind lived as equals without hierarchy? Bruce Parry has lived with tribal people the world over and has much to share. In this talk Bruce will reveal what it is like to live with people who exist in a world without leaders, shaman or even competition. Bruce offers a vision of life before the need for plant medicines and rituals, where we knew intuitively the kinds of things which psychedelics give us insight to today. He will tell us of the tools such people use to maintain societal balance, and most significantly, how they came to create this type of society in the first place.



Cameron Adams – *Co-founder and Director of Breaking Convention*

Cameron completed his PhD in Environmental and Ecological Anthropology in 2004 with his study of Highland Maya Ethnophysiology and Cognitive Metaphor. He has studied psychedelic communities online since 2009 and has focused on psychedelic phenomenology, healing with psychedelics, and the relationship between psychedelics and conspiracy theories.



Cara Lavan – *Film Maker*

After working as a documentary film maker for some years, Cara set up the Know Drugs project with the intention of 'bringing honesty into the conversation about drugs'. She filmed interviews with judges, politicians, recreational drug users, medics, psychologists, drug addicts, prohibitionists and non-drug users for the project and organised a groundbreaking conference on Envisioning a Post Prohibition World in 2011. She also makes all the films for the Anyone's Child campaign – families who want safer drug controls.



Charlotte Walsh – *Lecturer in criminology*

Charlotte Walsh is a legal academic at Leicester Law School, University of Leicester, where she runs a course on Criminology, with a particular focus on drug policy. Her research specialism is on the interface between psychedelics and the law, viewed from a liberal, human rights-based perspective, and she has published widely on this subject - in journals and edited collections - along with being a regular speaker at psychedelic conferences and festivals. She is on the Steering Committee of the Ayahuasca Defense Fund and is involved with legal defence work, along with advocacy for policy reform.



Chris Timmerman – *Neuroscientist*

Chris Timmermann has a background in cognitive neuroscience and psychology. He is currently completing his PhD in neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London, investigating the effects of psychedelic drugs in the human brain with Robin Carhart-Harris and David Nutt. He is developing his research with a focus on the effects of psychedelics in consciousness and brain connectivity. His research on DMT is part of the Beckley/Imperial Research Programme.andy

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Christian Rättsch – *Anthropologist, ethnopharmacologist*

Dr Christian Rättsch is an anthropologist and ethnopharmacologist who did his doctoral thesis in the field of Mesoamerican Studies on magical spells used by the Lancandon-Indians of Chiapas, Mexico. He is fluent in two Mayan languages. He is an internationally renowned authority on the subject of shamanic plants and incenses and their use in healing and rituals, and author of numerous books translated into many languages; including the most comprehensive *Encyclopaedia of Psychoactive Plants*. He was a member of the board of advisors of the former "European Colleague for the Study of Consciousness", organizing international conferences in Göttingen, Heidelberg and Basel. He lives as a freelance scientist, lecturer and author in Hamburg, Germany.



Claudia Müller-Ebeling – *Freelance scientist, lecturer*

Dr Claudia Müller-Ebeling studied history of art, cultural anthropology, German literature and indology. She did her PhD on visionary art and the French symbolist Odilon Redon. She was formerly an art historian in the Museum of Arts and Crafts in Hamburg, and chief-editor of DAO magazine on far eastern philosophies and martial arts. Claudia has been a co-organizer of several "Psychoactivity" conferences on altered states and shamanism in Amsterdam and Nepal. Her main interests are visionary art, altered states of consciousness, shamanism and ethnobotany. She has carried out fieldwork on the knowledge of healing plants and, together with Christian Rättsch, a longterm study on Shamanism. She is the co-author of *Witchcraft Medicine, Shamanism and Tantra in the Himalayas* and *Lexikon der Liebesmittel* (on Aphrodisiacs).



Dani Gordon – *Doctor*

Dani Gordon is a double board certified medical doctor and one of the worlds leading experts in CBD and clinical cannabis medicine after treating 2500+ patients in Canada. She speaks internationally on cannabis medicine, trained the UK's first cannabis medicine specialist physicians for the UK's first cannabis medicine clinics and is a founding member and vice chair of the UK Medical Cannabis Clinicians Society (MCCS). She is an American Board Specialist in Integrative Medicine, the newest American sub-specialty of mainstream medicine, focused on the intersection of conventional and natural and herbal evidence-based medicine and therapeutics.



Dave King – *Director of Breaking Convention*

Dave is a fourth-year graduate medical student at King's College London, and holds a BSc in Medical Anthropology. He is a founding co-director and programme chair of Breaking Convention, a director of the Scientific & Medical Network, the founding President of the King's College Society for Psychedelic Studies, and founding President of the UKC Psychedelics Society. He co-directs a Lecture Programme in Drug Assisted Psychotherapies at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience and has been involved in the organisation of conferences and lecture series at the University of Kent, University of Greenwich, King's College London, National University of Singapore and the House of Lords. He is the co-editor of three books, author of several book chapters, and has been published widely.



David Erritzoe – *Academic clinical lecturer in psychiatry*

David qualified as a medical doctor at Copenhagen University Medical School in 2001 and currently holds an Academic Clinical Lectureship in Psychiatry at Imperial College London. Alongside his clinical training in medicine/psychiatry, David has been involved in psychopharmacological research, using brain-imaging techniques such as PET and MRI. Initially working at Columbia University in New York, he then undertook a PhD at University Hospital Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen. Since 2009, under the mentorships of Profs Anne Lingford-Hughes and David Nutt at Imperial College London, he has conducted post-doc imaging research in the neurobiology of addictions and major depression. Together with Prof Nutt and Dr Carhart-Harris he is also investigating the neurobiology and therapeutic potential of MDMA and classic psychedelics.



David Luke – *Director of Breaking Convention*

Dr David Luke is Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Greenwich. His research focuses on transpersonal experiences, anomalous phenomena and altered states of consciousness, especially via psychedelics, having published more than 100 academic papers in this area, including ten books, most recently *Psychedelic Mysteries of the Feminine* (2019). When he is not running clinical drug trials with LSD, doing DMT field experiments or observing apparent weather control with Mexican shamans he directs the Ecology, Cosmos and Consciousness salon and is a co-founder and director and the current chair of Breaking Convention: International Conference on Psychedelic Consciousness.

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



David Nutt – Professor of neuropsychopharmacology

David is Professor of Neuropsychopharmacology & Head of the Centre for Neuropsychopharmacology in Hammersmith, Imperial College London. He's also visiting professor at the Open University & Maastricht University. David is President of the European Brain Council & Chair of the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs, & Past-President of the British Neuroscience Association. He's a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians, of Psychiatrists & of the Academy of Medical Sciences. He's the UK Director of the European Certificate & Masters in Affective Disorders Courses. He has edited the *Journal of Psychopharmacology* for over fifteen years & acts as the psychiatry drugs advisor to the British National Formulary. He has published over 400 original research papers, and numerous books.



Darren Springer – Symposium curator

Darren is a grass-roots researcher and event organiser based in London. After setting up Ancient Future in 2006, he has continued to develop workshops and projects geared around creative arts, personal-development and African-Caribbean spiritual systems in his community. Collectively his work aims to inform and empower individuals from diverse backgrounds to cope with social challenges and contribute to community development as well as self-improvement in an innovative and culturally-aware style. He has presented at Breaking Convention in London, the Detroit Entheogenic Conference, Ozora in Hungary, Altered in Berlin and more. Darren is a knowledgeable and dynamic speaker who is passionate about sharing his research on African Entheogenic plants and their various applications on the continent and the diaspora.



Devin Terhune – Senior Lecturer in psychology

Devin is a Senior Lecturer in psychology at Goldsmiths, University of London where he co-directs the Goldsmiths Consciousness Research Unit and directs the timing, awareness, and suggestion lab. His lab uses methods from cognitive neuroscience and experimental psychology to study different features of awareness with a focus on the neural bases of time perception and the use of suggestion to regulate awareness. He completed his PhD at Lund University in Sweden and was previously a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford.



Dimitris Liokaftos – Sociologist

Dimitris is a sociologist with research interests in drug use, human enhancement and gender. He is currently associated as a visiting researcher with the MIND European Foundation for Psychedelic Science (Berlin) and has previously been awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship to investigate drug-free bodybuilding. Alongside a personal interest in mysticism, his scientific curiosity for psychedelics arose from his previous research on human enhancement drugs (*A Genealogy of Male Bodybuilding: From classical to freaky*, 2017). In particular, he is interested in how different ways of using psychedelics are framed within different paradigms of human enhancement. Following this approach, he is currently investigating microdosing psychedelics as a case study in the wider phenomenon of human enhancement through drugs.



Don Eugenio Lopez Carilloo – Mara'akame

Mara'akame Don Eugenio Lopez Carilloo (Uru Muile) lives in the north of Jalisco region, in the Wixarika Laguna community between San Andres and Santa Catarina region. Descendant of an ancestral lineage of Mara'akames (son of Don Emilio) Don Eugenio is a medicine man that has dedicated his life to preserve his cultural traditions. He has a profound experience in guiding different healing rituals, he is a healer, prayer singer and guardian and protector of the Earth.



Don Francisco Montes Shuna – Maestro vegetalista

Don Francisco Montes Shuna is a Peruvian maestro vegetalista – a traditional shamanic herbalist that uses the ayahuasca vine, perfume and many other medicinal and sacred plants – as well as a visionary painter, that depicts his intricate ayahuasca visions and the magical world of spirits through works of art that have been internationally recognised. Coming from the indigenous Amazonian Capanahua ethnic group Don Francisco, beginning at age 6, learned the legacy of his ancestors from his grandmother Trinidad, chosen from among 42 grandchildren to be the one to continue this wisdom tradition. In 1990 he opened the Sachamama Ethnobotanical Garden (now Sachamama Lodge), a healing centre and a school for learning the native indigenous medicine tradition.

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Emmanuelle Schindler – Neurologist

Dr Schindler is a board-certified Neurologist at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut. She completed neurology residency and fellowship training at Yale and has expertise in headache medicine. Among her efforts to optimize the management of headache disorders, she has ongoing clinical trials seeking to understand the effects and mechanisms of action of psilocybin in cluster, migraine, and post-traumatic headache. Previously, she studied the neuropharmacology of psychedelics and other serotonergic compounds in the context of receptor binding and intracellular signaling at Drexel University College of Medicine, where she received her PhD and MD. Dr. Schindler has won several awards for academic excellence, has a number of publications and invited book chapters, and remains at the forefront of headache medicine.



Eric Maddern – Writer, singer, storyteller

Australian born Eric spent ten years travelling round the world on quest for origins, identity and god, absorbing influences from California, the Mayans, Polynesia and Indigenous Australia. He now lives in Snowdonia where he has co-created Cae Mabon, an eco-retreat centre described as a 'Welsh Shanghai-La' and 'the most Druid-like place in the world'. Eric is a writer, singer, storyteller and 'mythic maintenance man'. This latter role involves keeping the old stories alive but also caring for ancient sacred sites, including the Eryri Omphalos, the subject of his offering at this Breaking Convention.



Erika Dyck – Professor of medical history

Erika Dyck is a Professor and SSHRC Canada Research Chair in Medical History. She is the author of *Psychedelic Psychiatry: LSD from Clinic to Campus* (2008; 2011), and *Facing Eugenics: Reproduction, Sterilization and the Politics of Choice* (2013), which was shortlisted for the Governor General's award for Canadian non-fiction. She also wrote *Managing Madness: the Weyburn Mental Hospital and the Transformation of Psychiatric Care in Canada* (2017), which won the Canadian Historical Association Prize for best book in Prairie History. Erika is also co-editor of *Psychedelic Prophets: The Letters of Aldous Huxley and Humphry Osmond* (2018), which was a finalist for the Association of American Publishers' PROSE awards for Excellence in Clinical Psychology.



Eusebio – Apprentice Mara'akame

Eusebio (Muwieri Xaure) was born in 1985. He is an apprentice Mara'akame and a traditional musician. He is the commissar of 'La Laguna' in San Andrés Cohamiata. He has had several charges in different ceremonial centres as traditional musician in the Rawere and Canari instruments. He wants to follow the steps of the elders to help his community and has a great understanding of the Mestizo and occidental culture.



Gail Bradbrook – Co-founder of Extinction Rebellion

Dr Gail Bradbrook is a co-founder of Extinction Rebellion, the social movement launched in October 2018 which rapidly spread across the UK and internationally. It is based on the idea of telling the truth about the extent of the ecological crisis and asking people to act accordingly. The movement focusses on mass civil disobedience, rapid decarbonisation and lowering of consumption and the establishment of a Citizen Assembly as a response to the democratic deficit. Gail has previously been involved in Transition Stroud, Tax Justice Network, Compassionate Revolution and Street School Economics. She has worked for a charity focussed on digital inclusion and has a PhD in molecular biophysics.



Giorgio Samorini – Ethnobotanist, ethnomycologist

Giorgio Samorini was born in Italy in 1957. He is an ethnobotanist and ethnomycologist specialized in the use of psychoactive plants and mushrooms. He carried out field research with native groups in Africa, Asia and the Americas, studying their use of visionary plants. He has carried out extensive research with the Bwiti cult of tropical Africa, where the visionary plant iboga is their entheogenic source, and he discovered the oldest archaeological documentation testifying the human use of hallucinogenic mushrooms in the Sahara Desert. He has authored many scientific papers and books, which have been published in various languages.

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Greg De Hoedt – Founder, UK Cannabis Social Clubs

Greg de Hoedt is founder of the UK Social Cannabis Clubs, and chairman of the Brighton Cannabis Club. The UK Cannabis Social Clubs campaign for adult legalisation of cannabis; to provide safer access, with the right to grow at home or in a shared space and purchase labelled, lab tested products through regulated outlets with proof of age UKCSC is the UK cannabis consumer voice, offering practical and legal advice and guidance to Cannabis Social Clubs, politicians and police forces in order to provide a self regulatory frame work to reduce risks. UK Cannabis Social Clubs are Private Membership Clubs for adult medical and social use acting as a first point of contact for cannabis consumers, patients, advice, general cannabis information, harm reduction and education.



Hattie Wells – Director of Breaking Convention

Hattie Wells is an ethnobotanist, former ibogaïne facilitator and activist. She spent many years researching the cultural and therapeutic use of psychedelics, before becoming interested in ethnogaecology and carrying out fieldwork in Namibia with the San Bushmen. Her research in the Kalahari was followed by developing and managing a sustainable livelihood initiative in the region with the Global Diversity Foundation. In Europe she has worked with NGOs on conservation issues and more latterly drug policy reform (Transform Drug Policy Foundation and the Beckley Foundation). She is currently working as Policy Projects Coordinator for the Beckley Foundation, and is carrying out research and development with the Seedsman CBD. She is actively involved with Extinction Rebellion, and lives in Wiltshire with her two daughters.



James Rucker – Consultant psychiatrist

James Rucker is a consultant psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital in Denmark Hill, south London and a senior clinical lecturer in psychopharmacology at The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London, where he leads the Psychedelic Trials Group. In 2018 he was awarded the largest UK government grant ever (£1.2M) for the study of psilocybin in resistant forms of depression, via the National Institute for Health Research's Clinician Scientist Programme.



Janis Phelps – Founder and director of the California Institute of Integral Studies Centre

Janis Phelps PhD is the founder & director of the California Institute of Integral Studies Centre for Psychedelic Therapies and Research, the first academically accredited, post-graduate certificate training program for legal psychedelic-assisted therapy and research. Her publications have set guidelines for competencies and training programs for medical and mental health professionals. She is a board member of the Hefter Research Institute, and she has held professorships in several universities' graduate departments of counselling psychology, east-west psychology and clinical psychology. Her theoretical orientations include transpersonal and wellness models; Buddhism and Eastern disciplines; and phenomenology/existential philosophies.



Jay Griffiths – Author

Jay Griffiths has written on the politics of time, and the importance of wildness in the human spirit and the natural world in childhood. With her first book, *Pip Pip: A Sideways Look at Time*, she won the Discover award for the best new non-fiction writer to be published in the USA and with her second, *Wild: An Elemental Journey* she won the inaugural 2007 Orion Book Award. She is the author of *Tristimania: A Diary of Manic Depression* and *Kith: The Riddle of the Childscape*. "If bravery itself could write, it would write like she does." – John Berger



Jasmin Thomas – Cannabis entrepreneur

Jasmin is the founder of Ohana CBD and is one of London's upcoming cannabis entrepreneurs. Ohana is a natural lifestyle brand offering a CBD infused skincare range, recipes and updates on the benefits of cannabinoids. Her journey with cannabis started when she was diagnosed with MS in 2015 and started treating her symptoms with CBD oil. Jasmin also co-found the entOURage network along side Jessica Steinberg creating a platform to engage and empower women in the legal cannabis industry.

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Jazmin Pirozek – Cree ethnobotanist

Jazmin Pirozek is a Cree Ethnobotanist and Traditional Healer. She serves Northern Ontario indigenous populations in Canada through teaching and aiding remembering of plant medicine teachings lost due to colonisation. She has written and narrated the Planetarium film "Under the same Stars: Minwaadiziwin". Her work has carried her to South America where she learns Amazonian plant medicines from Maestro Juan Flores Salazaar. She is the founder of Maingunanung Healing Centre in Canada and continues to study and work with Entheogens and other plant medicines to aid remediating Western drug related and food illnesses in indigenous populations.



Jerónimo Mazarrasa – Ayahuasca community activist

Jerónimo works as Social Innovation Coordinator for the ICEERS Foundation, and has been a coordinator of the Platform for the Defense of Ayahuasca Plantaforma since its founding. In the past decade he has produced and written two documentaries about ayahuasca. The first about the Brazilian Ayahuasca churches, the second about the use of Ayahuasca in the treatment of drug addiction. He has travelled extensively through South America, researching a broad range of Ayahuasca practices, and has lectured internationally on ayahuasca tourism and the appropriation of indigenous knowledge. For the past seven years he calls Ibiza home, where he runs The Council Tree, a series of monthly lectures on indigenous knowledge, people, and plants.



John Constable - Playwright & poet

John is a playwright, poet and performer, also known as John Crow the urban shaman of Crossbones. His plays include 'Tulip Futures', the stage adaptation of 'Gormenghast', and his solo shows 'I Was An Alien Sex God' and 'Spare' (inspired by the life and work of Austin Osman Spare). His best-known work, 'The Southwark Mysteries', was performed in Shakespeare's Globe and Southwark Cathedral. In his John Crow persona he conducts 'The Halloween of Crossbones' and the vigils held on the 23rd of every month at south London's Crossbones Graveyard. John has performed his poetry in theatres, clubs and festivals world-wide ('Like Shakespeare on acid!' – Time Out) – and is a regular house-act in the Underground Piano Bar at the Glastonbury Festival.



Jonathan Ott – Ethnobotanist

Jonathan is an ethnobotanist, writer, translator, publisher, natural products chemist and botanical researcher in the area of entheogens and their cultural and historical uses, and one of a group of researchers who coined the term "entheogen". Ott has written eight books, co-written five, and contributed to four others, and published many articles in the field of entheogens. He translated Albert Hofmann's 1979 book *LSD: My Problem Child*, and *On Aztec Botanical Names* by Blas Pablo Reko. His articles have appeared in publications including *The Entheogen Review*, *The Entheogen Law Reporter*, the *Journal of Cognitive Liberties*, the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, the MAPS Bulletin, Head, and many others. He is a co-editor of *Eleusis: Journal of Psychoactive Plants & Compounds*, along with Giorgio Samorini.



Joseph Mays – MSc student

Joseph is an MSc Ethnobotany student at the University of Kent, writing a dissertation on the influences of scientific research on the indigenous inhabitants of the Biosphere Reserve "Oxapampa-Ashaninka-Yanesha" in Peru's Selva Central. He earned bachelor's degrees in Biology and Anthropology at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he conducted ethnographic work with the Highland Maya in Guatemala. After he interned at an ecological reserve in the Ecuadorian cloud forest where he completed an ethnobotanical survey and wrote a medicinal plant identification guide, he worked as a teaching assistant in anthropology as well as vertebrate natural history at his alma mater.



Julian Vayne – Occultist and author

Julian is an occultist and the author of numerous books, essays, journals and articles in both the academic and esoteric press. His work is informed by the post-modern style of chaos magic as well as lineages within Wicca and Uttarakaula Tantra. Julian is a co-organizer of Breaking Convention, is a Trustee of The Psychedelic Museum Project and The Friends of the Boscaille Museum of Witchcraft. Julian facilitates psychedelic ceremony as well as providing one-to-one psychedelic integration sessions and support. He is the author of the celebrated *Getting Higher: The Manual of Psychedelic Ceremony*.

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Kilindi Iyi – *Technical advisor, mycologist*

Kilindi Iyi is the head instructor and technical advisor of Tamerrian Martial Art Institute. A world traveler and mycologist, Kilindi has presented on the subject of psilocybin as far north as Norway and as far south as Australia. His exploration and research centres on the high dose psilocybin mushrooms. Kilindi shares information gleaned from many excursions into the hyper-dimensional and inter-dimensional realms through his direct experience with dosages in the 20 thru 40 dried gram range of mushroom ingestion. Kilindi brings decades worth of traveling in novel states of consciousness to share, coupled with the skills of master cultivator of exotic mushrooms lends a power and authenticity to his presentations. Kilindi remains a student teacher and advocate for the hallucinogenic experience.



Luke Brown – *Artist*

Luke Brown aka SpectralEyes was born with a paintbrush in one hand and a portal to the parallel in the other. Luke received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Ontario College of Art and Design. Luke paints in oils and acrylics as well as utilising digital mediums in his explorations of the infinite inner expanse. He is best known for his obsessive attention to detail, using the smallest brushes available. For the past 17 years, he has exhibited worldwide and alongside Alex Grey, HR Giger, Ernst Fuchs and Robert Venosa. He has taught at the Visionary art Academy in Vienna, sharing his knowledge and skills with the next generation of visionary artists. Luke's painting *Curandero* adorns the front cover of this booklet. lukebrowart.com



Maria Papaspyrou – *Psychotherapist*

Maria is an integrative psychotherapist and systemic family constellations facilitator in private practice in Brighton, UK. She has given talks and published articles on the sacramental and healing properties of entheogens, supporting their re-introduction in psychotherapy. She is co-editor of the book *Psychedelic Mysteries of the Feminine*, and founder of TRIPP Network, a U.K. based psychedelic psychotherapy integration database. You can find out more about her work at towardswholeness.co.uk.



Mark Gallagher – *Historian*

Dr Mark Gallagher is an historian of madness who completed his PhD research in 2017 on the history of collective action by psychiatric patients in Scotland. Recently he has been exploring the career of Dr Ronald Sandison and the clinical use of LSD in the 1950s and 1960s, supported by a Wellcome Trust Research Bursary.



Mark Lewis – *Cloud Architect*

Mark is a British IT consultant specialising in the industrial design of globally-distributed cloud infrastructure supporting household financial brands. He directs the IT for Breaking Convention. At Kent University, he first read microbiology and then computer science. He undertook bioinformatics research at Exeter University, particularly the novel use of computer graphics to elucidate important 5' upstream regulatory DNA binding elements. His private research interests broadened in 2018 to found a not-for-profit organisation called Psy Industries which investigates the use of global cloud infrastructure to help improve human access to evidence-based research and public-domain information on psychedelics. His self-published book on LSD, *Do Not Exceed the Stated Dose* was favourably received by *The Observer* in 2001.



Michael Albert – *Doctoral candidate*

Michael Albert is a Ph.D. student at Johns Hopkins University working at the intersection of International Relations, Political Theory, and sustainability studies. His dissertation develops a theoretical framework drawing from complex systems theory and critical political economy to map the converging crises of the 21st century – in particular the crises of global capitalism, energy, and the earth system – and illuminate possibilities for world systemic transformation over the coming decades. His future work will investigate counter-hegemonic movements – including degrowth, ecosocialism, transition towns, and indigenous sovereignty – and consider their potential for creating alternative political economies as the crises of global capitalism and the earth system intensify.

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Mike Jay – *Historian*

Mike Jay is one of the world's leading historians of science, medicine, drugs and consciousness. His latest book, *Mescaline: A global history of the first psychedelic* (Yale University Press, due May 2019), traces mescaline's many lives: from the ancient use of San Pedro and peyote to the origins of the Native American peyote rite, its first encounters with Western science, the laboratory synthesis of mescaline in 1919, and the century of modern engagement with psychedelics that has spanned art, psychology, spirituality, medicine and culture. This Q&A session will explore these remarkable and little-known stories, and the challenges Mike faced in researching and writing mescaline's panoramic history.



Nikki Wyrd – *Director of Breaking Convention*

Nikki Wyrd is the Editor of the *Psychedelic Press Journal*. She is a director of the charity Breaking Convention, which holds a biennial multidisciplinary conference on psychedelics. Her copyediting work can be found in many books related to psychedelics, occultism and medicine. Nikki often talks at conferences and festivals, as well as holding space at retreats and workshops centred around shamanic/ceremonial practices. She enjoys dancing to psytrance, and following from her degree in ecology she encourages humans to consider how they can live in better relation with other organisms.



Nir Tadmor – *Psychotherapist*

Nir is a psychotherapist in private practice and a co-founder of a psychedelic harm reduction project in Israel called Safe Shore. Since Safe Shore was founded 5 years ago, Nir supported and supervised hundreds of cases of psychedelic crises both in musical events and in private practice. Nir is also a MSc student in Consciousness, Spirituality and Transpersonal Psychology through the Alef Trust where his thesis focuses on psycho-spiritual crises induced by the use of psychedelics. Nir is trained in a mindfulness based psychotherapy called Hakomi and for the last three years has been working as a mental health professional in a centre that offers an alternative to psychiatric hospitalisation.



Nzambe Divanga – *Bwiti practitioner*

Nzambe Divanga is a Gabonese born Nganga – an initiated practitioner of the Bwiti tradition of Gabon and has been immersed in its practice for over 20 years. He has extensively worked with both Africans and Europeans in workshops, seminars and most importantly, the ceremonial space and is deeply experienced in the theory, practice and science of African initiation culture.



Paul Callahan – *Filmmaker*

Paul Callahan (Aka Bloom) is an independent filmmaker and has worked as a director, curator and events producer for major film festivals in the UK and Ireland including the BFI London Film Festival, Glasgow Film Festival, Sheffield Docs Fest and Cork French Film Festival. He has curated and produced the cinema programme at Breaking Convention since 2014.



Paul North – *Managing Director of Volteface*

Paul North is a Managing Director at Volteface, an influential cross party advocacy organisation which seeks to reduce the harm drugs pose to individuals and society, through evidence-based policy and reform. After obtaining a degree in criminology and working in the drug treatment sector for nine years, Paul saw first hand the damage the UK's drug policies inflict on society and became inspired to reform them. Alongside his role at Volteface, Paul is a Director for the harm reduction group drugsand.me and volunteers for the drug testing charity 'The Loop'.

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Paul Powlesland – *Barrister*

Paul is a barrister whose growing love of the natural world was in part inspired by psychedelics. He is now seeking to combine this love of nature with his legal career and has founded Lawyers for Nature (to represent the natural world in the courts and advocate for the rights of nature), as well as Lawyers for Extinction Rebellion.



Peter Sjöstedt-H – *Philosopher of mind*

Dr Peter Sjöstedt-H is a philosopher of mind and of metaphysics working as a research fellow at the University of Exeter where he will be organizing the first Philosophy of Psychedelics conference in April 2020. Peter's doctoral thesis was on 'pansentient monism', he has given a TEDx Talk on Psychedelics and Consciousness, he is author of the book *Noumenautics: Metaphysics – Meta-ethics – Psychedelics*, he typesets for Psychedelic Press and now Breaking Convention. His work inspired the recreation of the Marvel superhero, Karnak. Peter has a penchant for A. N. Whitehead, Nietzsche, Spinoza, and Psilocybin.



Robert Dickins – *Publisher*

Robert Dickins is a historian, writer and editor. He is the founding editor of the Psychedelic Press and its eponymous journal, co-director of the Psychedelic Museum, and is currently undertaking his PhD at Queen Mary, University of London. His research interests focus on the history and literature of psychedelic substances, and the role of writing in spiritual and magical traditions during the 19th century.



Robin Carhart-Harris – *Head of psychedelic research*

Robin Carhart-Harris moved to Imperial College London in 2008 after obtaining a PhD in Psychopharmacology from the University of Bristol and an MA in Psychoanalysis from Brunel University. At Imperial, Robin has designed and overseen brain imaging studies involving LSD, psilocybin, MDMA and DMT, plus a clinical trial of psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression, another trial comparing psilocybin with escitalopram for major depressive disorder and another imaging study in healthy volunteers receiving a high-dose of psilocybin. Robin is head of the Centre for Psychedelic Research at Imperial and has an honorary position with the University of Oxford.



Rory Spowers – *Writer, campaigner*

Rory Spowers is writer, campaigner and event curator, specialising in systems change and consciousness issues. His books include 'A Year in Green Tea and Tuk Tuks' (HarperElement), covering the creation of Samakanda, an ecological learning centre in south Sri Lanka, and 'Rising Tides', a history of ecological thought (Canongate), critically acclaimed by the UK Sunday Times, The Observer and a variety of magazines. Most recently, Rory was a Writer on Bruce Parry's 2017 feature documentary Tawai, and is now Creative Director of the Tyrringham Initiative, a world-class think-tank and incubator for new paradigm projects and consciousness studies.



Rosalind Stone – *Press officer*

Rosalind is a journalist, copywriter, and the publicist for the Psychedelic Press. She studied English Literature at Oxford University (BA) and King's College, London (MA) and is fascinated by the potential for transformation in the relationship between attitudes to psychoactive substances and their portrayal in the mainstream media. Previously communications officer at the Beckley Foundation, she has contributed to the growth of the student harm reduction collective drugsand.me, and has words on psychedelic research and altered states of consciousness in The Guardian, Kaltblut Magazine, Talking Drugs, VolteFace, Psysmopia and the Third Wave.

INVITED SPEAKER & COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



Rosalind Watts – *Clinical psychologist*

Dr Rosalind Watts is the Clinical Lead of the Imperial College Psilocybin for Depression trial. She trained as a clinical psychologist at UCL and practised psychotherapy for 6 years before joining the Imperial Psychedelic Research Group, led by Robin Carhart-Harris. Rosalind designed the therapy protocol for Psilodep 2, works as a lead 'guide' alongside three other therapists, and is running the day-to-day aspects of the trial. Her qualitative research, exploring the perspectives of participants in a number of psychedelic research studies, gave rise to her interest in the common theme of 'connectedness to Self, others, and the world' as an important aspect of psychedelic treatment. Rosalind co-hosts the monthly 'Psychedelic Integration Group' in London, alongside Michelle Baker Jones.



Sab Xew – *Doctoral candidate*

Sab's research concerns the concepts and social narratives that we weave around psychedelic and anomalous states. She is currently working on her PhD which is about the ways that we frame states of 'madness', especially in regards to Western psychiatry, and how this framing becomes part of those very states and experiences – often insidiously. She uses psychedelic research and insight from the ways that psychedelic spaces communicate to inform new frameworks for understanding 'psychotic' or anomalous experiences and the narratives that surround them. In particular she is interested in the wider intersections of psychedelics with queer theory, critical transhumanism, and feminist concerns. As well as researching, teaching and writing about this, Sab explores 'the psychedelic' through her performance art in dance, circus and burlesque.



Sanae Orchi – *Broadcaster, public speaker*

Sanae Orchi is a Dutch/Moroccan TV presenter, public speaker and teacher of Ancient African Yoga (Smai Tawi). Sanae's journey has led her to studying and sharing both modern and ancient spiritual practices. She is now sharing this knowledge and her experiences in an 'urban sexy' way for others, especially the young generation to experience self-realisation for themselves.



Sam Gandy – *Ecologist*

Sam has a PhD in ecological science from the University of Aberdeen and an MRes in entomology from Imperial College London. He has a lifelong interest in nature and wildlife and has been fortunate enough to conduct field research in various parts of the world including the UK, Kefalonia, Almeria, Texas, the Peruvian Amazon, Vietnam and Ethiopia. Sam has written papers, book chapters, articles and spoken at conferences and festivals on psychedelics and he is fascinated by their potential to benefit human lives. Sam has a particular interest in the intersection of two of his big passions...nature and psychedelics...and how psychedelics have the potential to reconnect our increasingly disconnected species to the natural world, for the betterment of humanity and the biosphere at large.



Sam Oliver – *Director/Producer*

Sam is the director/producer of The Ibogaine Stories, which is currently in production, and explores how Iboga has made its way from Central Africa to being an addiction treatment in the western world. He is also a co-founder of UK Psychedelic Comedy, along with Oli Genn-Bash. Together they are putting on a night of psychedelic comedy at Greenwich theatre, with well known American comedians, the night before the start of Breaking Convention. Sam also is curating the cinema track for Breaking Convention 2019.



Stevens Rehen – *Stem cell biologist*

Stevens Rehen is a stem cell biologist, Professor at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and Head of Research at D'Or Institute for Research and Education (IDOR), Brazil. He is an Affiliated Member of the Latin American Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, and a Former President of the Brazilian Society for Neuroscience and Behavior. His goal is to push the boundaries of neuroscience by applying new cellular models. We have been successfully studying several aspects of neurogenesis using organoids. Notably, considerable research efforts have been dedicated to the impacts of Zika virus infection and psychedelics for the human brain tissue. His research is part of the Beckley/Brazil Programme.



Stuart Griggs – Visionary Artist

Stuart is an artist of the imaginal. He works with interior narrative, symbol and intention as a way to visually portray the numinous. His work is an exploration into the nexus of drawing and digital art, synthesising the two approaches into an idiosyncratic visual language. It is a journey into the creative process that immerses & probes into the psychic pool of collective archetypes. Multidimensional spaces & symbols weave together to explore and manifest the primordial & the transpersonal, resonating with a profound sense of awareness of our unity & interconnection. Themes of sacred divinity, fertility, ritual, flow, transcendence & healing are synergising through the imagery as I allow a tacit sense of the numinous to unfold and transmit.



Tehseen Noorani – Anthropologist

Tehseen is an anthropologist interested in the phenomenological, epistemic and sociopolitical character of extreme experiences, and how these are made sense of across different ‘consciousness cultures’. He is currently writing a monograph tracing the renewed scientific and therapeutic interest in psychedelic experiences in the global North, and its impact upon broader understandings of psychopathology and mental health care. Tehseen is a member of Hearing the Voice, a Wellcome Trust-funded project based at Durham University. He studied the hearing voices movement in a PhD at the University of Bristol (2007–2012) and spearheaded qualitative research on psilocybin-assisted smoking cessation in a postdoc at Johns Hopkins University (2013–2015).



Thomas Hatsis – Author

Thomas Hatsis is an author, public speaker, and historian of psychedelic history. His books include *The Witches’ Ointment: The Secret History of Psychedelic Magic*; *Psychedelic Mystery Traditions: Spirit Plants, Magical Practices, Ecstatic States*; and *Microdosing Magic: A Psychedelic Spellbook*. He has several articles published in Psychedelic Press UK, and has appeared on the GaiamTV shows Open Minds with Regina Meredith and Psychedelica.



Thomas Varley – PhD Student

Thomas Varley is a PhD Student at Indiana University, dual-majoring in Complex Systems & Networks Theory, and Computational Neuroscience. Thomas got their Mphil Degree in Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Cambridge, researching how changes in the “complexity” of brain dynamics changes with altered states of consciousness such as psychedelia, anesthesia, and disorders of consciousness. They have continued this line of research at IU, exploring how different drug-induced states alter signs of critical brain dynamics and the capacity of emergent complexity. They are always looking for new datasets to work on, psychedelic or otherwise.



Torsten Passie – Professor of psychiatry

Torsten Passie MD, PhD is Professor of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Hannover Medical School and currently Visiting Scientist at Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main. He studied philosophy, sociology (MA) at Leibniz-University, Hannover and medicine at Hannover Medical School. He worked at the Psychiatric University Clinic in Zürich and with Professor Hanscarl Leuner (Göttingen), the leading European authority on hallucinogenic drugs. From 1998 to 2010 he was a scientist and psychiatrist at Hannover Medical School (Germany) where he researched the addictions and the psychophysiology of altered states of consciousness and their healing potential, including clinical research with hallucinogenic drugs (cannabis, ketamine, nitrous oxide, psilocybin). In 2012-2015 he was Visiting Professor at Harvard Medical School (Boston, USA).



David Bramwell – Writer and curator

Dr Bramwell is a man who likes to keep busy. A magpie by nature, he is the creator of the successful Cheeky Guide series, founder & host of Brighton’s Catalyst Club, and singer-songwriter in the band Oddfellows Casino. But wait, there’s more. David is also the author of two autobiographical books, *The No9 Bus to Utopia* and the *Haunted Moustache* and co-creator of the foreskin-eating show known as Singalong-a-Wickerman. He has won awards for “Outstanding Theatre” and “Best Comedy Show” for his one-man shows and a Sony Silver Award for his work with BBC Radio 3 and 4. Despite all this he still has to work three days a week at a Butlins Holiday Camp to make ends meet. He is at his happiest with a biscuit in his hand. Or, preferably, three. It is worth noting that Dr Bramwell is a medical man by rumour only; approach with extreme caution, particularly if he offers to whip out your tonsils in exchange for a packet of bourbons.

Dr. Bronner’s is proud to support Breaking Convention in its efforts to promote and support multi-disciplinary research on psychedelic medicines.

Awaken Compassion! Responsibly integrate psychedelic medicines into American and global culture. Make it readily available to those who most need it!

Catalyze Social Change! Use psychedelic medicines to help us open our hearts and minds to one another and the wonderful, living world we are all a part of.

Heal the Soul! Psychedelic medicines, when used responsibly in therapeutic settings, are effective tools for awakening compassion, healing trauma and catalyzing progressive social change!



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Dr. Bronner’s is a family business committed to honoring the vision of our founder Dr. E.H. Bronner by making socially and environmentally responsible products of the highest quality, and by dedicating our profits to help make a better world. ALL-ONE!

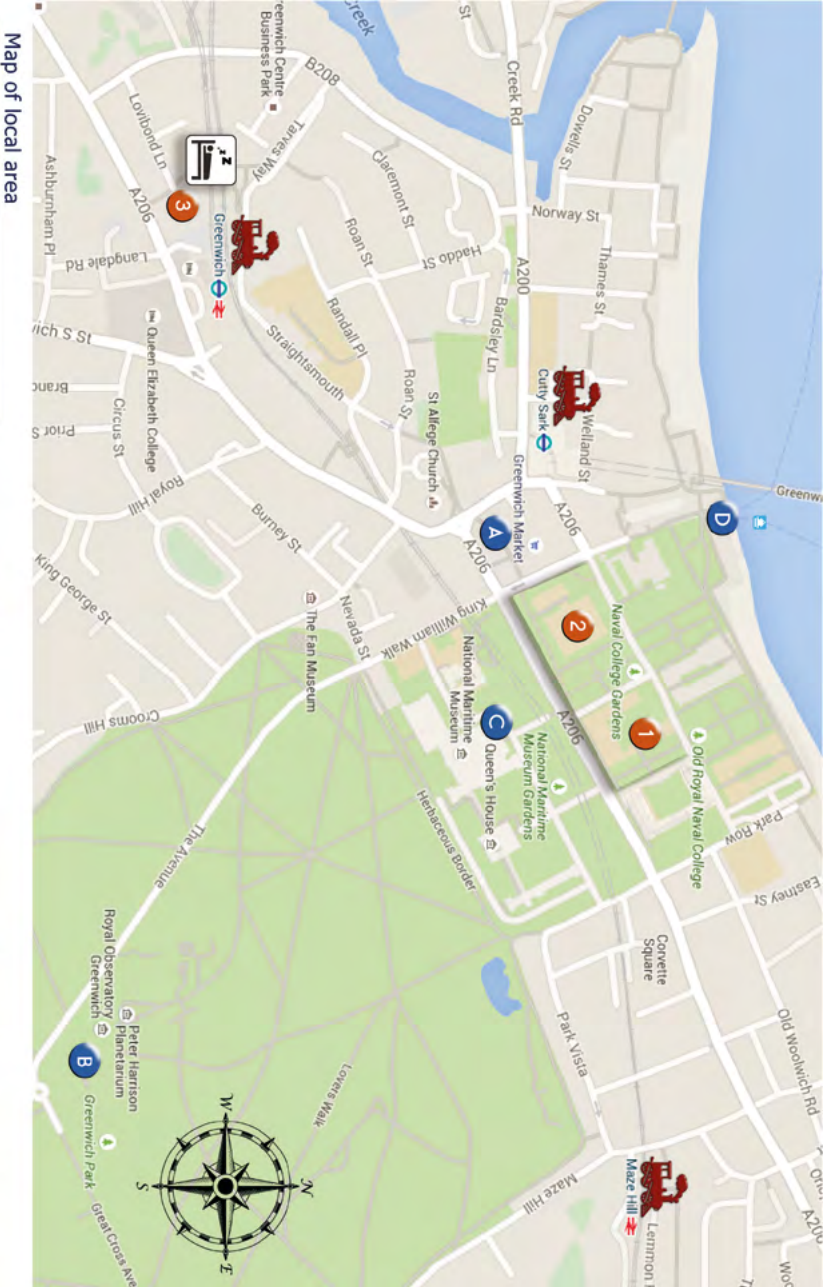


Greenwich Campus

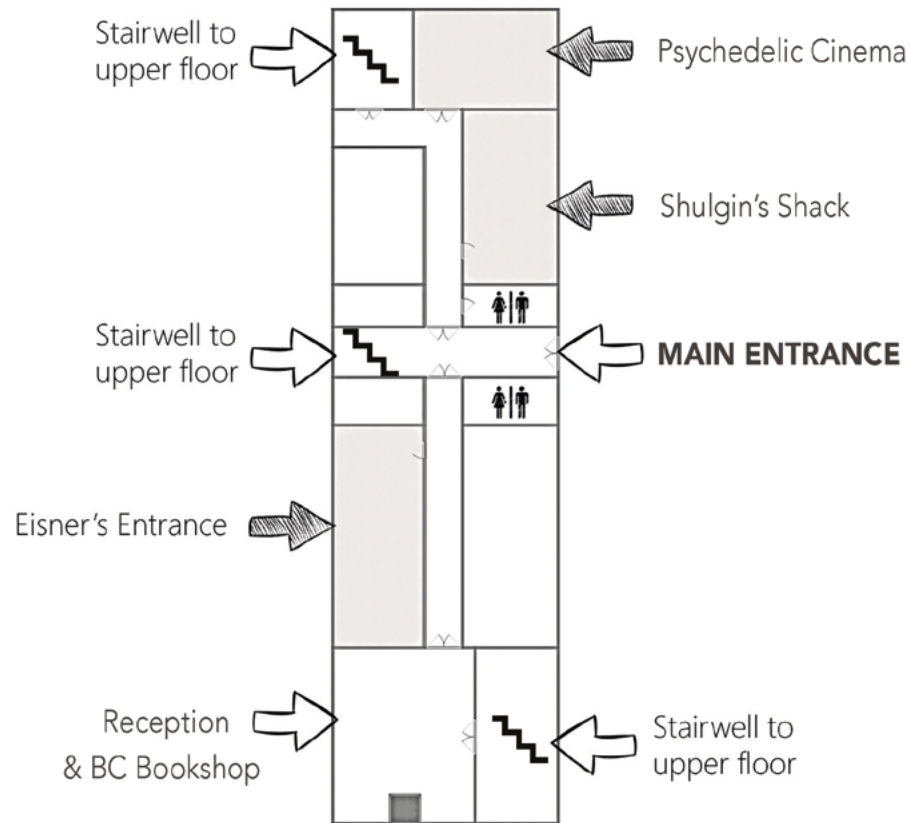
- 1** East Gate Entrance
@ Security & Information
 - 2** Queen Anne Court
 - 3** Queen Mary Court
 - 4** KING WILLIAM COURT
 - 5** THE OLD BREWERY
 - 6** West Gate Entrance
 - 7** DREADNOUGHT BUILDING
 - 8** Stephen Lawrence Building
 - 9** Devonport House
 - 10** Cooper Building
 - 11** Stockwell Street
 - 12** Cutty Sark Hall
- B** Bus Stop (University bus service - Avery Hill)
 - P** Public Parking
 - ♿** Disabled Parking
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 - 🍽️** Restaurant/Café
- 🚶** Docklands Light Railway: please visit www.tfl.gov.uk/dlr for the latest information
 - B** Bus Stops: please visit www.tfl.gov.uk/buses for the latest information
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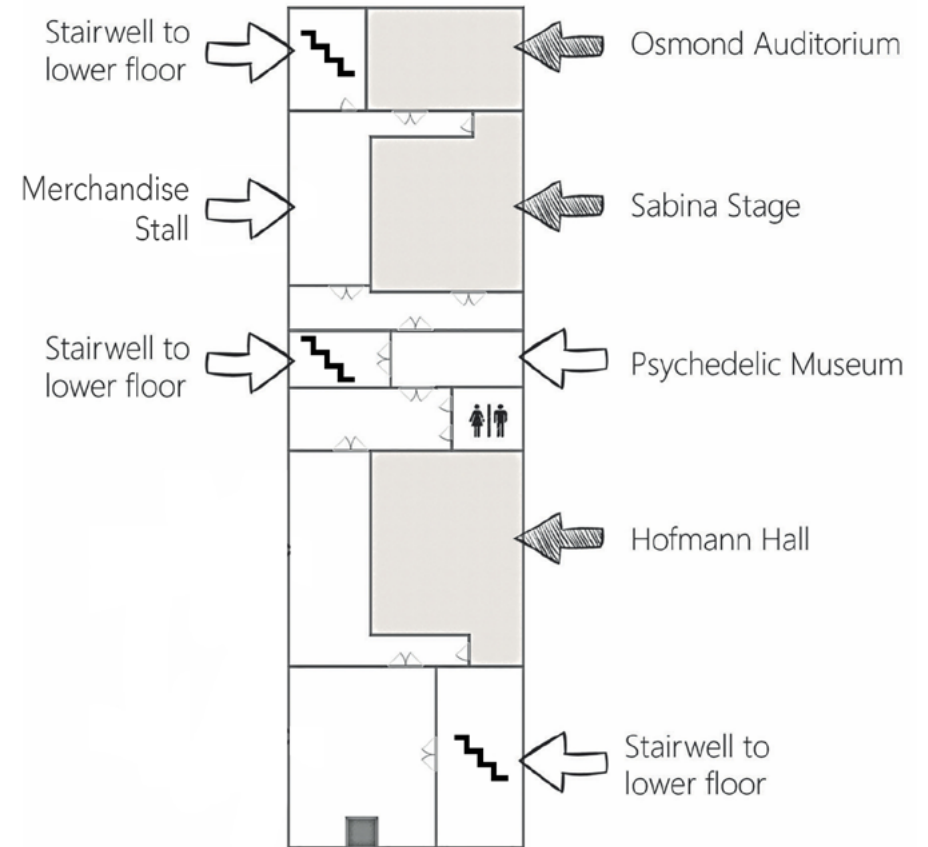
- 1** Breaking Convention - King William Building
- 2** Breaking Convention - Dreadnought Building
- 3** Nights of Delysid (accommodation) - Daniel Defoe Halls of Residence
- A** Greenwich Market
- B** Planetarium & Royal Observatory
- C** National Maritime Museum & Gardens
- D** The Cutty Sark & Ferries to Westminister

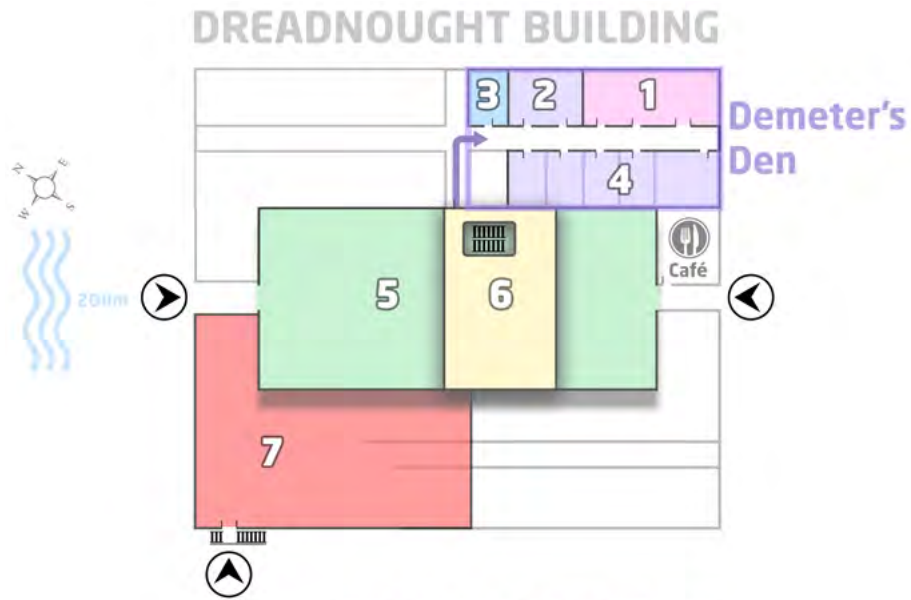


GROUND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR





- 1. Wasson Workshops
- 2. + 4. Installations
- 3. Media Room
- 5. Telesterion
- 6. Metzner's Mezzanine
- 7. Underworld (Bar/Parties)

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Press: Rosalind Stone

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IT: Mark Lewis

Merchandise: Andy Roberts

Film Festival: Paul Callanan, Sam Oliver

Film Production: Cara Lavan

Art: Stuart Griggs

Entertainments: Adam Malone

Installations: Andy Millns

Volunteers: Julian Vayne, Nikki Wyrd

Publishing & Book Stalls: Rob Dickins

Additional symposium curators: Darren Springer, Ben Sessa

Therapy and Research on Integrating Psychedelic Practices (TRIPP) network: Maria Papaspyrou

Print Programme Design: Peter Sjöstedt-H



Magic Medicine
A film by Monty Wates

16 AUGUST
14:30
BREAKING CONVENTION
CINEMA

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR
MONTY WATES
&
A MEMBER OF THE TEAM FROM
IMPERIAL COLLEGE, WHERE THE FIRST
MEDICAL TRIAL OF PSILOCYBIN
WAS UNDERTAKEN

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SCREEN THE FILM
YOURSELF, PLEASE CONTACT
screenings@dartmouthfilms.com

"The best film about
depression I have ever seen"
DAVID NUTT

"I encourage you to watch this
film"
BRUCE PARRY

Breaking Convention Safer Spaces Policy

Introduction

Your first point of contact to access information or assistance is our volunteer team, who can be found in every area of the conference.

As a community, we aim to work to improve social inclusion, and equality wherever possible. This policy aims to help ensure that Breaking Convention's (BC) spaces are inclusive and are able to address the needs of various people.

It aims to do this by outlining some privileges and oppressions for attendees to consider during the weekend, to support awareness on these areas and set expectations.

Breaking Convention **does not** accept discrimination on any grounds which results in the oppression of any other group; this includes transphobia, racism, homophobia, sexism, ableism, oppression on the grounds of religion such as islamophobia, classism, and other forms of oppression.

We all experience varying and multiple privileges and oppressions, and have been the receivers (and exporters) of discrimination and/or oppressions at different degrees and at different moments of our lives. Acknowledging this, we believe, helps people to see often invisible power dynamics, learn from our mistakes and allows us to conduct ourselves more honourably day-to-day.

The belief that psychedelics can help people is a fundamental tenant that many in the BC community hold; it is also the cornerstone of the validity of psychedelic research itself. Because of this healing potential, psychedelic communities can be spaces which attract vulnerable and traumatised people.

We must ensure that healing communities are responding to that reality with informed procedures and practices so that these are safe spaces for all people.

We feel it is our duty at BC and as a community to respect all people and, if appropriate, to collectively address any problems that may arise in relation to the below areas:

Cultural Appropriation

Cultural appropriation often *"refers to a particular power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systematically oppressed by that dominant group"* (Johnson, 2015).

The BC community encourages us to value and respect indigenous knowledge and culture. Colonialism and neo-colonialism has completely affected and changed the world (and our environment). This history has created global inequalities and asks that we pay attention to that past's resulting power dynamics.

Colonialism is the system *"of establishing territorial dominion over a colony by an outside political power characterized by exploitation, expansion, and maintenance of that territory"* (Worldatlas, 2019), some examples include Britain's history of colonising places such as India, Hong Kong and Jamaica. Although individuals alive today did not start colonialism, we do benefit from it and perpetuate aspects of that history. For example, believing in Western beauty standards (such as the mainstreamed status that straight, blonde hair is afforded).

Indeed, even though psychedelics are a transnational phenomenon, much psychedelic literature is *"unaccountable to colonialism and the politics of location in a global capitalist system"* (Corbin, 2006, 245). We believe that by acknowledging these histories, white privilege, racism, and/or colonialism, we can better avoid cultural appropriation, racism; we can begin to decolonise spaces.

We at BC make efforts not to culturally appropriate in ways that are damaging to marginalised cultures. We advise people to give clear explanation of where and from whom certain cultural artefacts are from and to fully credit them. This extends to anything that might be culturally insensitive as a wardrobe choice, such as bhindis.

Race

It is well known and researched that psychedelic spaces have historically been (and continue to be) dominated by white people.

We support people and efforts which challenge this, and who make great efforts to try and make these spaces more inclusive. One way is by learning about concepts such as White Allyship or, even better, White Accomplices.

White Accomplices is where white peoples do active (rather than just verbal) work at supporting people from the Global Racial Majority (GRM). This might, in turn, help people from GRM communities feel more supported in spaces that can sometimes feel quite isolating and intimidating.

"The actions of an Accomplice are meant to directly challenge institutionalized racism, colonization, and White supremacy by blocking or impeding racist people, policies, and structures" (White Accomplices, 2019)

This kind of work would continue to challenge the whiteness of psychedelic spaces.

Remember: It is more the responsibility of those who are privileged (in this case, white people), rather than those who are marginalised, to work on anti-oppression. It is not the job of the marginalised to expend already depleted emotional energy on educating the most privileged on the ins and outs of racialised experience (this goes for each marginalised experience: trans, queer, etc).

Educate yourself and/or start a group to discuss positive action.

Mental Health

BC consists of people who have differing mental health (MH) experiences. Neurodivergence can be more likely in these spaces because of the close relationship between mental health, neurodivergence and psychedelics.

Neurodivergent: *"means having a brain that functions in ways that diverge significantly from the dominant societal standards of 'normal'"* (Walker, 2016).

Like other marginalised experiences, MH difficulties can often exist in parallel with other disadvantages and this can equate to multiple experiences of oppression.

There is a privilege attached to people who have never had mental health difficulties which might impact understanding on how MH affects others.

Mindfulness and sensitivity of the above is expected.

Physical Disability

BC is a space for all people, and has various means of adjusting according to people's disability. Please do get in touch in advance of the conference if you have concerns, or require any further adjustments that are beyond on the spot assistance mentioned below.

There are lifts to the upper floor of the conference, the floor numbers are marked on the lift buttons in braille; the conference rooms are all located on either the Ground Floor or Floor 3. Corridors are wide, and there is enough space for wheelchairs at the front of the lecture theatres.

The lecture theatres are equipped with a Hearing Loop system.

At the front row of each lecture theatre, priority seating is available if needed. The seats are signposted as "Please offer your seat to anyone in need". Remember, not all disabilities are visible.

If you feel someone might need some physical assistance, please ask them before trying to help (pushing their wheelchair, touching them in any way, etc). Consent is, as always, centrally important.

SAFER SPACES POLICY

There will be a quiet space for those who have sensory processing issues which also acts as a rest area for the fatigued. Please ask at reception. Sugary drinks are available in the café in the Dreadnought building, or if it is an emergency (e.g. diabetics, epileptics) ask a member of our volunteer team.

We hope to build upon our resources to help improve accessibility, with better practical assistance; do let us know if there are any materials or practices you think we can improve.

Message us, post a note into the suggestion box in the reception area, or talk with any of our receptionists if you would like them to make a note of your ideas.

Classism & Elitism

Often, conferences are tailored towards the middle classes. BC makes efforts to include people from all backgrounds, and has varying prices/volunteering opportunities for those who cannot afford the full price tickets. We aim to present the conference as a welcoming, friendly space. We use people's names on the printed badge without titles (Ms, Dr, etc), as this helps remove hierarchical impressions, and emphasises the presence of each and every delegate as a person first and foremost.

Delegates: *A person sent, or authorized to represent, others; in particular an elected representative sent to a conference. Generally used to refer to **all** those attending a conference.*

Elitist language can make people feel isolated, as this might be used by those who, for example, have benefitted from a university education, an experience attached to a lot of privilege. Explaining and defining certain concepts, theories and words in presentations (and in general conversation) helps to encourage inclusive information-sharing. If practical (see below), we suggest you challenge people to define potentially unfamiliar terms they might be using; even if you know them, others may not have encountered them before.

As an example, one older, seasoned psychonaut (a person who is very familiar with extraordinary states of consciousness) did not know what 'entheogen' meant. When it was explained to her as 'a substance which creates a feeling of the divine within the taker', she threw up her hands in delight and exclaimed; "Oh, so they meant drugs!"

However, it should be remembered that this is an academic conference and the speakers must sometimes use specific terms; interrupting speakers mid-flow is not polite. We urge anyone who wishes to explore the strange languages of academic disciplines e.g. neurobiology, to watch the filmed talks online later in the year, if they enjoy researching technical words (all talks are filmed, and once edited appear on the Breaking Convention YouTube channel).

Trans and Queer Inclusivity

BC is inclusive of all identities, and is a queer and trans friendly space. We do not accept transphobia and/or homophobia. Queer was "*Originally a derogatory slur...It has since been reclaimed by many members of the LGBT community as a self-affirming self-descriptive umbrella term.*" (PinkNews, 2019). We use 'queer' as this positive affirming umbrella term for the LGBTQ+ community.

If you are not sure about someone's pronoun and you can't check with them, it is best to refer to them as 'they' as it is neutral and doesn't misgender people. If someone has made their preferred pronoun known, stick to it. If you accidentally misgender someone, it is best to apologise without making a big deal out of it, correct yourself and move on.

If you really can't remember someone's pronoun after they have given it to you, the advised practice is to just refer to their name instead of a pronoun instead.

There are often conversations around the 'Divine Feminine' and the 'Divine Masculine' in spiritual and psychedelic spaces (which often, but not always, also assumes heterosexuality). This can be inclusive if we remember and acknowledge trans, queer and non-binary experience within these concepts and conversations. Indeed, binary gender (and homophobia) is a very Western-centric thing that has often been transported to other places and cultures.

SAFER SPACES POLICY

'For many of us, we come from cultures that have been colonized and exploited by European settlers. These settlers were only able to get that power by devaluing our own religions and values and instead elevating Christianity; introducing homophobia and binarism into cultures that once celebrated sexuality.' (Ramsawakh, 2017).

Consent

Sex positivity is often a part of New Age spiritual spaces and psychedelic communities. Unfortunately, historically these spaces have still been sexist and damaging to vulnerable people.

They are not absent from patriarchal and systemic inequality, and this is common in countercultural groups (Conway, 2011). All the more reason to stress that sex positivity also means making safe spaces for people who do not want to have to engage with sexualised behaviours, conversations and so forth.

At BC (including during the evening entertainments), we consider awareness on the following and their influence on consent: substances (including alcohol), social capital & status, assumptions around relationship styles such as polyamory and different identities such as race, gender, disability etc.

Bullying / harassing behaviour includes '*unwelcome sexual advances—touching, standing too close, the display of offensive materials, making decisions on the basis of sexual advances being accepted or rejected*'.

If an incident around consent happens, please inform one of the organisers and the appropriate next steps will be taken.

We have a quiet area where any delegate who is in need of refuge can recover from any incidents which may have caused them distress. Please ask at the Reception desk.

Climate Damage

We are all aware of the now global emergency of climate change. It is also becoming common knowledge how those from most marginalised experiences are also most impacted by climate damage.

Here at BC, we recommend that attendees are as aware of their impact to the environment as much as possible. We recommend that you bring reusable cups for hot drinks and reusable bottles for water. Disposable cups are supplied at the water coolers, for those who are unable to carry a heavy bottle around with them.

We have made sure to source as many materials as possible that we use from ecologically aware and ethical companies, full details are on our website. We will be funding tree planting to offset the carbon from the travel and other energy uses of this conference, an imperfect but practical move.

Psychedelics

Consent is also important with regards to substances themselves. It's important not to assume someone's drug history. They might, for example, be only interested in the philosophies that psychedelics interact with. PsyCare UK, a Welfare and Harm Reduction service, will have a stall at the 2019 conference, and also be offering assistance to anyone in need in a dedicated safe space.

Crediting

Credit other's exhibition, art, PowerPoint and so forth, as it's important for copyright and moral reasons to give accurate recognition of people's work.

Conclusion

Excluding people on the basis of social disadvantage—overtly or covertly—is discrimination and will not be tolerated at BC.

Be thoughtful and be kind to yourselves, and one another.

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MARY COSIMANO, MSW
 Center Faculty

For information contact:
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jphelps@ciis.edu
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California Institute of Integral Studies
 1453 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Transport

There is transport information available on the website: (<http://www.breakingconvention.co.uk/location/>). Further information is available from (www.tfl.gov.uk).

On-Site Accommodation

Those of you who have purchased accommodation will be staying in the Daniel Defoe Hall, location a short walk from the conference site (1/2 mile). The address is 10 Lovibond Lane, London SE10 9FY (located near the corner of Waller Way and Greenwich High Road next to the Greenwich DLR station).

From outside the conference centre, the 177 bus towards Peckham Bus Station departs every 12 minutes from Romney Road (National Maritime Museum, Stop G). The third stop (Greenwich Station, Stop P) will drop you off about 100m from Daniel Defoe Hall.

Catering

Regrettably, there are no refreshments (besides water) provided by Breaking Convention, although (at long last) there is now a café open on campus during the event located inside the south entrance of the Dreadnought building, shown on the map. Many good places to eat locally are listed here: (www.visitgreenwich.org.uk/eating-and-drinking-in-greenwich).

If you are a tea or coffee addict, like several of us on the committee, you might consider bringing a flask of the black stuff to keep your blood-caffeine levels high, or be prepared for a short stroll to get your fix.

For vegans and vegetarians, try: Greenlands Wholefoods Unit, 3A, Greenwich Market, SE10 9HZ, or Royal Teas Cafe, 76 Royal Hill, Greenwich, SE10, 8RT.

Workshops

If you are doing one of the workshops, please consider bringing a blanket or yoga mat as the carpeted floor is not so comfortable.

Etiquette

Please enter lecture halls on time or silently from the back if you are coming in late. Police yourselves and remember that there are lots of journalists at the event, so you are representing the psychedelic research community. Filming is not permitted in King William Court building without BC official permission.

Things To Do

All delegates have full free access to the evening entertainments!
Take a ferry down the Thames for lunch (bring your sandwiches) on Saturday lunchtime. Ferries leave regularly and you can get to Westminster and back in two hours for about £15.
Head for the centre of time at the Observatory & Planetarium up the hill, visit the Queen's House, the Cutty Sark ship, or the Maritime Museum (www.rmg.co.uk).

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BREAKING CONVENTION



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