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University of Kent

Founded in 1965, The University of Kent is known for world-class research, excellent teaching and an inspiring student experience with international links across the globe. Known as 'The UK's European University', Kent also has campuses in Brussels and Paris. The Canterbury campus is built on 450 acres of parkland and is less than 30 minutes' walk from Canterbury city centre. Residential, teaching and administrative buildings are surrounded by green open spaces, fields and woods.

School of Anthropology and Conservation:

Covering the spectrum of anthropology from the social and cultural to the biological, and taking in visual anthropology, computational methods, ethnobiology, environmental anthropology, primatology, and conservation and ecology along the way, the School of Anthropology and Conservation at Kent is a most exciting place in which to learn and conduct research. This stimulating intellectual climate is matched by excellent facilities for both teaching and research. A number of academic staff within the School have research and teaching interests related to shamanism, psychedelic consciousness and rational drug policies. Recent publications and projects address the therapeutic use of cannabis, the role of psychedelics in human creativity and innovation and ayahuasca tourism.





The UKC Psychedelics Society hosts lectures from a diverse and multidisciplinary collection of speakers including anthropologists, musicians, psychiatrists, criminologists, neuropharmacologists, authors, psychologists, artists, researchers, and ethnobotanists. All presentations are free to attend and open to all, whatever their backgrounds, ideologies and educations. It is not a society that promotes drug use, only a society that promotes learning, for it is no more than a forum for discussion and academic presentation. The Open Lecture series has so far included twenty-two academic lectures, and five visionary art classes or film screenings. I believe that one does not need to have a sympathetic disposition to the use of psychedelics to find interest in many of the lectures that the society hosts. Indeed, psychedelics seem to play the same role in the society as they do in the experiences of their users – they are catalytic aides to the art of discovery. One needs no interest in mysterious botanicals and bottled crystals to appreciate a discussion on the philosophy of personal experience and reality, nor is there a prerequisite other than an interest in human biochemistry to attend a lecture on neuropharmacology. If you value the work of a psychedelically-inspired artist who visits the University of Kent, there is of course no obligation to be psychedelically-inspired yourself. I think that it is important that the society attracts interest from a greater demographic than purely the 'psycho-nautical' community.

People often ask if it was difficult to set the society up and whether we received much opposition. The answer that we experienced virtually no problems at all often surprises people. I would encourage you, if you are a student in a similar position to me, to consider setting up a society at your school or University. I found very little resistance when I presented the society as an academic, lecture-providing group. You may well find more antagonism if you try to actively promote anything illegal, and I would advise strongly against doing so. The tide of public opinion on this subject may be changing and these small groups are extremely important, even if they don't appear so. If you want to make a difference and support the wonderful work that associations such as MAPS and the Beckley Foundation are doing, it might be easier than you think.

The founding committee of the society are Jacob Brant, a philosophy student; Oli Genn-Bash, a politics student; and myself, Dave King, a student of medical anthropology. We have had much support from the anthropology department, especially from Anna Waldstein and Cameron Adams. We are also indebted to the administrative team at Darwin College, where we hold our lectures, particularly to Ann Wood and Nancy Gaffield. Our logo is a representation of the peyote cactus.

David King

Presenter Abstracts

Cameron Adams

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 10:20-10:40

Preliminary Findings of an Anthropological Investigation of Psychedelic Healing.

It is a common phenomenon for users of psychedelics to refer to these substances as medicines, or to their use as healing. This perspective has gained support through studies into the therapeutic efficacy of certain psychedelics in a variety of clinical contexts. Although remarkable, these clinical studies do not generally explore the broad spectrum of subjective experiences reported by people using psychedelics as medicines. This paper presents some initial findings of an ethnographic study into user experiences of psychedelic medicine and healing which will augment the clinical approach and suggest future avenues of study.

Caspar Addyman

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 10:20-10:40

YourBrainOnDrugs.Net - A Smartphone Research Platform for Studying the Cognitive and Emotional Impact of Everyday Drug Use.

YourBrainOnDrugs.net is a website and a smartphone application that links psychological and sociological researchers directly with ordinary users. The aim is to link researchers to large numbers of participants and provide them with real-time feedback on how the drugs they take affect their cognitive function and emotional state. Small datasets and low ecological validity are addressed by bringing the laboratory directly to thousands of users wherever and in whatever state the user is in. We want to give the public instant, honest feedback, giving them new ways of telling how drink and drugs affect memory, mood, coordination and more. This project aims to empower drug users with personalised data about the real effects of drugs on our daily lives.

Brian Anderson

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 12:30-12:50

Ayahuasca as Anti-depressant?

This presentation will qualitatively examine the socio-cultural processes at work when ayahuasca, a substance that is used to treat several diseases by means of producing a modified state of consciousness, is translated from a context of folk medicinal and religious use to that of conventional psychiatric research. In particular, an analysis will be made of how understandings of ayahuasca (i.e. what is it, how does it work, and why?) are created and employed in the technical literature on, and the discourse of researchers studying, the therapeutic potential of ayahuasca for depression. These cultural representations are differentially informed by various folk uses of ayahuasca, and they themselves are likely to contribute to divergent experimental and therapeutic rituals within conventional psychiatry to structure its uses of ayahuasca. This presentation is the result of an on-going research project for a MSc in Biomedicine, Bioscience & Society, at the London School of Economics.

Alexander Beiner

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 16:30-16:50

The Panoptic-Demiurgic Model: Incorporating the Mystical Experience into Modern Politics.

The paper/talk will introduce a model of power relationships I have termed the 'Panoptic-Demiurgic Model'. Drawing on and comparing the work of Michael Foucault and Steven Lukes, I will attempt to put forth a model of power relationships which incorporates the mystical experience. The model draws on the content of the Nag Hammadi Scrolls ('Gnostic' Gospels) as interpreted by John Lamb Lash and possible correlations between Gnostic cosmology and Jungian psychology. These two models of power (panoptic and demiurgic) are compared and I suggest that they are both describing the same type of projection (as defined by Jung). Ultimately the model will be put forth as a way to examine the power relationship between the user of psychedelic drugs and the 'dominator culture'.

Joseph Bicknell

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 12:10-12:30

Cognitive Phenomenology of the Psychedelic Experience.

Psychedelic phenomenology investigates the phenomenal content of psychedelic tripping, and the cognitive mechanisms that underlie the process of psychedelic mental transformation. The core concept behind an understanding of psychedelic phenomenology is that of cognitive 'hyperreflexivity'. During psychedelic experiencing, consciousness is disconnected from external reality to some extent, and is focused inwards (reflexively) towards subjectivity itself. This intensely inwardly oriented perspective that is revealed by the psychedelic trip experience opens up the possibility for drastic reorganisation of psychological structures and profound re-conception of basic frameworks of beliefs.

Merjin de Boer

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 12:50-13:10

Practical Consciousness Evolution.

Psychedelic consciousness applies pressure to power structures by highlighting the organic unity of reality and dissolving ego. I argue that the ego is the primary disease of this unitary body which will be healed, following Foucault, by caring for the self through objective knowledge. This knowledge presents itself through comparative study of religion with a special focus on Shamanism, Eastern traditions and Ancient Greek culture. By realizing that the way we live is only one of many possibilities, our capacities and imagination should point us towards a world that would be less self-destructive and definitely more fun for everybody!

Presenter Abstracts

Petra Bokor

Room F, Sunday 3rd April 10:40-11:00

One Year Follow Up of the Integration Process of a Series of Ayahuasca Experiences.

A one-year-long research aiming to track and analyze the integration process of a series of ayahuasca rituals was carried out in Hungary in 2009-2010. During the research thirteen individuals with relatively high level of self-knowledge and genuine self-exploratory orientation were interviewed straight after the rituals as well as on average every 8 weeks during the follow-up period. The data was analyzed by Theme-Analysis (T-A), a mixed method combining qualitative and quantitative components, allowing for the assessment of therapeutic change. The results not only demonstrate therapeutic effect but including further findings such as psychospiritual growth.

Robin Carhart-Harris

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 11:30-11:50

Using fMRI to Investigate the Effects of Psilocybin on Brain Function.

This talk will describe the latest results of two functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) studies involving the intravenous administration of psilocybin to healthy volunteers.

Ivan Casselman

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 11:50-12:10

Is Legislative Change Based on Science? Ethnobotanical, Genomic and Phytotherapeutic Approach to "Illicit" Substances.

With the recent rise in popularity of "legal highs" and the global proliferation of these products, governments have begun to react to these new botanical and chemical products with new legislation. While it is important to control the quality, manufacture and trade of botanical products intended for human consumption, these very general and imprecise laws go far beyond this. Not only do these new laws have the potential to criminalize amateur botanical enthusiasts but may also impede many avenues of plant science research and the development of phytotherapeutics. The implications of these legislative changes will have far reaching effects. With special focus on *Salvia divinorum* this paper will outline proposed legislative change in Australia and use this to explain the wider social and environmental impact that these laws can have, specifically on the development of plant based medicines, cultural and commercial uses of plants and cognitive freedom.

Caroline Chatwin

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 12:10-12:30

Subcultures and Mainstreaming in the Psychedelic Trance Scene.

This presentation focuses on the findings from a small-scale pilot project with participants in the psy-trance scene between 2008 and 2009. The aims of the study were twofold: to explore subcultural/mainstream elements of the psy-trance scene and their relevance to explanations for young people's drug taking behaviours and; to compare drug taking and party behaviours within underground and mainstream subdivisions of the psy-trance scene. Preliminary findings in these areas are discussed.

Jon Cole

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 17:30-19:00

Introduction to MDMA Debate.

Jon Cole is a psychopharmacologist who has been working on controlled drugs for the past twenty years. He is currently working extensively in the criminal justice and social policy areas. A natural born sceptic he remains unconvinced of the purported harms of MDMA use but is also unconvinced that MDMA use is 'safe'.

Mike Crowley

Room E, Saturday 2nd April, 15:50-16:10

Stoned Peacocks and Blue-throated Gods.

The role of the peacock in Indian myth, folklore and iconography is examined. Linguistic and historical evidence is employed to argue that many references to "peacocks" are, in fact, allusions to blue-staining *Psilocybe* spp. It is also demonstrated that this symbol was carried over from Hinduism into Vajrayana (i.e. "tantric") Buddhism.

Liam Cummings

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 15:30-15:50

Are Ayahuasca Induced Altered States Transferable Using Brain Wave and Sound Recordings?

This paper describes a project, the first phase of which compares the neural correlates of deep meditation and an altered state of consciousness due to the consumption of ayahuasca using electroencephalography (EEG). The second phase of the project involves the conversion of the EEG recording into an EDF sound recording. This sound is then mixed with music and assessed by subjects who have used ayahuasca and by subjects who have experienced of meditative states. I hypothesise that subjects will reach an altered state of consciousness similar to those reached by consuming ayahuasca. The third phase of the project is the assessment of the effects of listening to these sound tracks by subjects who are in rehabilitation for alcohol and other substance abuse.

Presenter Abstracts

Val Curran

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 17:30-19:00

Introduction to MDMA Debate.

Val Curran has carried out research on the acute, residual and long-term effects of MDMA ('ecstasy') as well as a wide range of other psychotropics. Her MDMA research has focussed on the drug's effects on cognition and mood and includes both behavioural and neuroimaging (PET) studies. She has also written about the methodological complexities of research in the field, people's reasons for stopping drug use and changes after abstinence.

Ram Dass

Woolf Lecture Hall, Friday 1st April, 21:30-22:00

Psychedelics for Mysticism.

In the days before Baba Ram Dass developed an interest in psychedelic drugs, he was known as Dr. Richard Alpert - a social psychologist teaching at Harvard University. It was here that he worked with Timothy Leary, conducting studies on the effects of psychedelics on human volunteers. Later, Ram Dass traveled to India and, finding an affinity with Hindu Spirituality, adopted his new name. It was in India that Ram Dass met the Hindu guru, Neem Karoli Baba. Ram Dass will talk about his transition from social psychology to Hindu spirituality, and will discuss the importance that psychedelics had in regards to his changes in ideology.

Paul Devereux

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 09:30-10:00

Psychedelia and Sacred Places.

Paul Devereux will give us a richly illustrated overview of the prehistoric conjunctions between the employment of altered states of consciousness and sacred places and monuments. This lightning tour will include the pre-Columbian Americas, Stone Age Europe, and possibly elsewhere worldwide. The presentation will show how humanity has always sought psychedelic states of mind.

Robert Dickins

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 15:30-15:50

The Rise and Fall of Psychedelic Literature.

During the 1950s and 1960s research into the psychotherapeutic value of the hallucinogenic drug d-lysergic acid (LSD) went through a dramatic rise and fall. This is evidenced in the appearance and disappearance of autobiographical, case study texts from between 1957 – 1965. Drug literature became dominated by both the form and content of psychotherapy models and the visionary motifs became contextualised according to, among others, Freudian and Jungian readings. This presentation aims at delivering two objectives. Firstly, at creating a literary cartography that maps the proliferation of texts according to the various LSD psychotherapy methodologies that gave rise to them. And secondly, it aims at elucidating how the theoretical models are utilised as literary motifs within the texts.

Danny Diskin

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 12:50-13:10

Ayahuasca and the Vines of British Politics.

The Santo Daime Church, which uses ayahuasca as its sacrament, operated discretely but freely in the UK until 2010, when the authorities began seizing ayahuasca and arresting members. In Brazil, extensive scientific investigations commissioned by the state resulted in the ayahuasca religions winning their freedom, but there are signs that the media carries more weight than scientific opinion in UK. This presentation compares the responses of the respective governments to the religious use of ayahuasca, exploring how cultural values, media reports, and issues of religious freedom come together to shape policy in these two countries.

Rick Doblin

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 17:30-19:00

Introduction to MDMA Debate.

Promising evidence has been generated by MAPS-sponsored Phase 2 pilot studies in the US and Switzerland into the use of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy in subjects with chronic, treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These studies justify an expanding set of international pilot studies addressing key methodological issues such as refinement of our treatment method and adherence criteria, effectiveness of the double-blind, magnitude and variance of the treatment effect, possible cultural differences, and inter-rater reliability of the independent raters administering the primary outcome variable, the Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS). Data-driven speculations on the design elements of the future Phase 3 studies will be offered, along with a timeline for MAPS to develop MDMA-assisted psychotherapy into an FDA/EMA-approved treatment.

Presenter Abstracts

Rick Doblin

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 18:00-18:30

Psychedelics and the Future United Religions: Building a Global Spirituality.

Transforming psychedelics into accepted prescription medicines is but one of a range of potentially beneficial ways that psychedelics can be integrated into our culture. Psychedelics can be mainstreamed in such a way as to enhance spirituality, consciousness and brain science research, creativity, rites of passage, celebration and recreation. Psychedelic centers, like hospice centers, will take about 10 years to manifest, then 30 more years to be fully integrated into Western culture with thousands of centers around the world. I'll focus on what is perhaps psychedelics' most important emerging role within traditional religious contexts, leading to a global mysticism renaissance at the core of a new international organization, United Religions, similar but more essential and experiential than the United Nations.

Henry Dosedla

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 15:50-16:10

Mushrooms and Masalai - Madness in Melanesia.

Ethnobotanical fieldwork among New Guinean highland tribes in the seventies focussed upon a number of botanical substances, including fungi, which played an important part within local medical and shamanistic traditions and mythology. The regular ritual use of mushrooms induced a collective state of intoxication while the use of various herbal drugs was practiced individually as well. However, the introduction of non-traditional plant species has disrupted spiritual practice. Yet, there is a significant tradition of "obsession by masalai (spirits)" not caused by drugs but by ritual practice which may be of revealing importance in this context.

Amanda Feilding

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 12:30-13:00

A New Convention.

The war on drugs has failed. On the 50th Anniversary of the 1961 UN Convention, which lies at the root of the prohibitionist approach, it is time for a change. The Beckley Foundation has commissioned a new Draft Convention for all Illegal Drugs. Signatory countries would have the freedom to decriminalise personal use of such drugs as they chose, and to allow a regulated market within their own borders for drugs such as cannabis. A health-orientated, evidence-based approach to the regulation of drugs, including psychedelics, would be a welcomed approach to breaking the stalemate. No other major problem in the world can be ameliorated so effectively by a different mindset as the problems caused by the misuse of drugs and the policies that control them.

Amanda Feilding

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 15:05-15:30

Evolving Consciousness.

Amanda Feilding set up the Beckley Foundation in 1998 with the purpose of investigating how psychoactive substances work, why people use them, what are their potential benefits, and what is the best way for society to regulate and integrate their inevitable presence... The Beckley Foundation has built up a collaborative network with leading scientists around the world, with whom she works on a wide range of projects. In this talk, Amanda will discuss some of the Beckley's recent scientific studies, including: the first ever FMRI study to assess how psilocybin affects cerebral blood flow, which is shedding new light on how the psychedelic experience is elicited in the human brain; a ground-breaking pilot study into the use of psilocybin as an aid in the treatment of resistant addiction; research into the physiological effects of THC and the therapeutic potential of CBD; the effects of cannabis use on creativity; and investigating the efficacy of cannabis for medical uses.

Friederike Meckel Fischer

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 12:50-13:10

LSD and MDMA Assisted Psychotherapy.

Psychedelic substances have unique qualities that have been used for thousands of years by archaic and non-Western cultures for psycho-spiritual healing; an informal form of psychotherapy. In the 1950s and 60s these substances were briefly researched by contemporary psychiatry following the discovery of LSD in 1943. Despite the hiatus of clinical research since the 60s there have been some small pockets of continued underground use of psychedelics for psychotherapy. This talk describes one such project delivering individual and group psycholytic therapy that ran for many years in Switzerland, beginning with single sessions in 1998. Small groups were gradually set up and by 2004 regular monthly groups were attended by 12-16 people. Almost 100 clients benefitted from LSD and MDMA-assisted psychotherapy delivered by Friederike and her husband. The project came to an end when the main therapist and her husband were arrested, put on trial and sentenced. The therapist was Dr Friederike Meckel Fischer and her husband is Dr. Konrad Fischer.

Presenter Abstracts

Robert Forte

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 15:50-16:10

The Psychedelic Movement and American Fascism.

We are witnessing a renaissance of government-approved psychedelic research, and mainstream media is now recognizing some of the therapeutic applications of psychedelics. In many of these press releases we read about the “mistakes of the 60s” and particularly of the excesses of Timothy Leary. This presentation examines the historical context of Leary’s exuberant popularising of psychedelics and the reasons he did so. We will also look critically at the modern renaissance. Has a psychedelic movement really advanced when our political system has become authoritarian and lacking an effective anti war movement?

Tom Froese

Room E, Saturday 2nd April, 15:10-15:30

Altered States of Cognitive Science: What can Non-ordinary Consciousness Tell us About the Origin of Symbolic Thought?

There is growing interest in cognitive science to understand the conscious mind in terms of the living-experiencing body, and as co-constituted by biological and socio-cultural factors. One major outstanding issue is to explain the origin of symbolic thought, which is a defining form of human cognition. The first archeological evidence of symbolic thought is found in pre-historic ‘rock art’ (e.g. rock and cave paintings). Given the likelihood that non-ordinary states of mind played a fundamental role in the production of this art, we can ask: what was the role of altered states of consciousness in the origin of symbolic thought?

Nick Giagnoni

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 16:10-16:30

A Brief History of Shamanic Mushroom Use.

15-20m powerpoint presentation. Excitingly visual, documenting shamanic mushroom use throughout siberia, central Mexico, and various places of the world. Includes short audio and video clips of Maria Sabina, Terence McKenna and others.

Neal Goldsmith

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 15:10-15:40

Introduction to the History of Psychedelic Therapy.

In this talk, we will explore the many still-unanswered methodological and theoretical questions in psychedelic research and practice, such as: What are the tribal and shamanic lessons for contemporary psychedelic therapy? Might psychedelics actually slow development at times, by making it easier to avoid the hard work of daily spiritual practices, or can psychedelics eliminate the need for “hard work”? Can psychedelics provide sustainable therapeutic change? Are psychedelics a medicine or a sacrament? Can psychedelics induce real spirituality? How will we train a new generation of psychedelic researchers and therapists? Should psilocybin, MDMA, ibogaine, or marijuana be rescheduled first? How regulated should the use of psychedelics be? How will psychedelics be integrated into medicine, science, and society – and how might that change the world?

Jonas Di Gregorio

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 10:00-10:20

Universal Care: Providing Psychedelic Crisis Management at Festivals in Europe.

Universal Care is a not for profit organization that offers several services to festival organizers. The main goal is to create chill-out areas and safe and comfortable spaces where people facing difficult psychedelic experiences can receive psychological support and counseling. Our intention is to minimize the possible risks related with drug use and to maximise the potential benefits. Other services we provide are: 1. the creation of a library spot with English books about psychoactive substances, shamanism, transpersonal psychology, holistic therapies and other topics; 2. the organization of documentary screenings about entheogens, psychedelic culture, social activism and environment; and 3. the preparation of a visionary art exhibition with paintings from all over the world. The Universal Care team includes psychologists, psychotherapists, harm-reduction professionals, drug experts and people with experience in festival organization.

Roland Griffiths

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 16:40-17:10

Experimental Studies of Psilocybin-Occasioned Mystical-Type Experience: Findings and Implications.

Two recent double-blind studies showed that under controlled conditions psilocybin can occasion profound personally and spiritually meaningful experiences (i.e., mystical-type effects) in the majority of healthy participants. The experiences mediate sustained positive changes in behavior and attitudes. As assessed with questionnaires, most volunteers had a “complete” mystical-type experience after a high dose of psilocybin, although more than a third of volunteers indicated they experienced fear, anxiety, or unpleasant psychological struggle sometime during the session. Overall, the finding that psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experiences having sustained personal meaning and spiritual significance in most people studied indicates that such experiences and the changes they produce are now amenable to rigorous prospective scientific study. An exciting direction for future research is examining possible therapeutic benefits of incorporating such experiences in the treatment of challenging psychological and behavioral disorders. One ongoing therapeutic study is investigating psilocybin-facilitated treatment of anxiety and depression in cancer patients. Another ongoing pilot study is investigating psilocybin-facilitated treatment of cigarette smoking cessation.

Presenter Abstracts

Stan Grof

Room E (via Skype), Saturday 2nd April, 18:00-18:30

Psychology of the Future: Lessons from Modern Consciousness Research.

In the last five decades, psychedelic therapy and other avenues of modern consciousness research have revealed a rich array of "anomalous" phenomena that have undermined some of the most basic assumptions of modern psychiatry, psychology, and psychotherapy concerning consciousness and the human psyche in health and disease. Many of these observations are so radical that they question the basic philosophical assumptions of materialistic science. I will briefly review these remarkable data and explore the most important major revisions that would have to be made in our understanding of consciousness, of the human psyche, and of the nature of reality to respond to these conceptual challenges.

Graham Hancock

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 16:00-16:30

Transpersonal Experiences, Psychedelics and an Enquiry into the Nature of Reality.

There is compelling evidence that humans in non-ordinary states of consciousness induced by psychedelic drugs have experienced essentially the same visionary realms, phenomena and entities for tens of thousands of years. Graham Hancock follows the clues from the painted caves and rock shelters of the Stone Age to the latest scientific research and asks whether such long-sustained "transpersonal experiences" can any longer be reasonably described by the loaded term "hallucinations". Perhaps, instead, it is time for us to reconsider our definition of "reality".

Halvard Hårklau

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 11:30-11:50

A Survey of Different Paradigmatic Points of View Regarding Psychotropic Substances and the Understanding of Therapy and the Mind: An Integral Approach.

The current understanding of psychotropic substances is dominated by the Western biomedical model, where such substances are potential medical drugs or drugs of abuse, the mind is an epiphenomenon, and therapy is largely drug-oriented. The psycholytic school, however, emerged within a psychodynamic paradigm. A survey of different paradigmatic points of view regarding psychotropic substances and the understanding of therapy and the mind: An integral approach. digm, utilizing psychedelic substances as therapeutic tools rather than medical drugs. Psychedelic therapy was influenced by theories derived from the religious sphere, and this was justified by many experienced perceived to be of a spiritual nature. Psychedelics can here be considered catalysts for inner transformation. These models can be compared to an animistic paradigm and the use of entheogens within indigenous cultures.

Jonathan Hobbs

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 15:30-15:50

Drop Acid not Bombs: Psychedelic Weapons at Porton Down.

Although histories of chemical weapons research often gloss over psychedelic agents, psychedelics became a significant part of the UK's chemical warfare programme at Porton Down during the Cold War. This paper uncovers the way in which historical changes in public and professional conceptions of psychedelics affected their military adoption and challenges the modern notion of psychedelics as dangerous mind-bending drugs. This paper covers the history of psychedelics at Porton which includes over a hundred human trials and three large-scale field exercises. A close study of previously-classified technical reports, memoranda and minutes of secret Government meetings provides a fascinating insight to the context in which psychedelic agents emerged at Porton.

Arfan Iqbal

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 17:20-17:40

The Spiritual Use of Drugs in Contemporary Western Society.

Despite the large amount of research on the spiritual use of entheogens within indigenous shamanic societies, the spiritual use of such substances within the contemporary Western context is not well understood. I interviewed ten individuals who have reported spiritual experiences with entheogens to find out the meaning of and experiences with entheogens and how these substances have affected their greater lives. Findings include the unity of spiritual experiences between entheogen users and adherents of orthodox religions, the stigma faced by entheogenic users and the role of the internet in communication about and the procurement of entheogenic substances.

Kilindi Iyi

Room E, Saturday 2nd April, 16:10-16:30

High Dose Towards an Organic Singularity.

This talk will explore the question of whether or not the high dose tryptamine hallucinogens can access the genetic code in real time. The inter-dimensional village will also be introduced and it's relationship to the African fractal village. As the primary focus of psychedelics for the past 60 years has been on so called new world plants we will also introduce African traditional use of mushrooms and other plants of power utilized by the sorcerers of Africa.

Presenter Abstracts

Mike Jay

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 10:00-10:30

Early Western Encounters with Psychedelics.

Modern scientific and philosophical engagement with psychedelics dates back to the discovery of nitrous oxide by Humphry Davy and his associates in 1799, which ushered in a century of pioneering experiments with hashish, peyote and mescaline. Who were these early psychonauts, and what were the frameworks within which they understood the psychedelic experience?

Nikolas Karalis

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 15:10-15:30

Short Term Effects of Himalayan Tradition Meditation in a Multi Subject SSVEP Study.

Himalayan Tradition Yoga is a meditation technique including both mental and physical exercises. In this study a Steady-State Visual Evoked Potential (SSVEP) experiment was performed during meditation and control states. Data of 10 meditators and 10 control states were analyzed and the difference in power activation as well as scalp topography maps between the two states, were studied. We conclude that there is a possible alteration of the sensory processing during and shortly after practicing meditation. Studies including meditators can be an important factor in understanding the brain's attentional functions and help improve the quality of the clinical Brain Computer Interface applications.

Marianne Kaspersen

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 11:50-12:10

The Healing Potential of Holotropic Mind-states Induced by Psychotropic Substances.

The western understanding of psychotropic substance uses is dominated by a biomedical view, emphasizing a drug-oriented perspective. An integrative model may, however, offer a more differentiated and varied picture of such usage. Through emphasis on the interaction between set, setting and substance, different modes of usage emerge. An integrative model may reveal that certain forms of usage to a greater extent may lead to pitfalls, while other forms of usage may increase the healing potential. An integrative model preserves a drug perspective while at the same time opens to shamanic, therapeutic, spiritual, and religious perspectives. Such an overview may have both therapeutic and legal implications.

Axel Klein,

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 10:00-10:20

Everybody is a Poly (Substance User).

The notion of poly substance use emerged in the drugs field literature during the 1990s. At the time it was regarded as outlining a new phenomenon, associated with new risks. This very presentation of drug using behaviour signalled more about the treatment field and its disposition towards different substances – legal drugs were not recognised as ‘drugs’ – and the array of treatment modalities it had on offer. In effect most conventional substance use involves a range of ‘drugs’. Their combination tells us much about underlying desire for achieving certain states, the obvious contrast to normality and socially sanctioned mental states, which this paper will explore.

Reka Komaromi & Ras Binghi Congo-Nyah

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 10:40-11:00

Meditation and Healing with The Herb: A step-by-step cultivation of Consciousness.

How are consciousness and healing defined and experienced in the Rastafari way of life and what is the role of ‘ganja’ (Cannabis sativa) as a sacred plant and a tool for the precise science of the cultivation and maintenance of this ‘High’ or ‘Health-Consciousness’? In a joint presentation, Reka Komaromi from the University of Kent and Ras Binghi Ausares Congo-Nyah, ombudsman of The London Rastafari community explore the connections between cross-cultural mythologies of Cannabis and the omnipresent interconnectedness of The Rastafari with the herb and meditation, as well as therapeutic aspects. They address the points of Cannabis cultivation, particular breathing and smoking techniques and the step-by-step process of attaining a state of higher consciousness in which meditation, communication, visualisation and healing take place.

Evgeny Krupitsky

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 16:10-16:40

Ketamine Psychotherapy For Heroin Addiction: Immediate Effects and Two-Year Follow-up.

This paper describes a double blind study of 70 detoxified heroin-addicted patients randomly assigned to treatment groups. Half the heroin addicts received ketamine psychotherapy (KPT) group, receiving a “psychedelic” dose of ketamine (2.0 mg/kg i.m.), and the remaining joined the control therapy group, receiving the same treatment and a very low non-psychedelic dose of ketamine (0.2 mg/kg i.m.). The results of this double blind randomised control study are discussed.

Presenter Abstracts

Jacqueline Kurio

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 15:50-16:10

Death and the Maiden - My Journey Into the Life of the Late Robert Lenkiewicz.

In response to a dream I experienced in early 2005 and as part of my Creative Writing M.A., I wrote a metaphysical biography on the late British artist Robert Lenkiewicz. This talk will explain my methodology and present some of the more remarkable results I achieved. The conclusions I was able to draw, forming as they do the culmination of over 15 years of personal investigation into psychedelics, will illustrate how these tools may be applied to help us consciously create our lives, develop our senses and heighten our awareness, enabling us to 'tune in' to the various subtle energies that surround us.

Bia Labate (cand.) and Kevin Feeney

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 10:20-10:40

Ayahuasca and the Process of Regulation in Brazil: National and International Implications and Challenges.

Over the past twenty years the Brazilian ayahuasca religions have established a global presence; as a result, many nations are faced with the predicament of balancing the interests of these religious minorities with the international "war on drugs." On the international stage, three prominent regulatory themes have emerged in response to the expansion of ayahuasca religions. The first concerns the scope of international treaties regarding plant-based psychoactive substances. The second concerns the scope of religious liberty and the problem of determining religious legitimacy. The final theme addresses the potential dangers of ayahuasca to health and public safety. The regulatory process applied in Brazil exemplifies a progressive approach, one which considered anthropological issues, involved representatives of ayahuasca religions, and which provided a degree of deference to the principle of religious liberty. The Brazilian process has influenced judicial and administrative decisions internationally, and stands as a model worthy of further consideration.

Cara Lavan

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 10:40-11:00

Harnessing New Media to Share The Truth About Drugs.

The age of monolithic media is over. The means through which we get information is no longer controlled by Institutions. But how do we use this opportunity to get people to hear our truths? Film-maker and new media professional Cara Lavan explains how the Know Drugs project is using social networks and open source technology to break apart linear forms of broadcast in order to act as a hub enabling audiences to encounter a range of perspectives and experiences of drug use in a way that has not been seen before.

David Lee

Room E, Saturday 2nd April, 16:50-17:10

Solve et Coagula: Psychedelic Self-dissolution and Supernormal Abilities.

The psychedelic experience is worthwhile not only for the experimenter's own holotropic process but also as a powerful key to unlocking healing and other extraordinary abilities. Paradoxically, the psychedelic surrender of self is paired with a subsequent access to supernormal abilities. Belief has a major role in this process; this is examined using a methodology pioneered by Chaos Magic. Tales of apparently supernormal occurrences are told and discussed, and essential elements of practice identified. Suggestions are made towards qualitative scales to mark both the degree of extraordinary consciousness and the improbability of an event occurring.

Andy Letcher,

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 10:30-11:00

Notes Towards a Minimal Theory of Psychedelic Action.

Thanks to a forty year, politically-imposed hiatus in research, Psychedelic Studies remains largely unaffected by the revolution in Critical Theory that has transformed modern thought. Such an approach, however, suggests that the 'meaning' of psychedelics lies more in the social and cultural context in which they are consumed than in any essential nature of the drugs themselves. We can identify three competing discourses: that the psychedelic experience is meaningless and potentially harmful; that it is of profound psychotherapeutic value; and that it genuinely occasions an encounter with a mystical or shamanic 'other'. In this paper I present notes towards a phenomenological theory of psychedelic action, one to which all three discourses might agree. I do so in the hope of seeing a reinvigorated 'Psy-Crit' return to the academy.

Dave Luke

Room E, Saturday 2nd April, 15:00-15:10

Introduction to Exceptional Human Experience.

The traditional use of psychoactive plants as sacramentals in spiritual and magical rituals has continued for thousands of years. The use of these powerful psychoactive substances has long been reported to induce a range of exceptional experiences such as ostensibly paranormal phenomena (e.g., clairvoyance, telepathy and precognition), and they have traditionally been used expressly for these and other psychic effects the world over by the indigenous groups who use them.

Presenter Abstracts

Luis Eduardo Luna

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 11:30-12:00

Ayahuasca / yajé in the Contemporary World. Comparative Ethnographical Perspectives.

Indigenous uses of ayahuasca and yajé may range from problem solving, to learning songs or iconographical patterns to use in their art, to searching for ecstatic experiences. Given the gradual spread of these Amazonian preparations in our rapidly changing contemporary world, it may be relevant to envision similar respectful varied uses in our rapidly changing contemporary world.

Edward MacRae

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 11:30-11:50

Experiences of an Anthropologist Helping to Establish Public Policy on the Religious Use of Ayahuasca in Brazil.

The presentation addresses discussions held by the National Anti-drug Council between 2003 and 2006 on the official definition of licit religious use of ayahuasca, a traditional Amazonian Indian brew of strong psychoactive properties due to its DMT content. There was much in common between these procedures and the attempts made to establish "scientific control" over Afro-Brazilian religions in the beginning of the twentieth century. One of the most important similarities was the role played in both cases by doctors and anthropologists with a sympathy for trance religions. It became clear that although the dominant discourse still gives special value to the biomedical point of view, anthropologists also have a recognized part to play, calling attention to wider socio-cultural considerations that must also be taken into account.

Thomas Teun Meijer

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 11:30-11:50

The Semantic Pharmacy and the Mind Altering Magic of Symbols.

Mind altering substances change the way information is processed by the brain. In this talk I would like to explore the way in which symbols have the similar effect of changing the paths that information takes through the mind. It is in this sense that symbols could be interpreted as a pharmakon, which has profound effects on the constitution of our mind and consequently our society; just like physical substances have a profound effect on our body. This magic knows an art, a praxis of manipulation, with all the ambiguities of the pharmakon: a 'causal agent' both poisonous and medicinal.

Ralph Metzner

Room E (via Skype), Saturday 2nd April, 18:30-19:00

Psychedelic, Psychoactive and Addictive Drugs and States of Consciousness.

This talk will examine the states of consciousness induced by psychedelics in the framework of a heuristic model of altered states of consciousness (ASCs). Dr. Metzner will suggest that William James' philosophy of radical empiricism provides the appropriate epistemological underpinning for the study of ASCs. The content of a state of consciousness is a function of the internal set and setting, regardless of the catalyst. ASCs differ on the dimensions of (1) arousal vs. sedation, (2) pleasure vs. pain, (3) expansion vs. contraction. Psychedelics, in contrast to the stimulants and sedatives, are consciousness expanding, and it is this contrast that is the basis for the therapeutic applications of psychedelic drugs.

Peter Oehen

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 15:40-16:10

MDMA-assisted Psychotherapy.

In the 1980s considerable anecdotal evidence indicated that MDMA can be beneficial in treating patients with anxiety disorders such as PTSD. MDMA was banned in 1985/86 because of the widespread non-medical use and in the following years the research on MDMA was conducted mostly in animals and focusing on understanding neuropharmacology and neurotoxicity. After a hiatus of over 20 years MDMA is now becoming subject of serious, well controlled studies in a clinical population of subjects suffering from treatment-resistant PTSD. This presentation will illustrate the rationale of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD and the nature of the therapeutic process with clinical vignettes. Outcome data from the completed US and ongoing Swiss studies will be presented, which suggest a promising future for this model of drug-assisted psychotherapy.

Isabella Oliveira

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 17:00-17:20

Analysis of the Social Process of Construction of Meanings of a Psychoactive Substance: the Santo Daime Case.

This study analyzes the historic and social process of Ayahuasca's redefinition during the formation of Brazilian Santo Daime religion between the 1930s and 1960s. By analyzing the changes in the meaning of Ayahuasca beverage through the meanings presented on the oral testimonies of its followers this study provides, in a broader perspective, an analysis of the social construction of meanings of psychoactive substances and reveals possible contributions of historical and social approaches to understanding the consumption of such substances on different cultures.

Andy Parrott

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 17:30-19:00

Introduction to MDMA Debate.

Prof Parrott has shown that recreational MDMA is associated with a wide range of neuropsychobiological problems. It is a very powerful CNS stimulant, which is also damaging to brain functioning. Hence he is very sceptical as to whether MDMA can be used safely. He also believes that in many clinical cases it could cause far more problems than it solves.

Presenter Abstracts

Torsten Passie

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 15:30-16:00

Dreams, Trances and Ecstasies - Their Disappearance in Western Cultural History.

This talk gives an important and wide ranging historical overview about the exclusion of ecstatic and trance states during history and makes clear why we confront so many hindrances with popularizing consciousness expansion and ecstatic states. It may give a base to understand more about that process of exclusion and non-integration of these extraordinary tools to induce altered states of consciousness.

Leonardo Rodriguez Perez

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 12:10-12:30

Critical Relationship Between New Age Religiousness and Indigenous Shamanisms in Colombian Amazonia.

We analyze various discursive and practical elements from "New Age" aspects found in the doctrines and precepts of a Mestizo shamans network based in the Colombian Amazon. We find that "New Age" religiousness conflicts with the exercise of traditional indigenous shamanisms. Practitioners of traditional shamanisms have critiqued the "New Age" influence as a movement away from indigenous traditional cultures. We argue that insufficient attention has been paid to the points where syncretism is achieved with difficulty. The concept of "spiritual evolution" at the level of discourse, and feeding requirements at a practical level, are two important elements that distance neo-shamanism from indigenous shamanisms.

Victor Petrone

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 11:50-12:10

Confronting the Claim of Universal Patterns Induced by Ayahuasca.

According to my fieldwork, during which I followed the ritual of ayahuasca intake and interviewed Mestre Muniz (the leader) and the "internos" (patients), cultural background is in fact the modifier of a non-specific cognitive process. The patterns of feelings and visions associated to the ayahuasca in this context have nothing to do with those supposedly universal archetypes ayahuasca is claimed to produce. Their content has more to do with an induced process of memory of wrong deeds in the "internos" lives. The Uniao do Vegetal (UDV) notion of "memory degree" (port. grau de memória) that crosses as a main idea all the institutional structure of beliefs, seems to be the propellant of a memoristic process that organises the ayahuasca effect around this focus, causing the "burrachera" (institutional term that describes the experience it elicits) centers in patients' past life events and specially ethic and moral values associated to those visions. Consequently, my research points out that ayahuasca imagery seems to be the result of cultural and even institutional inputs more than an spontaneous and universalist phenomena.

Vit Pokorny

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 11:50-12:10

Altered States of Consciousness (ASC) – Phenomenological and Biosemiological Interpretation.

This paper explores phenomenology of perception and corporeality (Merleau-Ponty, R. Barbaras, and others), as well as biosemiological approach to life (Barbieri, Hoffmeyer, Markoa, and others) as methodical tools for explaining ASC. Phenomenology approaches consciousness from inside of the sensing and moving body. Biosemiotics (biological theory which postulates semiosphere as another of Earth's spheres alongside with biosphere, atmosphere, etc.) sees the same body as a integral part of the communicating whole of planetary life.

Dirk Proeckl & Engelbert Winkler

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 13:10-13:30

Hypnagogic Light Experience.

The Lucia N°03 Lucid Light stimulator nearly immediately induces an altered state of consciousness; producing colours and forms of indescribable beauty which can produce empathy and clarity of mind. The Hypnagogic Light Experience is in itself a kind of fundamental synesthesia experience as it confronts the subject with a holotropic perception. Dirk Proeckl and Engelbert Winkler describe the theory: development of the HLE; current interdisciplinary knowledge about light and consciousness; therapeutic light approaches; and altered states of consciousness as a therapeutic tool.

Ffion Reynolds

Room E, Saturday 2nd April, 15:30-15:50

Using Perspectivist Ontologies to Reconstruct Early Neolithic Worlds.

This paper will explore the complex processes which may have structured world view during the Early Neolithic. It will work through the ontological basis of Amerindian perspectivism, and argue that recognising the import of such theories provides new analytical leverage. To contextualise these ideas, I will refer to an ayahuasca ceremony which I witnessed in the Amazon jungle, and consider how these events inform and create ontological understanding. Perspectivist systems help to dissolve the nature: culture, human: non-human dichotomies which continue to shape Western thought, and through this may provide us with new ways of reconstructing Early Neolithic worlds – worlds in which Western polarities were almost certainly absent.

Presenter Abstracts

Andy Roberts

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 17:00-17:30

Trouble Ahead? Trouble Behind!

To all intents and purposes, LSD was legal in the UK until September 1966, after which manufacture, possession or distribution attracted what many consider to be draconian penalties. LSD research under controlled conditions is once again taking place, but the psychedelic renaissance begs the question 'will personal legal use ever be possible'? Andy will be taking a long hard look at the political and social pressures that led to LSD becoming illegal in the UK, and what type of bold vision and actions those sympathetic to its potential will have to generate in order to bring it back into the public domain.

James Rodger

Room E, Sunday 3rd April, 12:10-12:30

Ibogaine: The Visionary Cure in the Addiction War.

Drawing on the ethnography of iboga use in Gabon alongside contemporary accounts of ibogaine use in the West, I argue, that the plant-drug and surrounding subculture may offer, at least for some, a potential pathway of transformation from 'needy fantasy' into genuine therapeutic gain. The comparative social origins of iboga/ine use are explored alongside the cultural identities (and their transformation) of those who chose to ingest it. The phenomenology of the visionary experience is explored in its bio-psycho-socio-cultural context (drawing on psychopharmacological, social constructionist and psychoanalytic perspectives) before considering the integration of such experience into individual narratives and social worlds.

William Rowlandson

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 12:30-12:50

Borges and McKenna – Iconoclasm, Boundary Dissolution, and Living Symbolically.

'Psychedelic Society', Terence McKenna expressed, 'is the idea of creating a society which always lives in the light of the mystery of being. In other words, that solutions should be displaced from the central role that they have had in social organizations, and mysteries, irreducible mysteries, should be put in their place'. In particular, we are presented with the paradox of understanding a universe that is stranger than we can suppose. Jorge Luis Borges expressed a similar paradox in our drive to understand an unknowable universe. Borges, like McKenna, articulates the erasure of the boundaries between fact and fiction, reality and fantasy, imagination and empiricism, and he addresses the epistemological capacity of dreams, nightmares, visions and the imagination. In this paper I examine the affinity between Borges' articulation of a symbolic, poetic, vision of reality, and McKenna's depiction of a putative psychedelic society, paying close attention to the relationship between Borges' appreciation of the mystical visions of Swedenborg and Blake and McKenna's 'felt presence of immediate experience'.

Donal Ruane

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 17:20-18:00

On the Big White Telephone: A ten-year Personal Journey with Ayahuasca Following the Proscriptions of the Mestizo Shamans of the Upper Amazon.

Critiques widely held populist views about psychedelics and shamanism, which are often naïve and problematic, while hopefully offering an alternative and more authentic way of understanding them. This hypothesis was developed during a journey that first took me to the Peruvian Amazon over a decade ago, not only to study and immerse myself in the culture surrounding the shamanic practises of the mestizo population, but also as a response to a very real and challenging spiritual crisis. While ayahuasca has been extensively written about, this is the first in-depth subjective account from one individual's perspective while following the rigours of the traditional 'dieta' over a ten-year period, and is based on over two hundred and fifty experiences of drinking the brew, often alone.

Neşe Şenol

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 16:10-16:30

Psychedemia: The Discursive Boundaries of the Psychedelic Renaissance in Academic Discourse.

Psychedelics have been given incredibly short shrift as a socio-cultural phenomenon. I will address which forms of psychedelic discourse are sanctioned by the academy and which are not, and I will raise the question of whether this rejuvenated excitement and emphasis on hard science occludes any of the culturally significant issues at stake in the subject matter. It is an apposite time to address the question of psychedelics and their continuing impact on culture from a critical, academic perspective and to confront the issues that have impeded this conversation.

Ben Sessa

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 17:30-19:00

Introduction to MDMA Debate.

Having learned about psychedelics for psycho-spiritual development as a teenager I subsequently felt cheated by their lack of mention during my medical training. I have since campaigned to bring this subject to the attention of my generation of doctors in the UK. I am now thrilled to be part of organising Breaking Convention 2011. We aim to place Psychedelic Psychotherapy firmly on the centre stage for all in mainstream medicine to see. The Symposium and the MDMA Debate will explore the place for objective, safe and effective treatments with psychedelic drugs. We must do this out of respect that that population of patients with unremitting mental disorders who might benefit from the healing properties of these amazing substances.

Presenter Abstracts

Kalliopi Tavoulari

Room E, Saturday 2nd April, 16:30-16:50

Can the Use of Psychedelics Open the Doors to New Scientific Breakthroughs?

From Francis Crick to Kary Mullis psychedelic substances have opened the doors to new scientific breakthroughs and changed the face of human history. I will discuss possible mechanisms for this and advocate that psychedelics can open new doors in science, but only by those who have scientific backgrounds. Psychedelics can only expand on what has been seeded in the psyche by the individual throughout their childhood and maturity. Psychedelic substances can help us find the solutions to questions that have been troubling the humans for aeons. The more developed the individual the more the available possibilities.

Diana Trimble

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 15:10-15:30

Faith Versus Reason in the Battle to Decriminalize Psychedelics.

Once an adherent of the "Religious Freedom Defense", during my time with the Santo Daimé ayahuasca church (the subject of my 2002 master's thesis), I was forced to a different conclusion by my personal experience of arrest in the USA, for possession of psilocybin mushrooms – for which no religious defense has yet been established. I now believe that the political and legal debate concerning the use of ALL psychedelics must shift away from religious rights and back to the claims of the original researchers in this field: that psychedelics are useful to scientists, therapists and patients and furthermore that every individual has the right to be free of governmental interference in all matters pertaining to his/her own body and mind.

Manuel Villaescusa

Room F, Sunday 3rd April, 13:10-13:30

Effects of Long-Term Ayahuasca Use on Creativity.

This paper is about my personal experience as a musician, psychotherapist and music therapist that has drunk ayahuasca on a monthly basis for the last ten years. I explore the effects of ayahuasca on musical creativity, specially singing. As ayahuasca use has expanded from its amazonian origins to western urban settings, the musical inspiration bestowed by ayahuasca has followed a similar journey, adapting to the new environment. I present how this process has unfolded in my case, with the development of melodies and singing techniques and adapting new instruments to traditional shamanic music.

Franz Vollenweider

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 17:30-18:00

Psychedelic States and The Brain: From Phenomenology to Neurophysiology.

Professor Dr. Franz X. Vollenweider, M.D., will present first, new data on the phenomenology of altered states of consciousness (ASC) obtained in a series of controlled studies with psilocybin, S-ketamine and MDMA in healthy human volunteers (n= 534) and discuss the impact of genetic, personality, and environmental factors on the outcome. Second, he will discuss current and new frameworks for understanding and unravelling the neuronal correlates of different dimensions of ASC such as the experience of unity, ecstatic or anxious loss of ego-boundaries, or imagery. Third, he will present novel data on the systemic and molecular mechanism of action of hallucinogens and will discuss its implication for the treatment of some psychiatric disorders.

Angela Voss

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 12:50-13:10

A Matter of Spirit: An Imaginal Perspective on the Paranormal.

The 20th century historian of religion Henry Corbin has articulated for us the extraordinary possibilities of the imagination in the metaphysics of such Sufi mystics as Suhrawardi and Ibn' Arabi. For such mystics the active imagination is an organ of perception which can translate the immaterial reality of the spirit into visionary images which occupy an ontologically verifiable realm of existence, called the mundus imaginalis. Furthermore, imaginal visions can become present to the senses through a mode of perception where matter and spirit interpenetrate. This talk will explore the 'middle ground' between two worlds and suggest that the 'reality' of spiritual phenomena requires a far more subtle mode of evaluation than our dominant rational paradigm of knowledge will allow.

Anna Waldstein

Woolf Lecture Hall, Sunday 3rd April, 9:40-10:00

Introduction to Research on Psychedelics and Consciousness at the University of Kent.

In recent years the University of Kent has emerged as a centre for the study of psychedelic consciousness in the UK. This symposium presents a selection of relevant work by academics (and alumni) from across the University, including contributions from anthropology, sociology, criminology, mysticism and Hispanic studies. The breadth of research on psychedelic consciousness at the University of Kent spans self-medication with psychedelics as a form of empowerment, the cultural identities of people who use psychedelics and other illicit substances, and the ability of consumers to influence drug policy, to the use of active imagination to access paranormal worlds, and the representation of altered states of consciousness in literature.

Presenter Abstracts

Charlotte Walsh

Woolf Lecture Hall, Saturday 2nd April, 12:00-12:30

Psychedelic Drugs and Human Rights: Sacramental Freedoms and Cognitive Liberty.

This paper looks at the interplay between drug prohibition and human rights, reviewing the potential of the European Convention on Human Rights to fundamentally challenge the discriminatory drug policy of the United Kingdom. The focus is on Article 9 which ostensibly protects our right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Prohibiting psychedelic drug use where it is used as a sacrament can be conceptualized as a form of religious persecution. Further, given that there is no clear boundary between the sacred and the profane, the right of all of us to explore our own consciousness - to cognitive liberty - should be safeguarded.

Ken Williford

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 12:30-12:50

Mescaline and Jean-Paul Sartre's Theory of Imagination.

After briefly outlining the history of Sartre's brief involvement (as a subject) with research on mescaline, under the supervision Daniel Lagache, and the history of research on mescaline in France 1920s and 30s, I present Sartre's theory of hallucination, expounded in some detail in part IV, section iii of *The Imaginary*, show how his descriptions have the marks of one who has experienced the psychedelic state, and argue that his theory is ultimately implausible for certain types of hallucination. I then go on to show that Sartre nevertheless had the resources to offer a more plausible theory of hallucination.

Gastone Zanette

Room F, Saturday 2nd April, 16:50-17:10

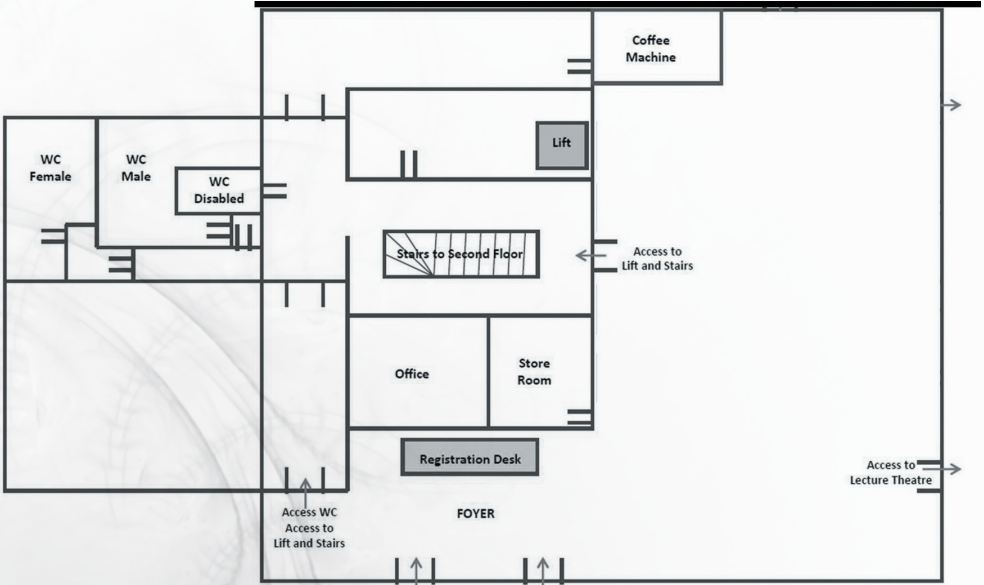
Entheogens in Italy.

There are not scientific bases to classify Entheogens as illegal substances, instead, there are many different moral, political and economic reasons. Moral, simply because "drug is bad"; political because the "consciousness control" is the first aim of all governments, all over the world; economic because Entheogens, simply do not help consumerism. It is a little odd that Entheogens may be considered advantageous only for some human condition like terminal diseases, psychiatric problems, end of life. Instead, Entheogens can help humanity in every day life, to change the paradigm regarding life and death, consciousness, our place in the universe.

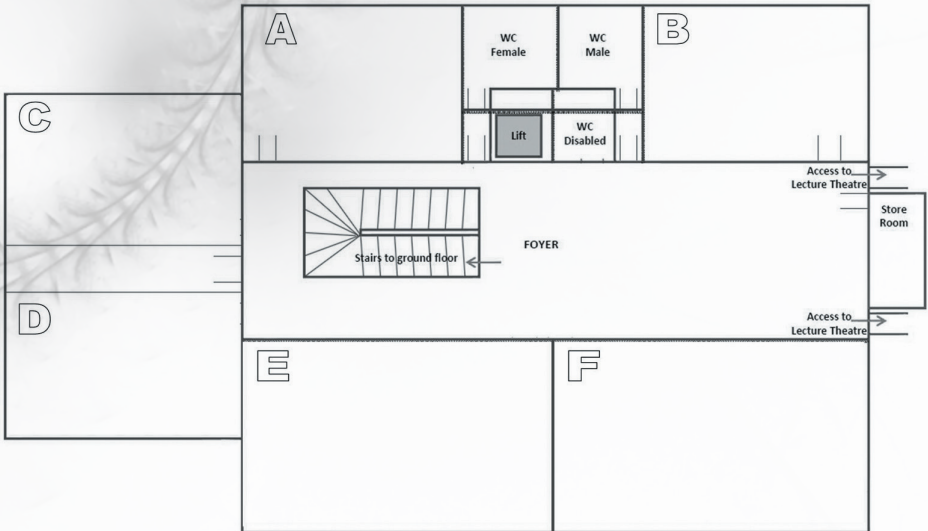


Room Plans

Ground Floor



First Floor



Main Lecture Hall - Saturday 2nd April

What do Psychedelics Do?

Chair: Dave Luke

09:00 - 09:20	Introduction to Breaking Convention Conference Committee
09:20 - 09:30	Introduction to 'What Do Psychedelics Mean?' Dave Luke
09:30 - 10:00	Psychedelia and Sacred Places Paul Devereux
10:00 - 10:30	Early Western Encounters with Psychedelics Mike Jay
10:30 - 11:00	Notes Towards a Minimal Theory of Psychedelic Action Andy Letcher
11:30 - 12:00	Ayahuasca / Yajé in the Contemporary World. Comparative Ethnographical Perspectives Luis Eduardo Luna
12:00 - 12:30	Psychedelic Drugs and Human Rights: Sacramental Freedoms and Cognitive Liberty Charlotte Walsh
12:30 - 13:00	A New Convention Amanda Feilding
13:00 - 13:30	Discussion and Q&A Panel

Psychedelic Psychiatry, Psychotherapy & Spirituality

Chair: Ben Sessa

15:00 - 15:10	Introduction to 'Psychedelic Psychiatry, Psychotherapy & Spirituality' Ben Sessa
15:10 - 15:40	Introduction to the History of Psychedelic Therapy Neal Goldsmith
15:40- 16:10	MDMA-assisted Psychotherapy Peter Oehen
16:10 - 16:40	Ketamine Psychotherapy For Heroin Addiction: Immediate Effects and Two-Year Follow-up Evgeny Krupitsky
16:40 - 17:10	Experimental Studies of Psilocybin-Occasioned Mystical-Type Experience: Findings and Implications Roland Griffiths
17:30 - 18:00	MDMA Debate: Introduction Ben Sessa (Chair), Andy Parrott, Jon Cole, Val Curran, Rick Doblin, Peter Oehen
18:00 - 19:00	MDMA Debate: Its Place in Medicine, Society and Politics Debate

Main Lecture Hall - Sunday 3rd April

Current research on consciousness and psychedelics at the University of Kent

Chair: Anna Waldstein & Cameron Adams

09:40 - 10:00	Introduction to 'Current Research...' Anna Waldstein
10:00 - 10:20	Everybody is a Poly (Substance User) Axel Klein
10:20 - 10:40	Preliminary Findings of an Anthropological Investigation of Psychedelic Healing Cameron Adams
10:40 - 11:00	Meditation and Healing with The Herb: A Step-by-step Cultivation of Consciousness Reka Komaromi & Ras Binghi Congo-Nyah
11:30 - 11:50	Using FMRI to Investigate the Effects of Psilocybin on Brain Function Robin Carhart-Harris
11:50 - 12:10	Is Legislative Change Based on Science? Ethnobotanical, Genomic and Phytotherapeutic approach to "Illicit" Substances Ivan Casselman
12:10 - 12:30	Subcultures and Mainstreaming in the Psychedelic Trance Scene Caroline Chatwin
12:30 - 12:50	Borges and McKenna – Iconoclasm, Boundary Dissolution, and Living Symbolically William Rowlandson
12:50 - 13:10	A Matter of Spirit: An Imaginal Perspective on the Paranormal Angela Voss
13:10 - 13:30	Discussion and Q&A Panel

Bold Visions

Chair: Dave King

15:00 - 15:05	Introduction to Bold Visions Dave King
15:05 - 15:30	Evolving Consciousness Amanda Feilding
15:30 - 16:00	Dreams, Trances and Ecstasies - Their Disappearance in Western Cultural History Torsten Passie
16:00 - 16:30	Transpersonal Experiences, Psychedelics and an Enquiry Into the Nature of Reality Graham Hancock
17:00 - 17:30	Trouble Ahead? Trouble Behind! Andy Roberts
17:30 - 18:00	Psychedelic States and The Brain: From Phenomenology to Neurophysiology Franz Vollenweider
18:00 - 18:30	Psychedelics and the Future United Religions: Building a Global Spirituality Rick Doblin
18:30 - 19:15	The Future of Psychedelic Culture and Research Panel

Main Lecture Hall - Evening Events & Films - ALL DAYS

Evening Events & Films

FRIDAY

19:00 - 20:15	DMT: The Spirit Molecule Film THE SPIRIT MOLECULE weaves an account of Dr. Rick Strassman's groundbreaking DMT research through a multifaceted approach to this intriguing hallucinogen found in the human brain and hundreds of plants. Utilizing interviews with a variety of experts to explain their thoughts and experiences with DMT within their respective fields, and discussions with Strassman's research volunteers brings to life the awesome effects of this compound, and far-reaching theories regarding its role in human consciousness
20:15 - 21:30	Woolf Foyer Wine Reception
21:30 - 22:00	Psychedelics for Mysticism Baba Ram Dass [Skype]

Evening Events & Films

SATURDAY

20:30 - 22:00	Dirty Pictures Film DIRTY PICTURES is a documentary about Dr. Alexander "Sasha" Shulgin, the rogue chemist who discovered the effects of MDMA (aka Ecstasy) and over 200 other mind-altering drugs. Shulgin's alchemy has earned him the title "The Godfather of Psychedelics," and a reputation as one of the great chemists of the 20th century. Working from a lab in his home, and using himself and his wife Ann as test subjects, Shulgin's discoveries have brought him into conflict with the law but made him a worldwide underground hero. The two books they co-authored, "Pihkal" and "Tihkal", have built a foundation for cutting-edge neuroscience and medical research. DIRTY PICTURES examines the impact of Dr. Shulgin's lifelong quest to unlock the complexities of the human mind.
20:00 - 24:00	Evening Social at Origins Bar Various Bands playing at the Origins Bar.

Evening Events

SUNDAY

20:00 - 23:00	Evening Social at the Pavilion Various Bands playing at the Pavilion.
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Bands

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Bands playing at evening socials include: **Ragnagrok Allstars, Syd Arthur, Barking Toad, Bardo Thodol** and the **Bardo Light Show**.

Room B - Saturday, Sunday

SATURDAY

FILMS

09:30 - 11:00 **2012: A Time For Change**, by João Amorim

11:30 - 12:50 **Howard Marks on Drugs**, by Jonathan Brooks (with Q&A session)

13:10 - 13:30 **Memory Theatre**, by Bérangère Maïa Parizeau

SATURDAY

PANELS

17:30 - 19:00 **Podcaster Panel with Nexus & Co-Host (Shroom with a View), Max Freakout (Psychonautica), Alexander Beiner (Visionary Artists Podcast) and Opaque Lens (Shamanic Freedom Radio)**

SUNDAY

FILMS

10:00 - 10:30 **Stories on a Stick**, by Donal Ruane (with Q&A session)

10:40 - 11:00 **Aya: Awakenings**, by Rak Razam

14:00 - 14:20 **Fire in the Madhouse** (shown in the **Main Lecture Hall**)

15:00 - 16:30 **Vine of the Soul**, by Richard Meech (with Q&A session)

17:00 - 17:30 **Song of Mukhomor**

17:30 - 18:00 **Pegtymel**

18:00 - 18:30 **Q&A session with Alan Piper**

Other Rooms

Room A is dedicated to workshops. Yoga each morning from 08:00-09:00. Rebirthing Breathwork 09:00-13:30 on Sunday.

Room C is given over to art installations and a psychedelic ESP experiment. Everyone welcome to participate any time during the weekend.

Room D is for stalls (especially books) and for press use.

Room E - Saturday 2nd April

Psychedelics and Exceptional Human Experiences

Chair: Dave Luke

15:00 - 15:10	Introduction Dave Luke
15:10 - 15:30	Altered States of Cognitive Science: What can Non-ordinary Consciousness Tell Us About the Origin of Symbolic Thought? Tom Froese
15:30 - 15:50	How Perspectivist Encounters Can Help Reconstruct Neolithic Worlds Ffion Reynolds
15:50 - 16:10	Stoned Peacocks and Blue-throated Gods Mike Crowley
16:10 - 16:30	High Dose Towards an Organic Singularity Kilindi Iyi
16:30 - 16:50	Can the Use of Psychedelics Open the Doors to New Scientific Breakthroughs? Kalliopi Tavoulari
16:50 - 17:10	Solve et Coagula: Psychedelic Self-dissolution and Supernormal Abilities David Lee

Skype Sessions

Chair: Dave King

18:00 - 18:30	Psychology of the Future: Lessons from Modern Consciousness Research Stan Grof
18:30 - 19:00	Psychedelic, Psychoactive and Addictive Drugs and States of Consciousness Ralph Metzner

Room E - Sunday 3rd April

Innovative Projects

Chair: To be confirmed

10:00 - 10:20	Universal Care Project: Psychedelic Emergency Services at Festivals Jonas DiGregorio
10:20 - 10:40	YourBrainonDrugs.net - A Smartphone Research Platform for Studying the Cognitive and Emotional Impact of Everyday Drug Use Caspar Addyman
10:40 - 11:00	Harnessing New Media to Spread the Truth About Drug Use and Freedom of Consciousness Cara Lavan

Theoretical Perspectives and Practical Experiences in Psychedelic Therapy

Chair: Ben Sessa

11:30 - 11:50	A Survey of Different Paradigmatic Points of View Regarding Psychotropic Substances and the Understanding of Therapy and the Mind: An Integral Approach.. Halvard Hårklau
11:50 - 12:10	The Healing Potential of Holotropic Mind-states Induced by Psychotropic Substances Marianne Kaspersen
12:10 - 12:30	Ibogaïne: The Visionary Cure in the Addiction War James Rodger
12:50 - 13:10	LSD and MDMA Assisted Psychotherapy Friederike Meckel Fischer
13:10 - 13:30	Hypnagogic Light Experience Dirk Proeckl and Engelbert Winkler

Comparisons of States of Consciousness

Chair: Marios Kittenis

15:10 - 15:30	Short Term Effects Of Himalayan Tradition Yoga Meditation in a Multi-subject SSVEP Study Nikolas Karalis
15:30 - 15:50	Are Ayahuasca Induced Altered States Transferable Using Brain Wave and Sound recordings? Liam Cummings
15:50 - 16:10	Mushrooms & Masalai - Madness in Melanesia Henry Dosedla

Room F - Saturday 2nd April

Psychedelic Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind

Chair: William Rowlandson

11:30 - 11:50	The Semantic Pharmacy and the Magic of Symbols Thomas Teun Meijer
11:50 - 12:10	Altered States of Consciousness (ASC) - Phenomenological and Biosemiotical Interpretation Vit Pokorny
12:10 - 12:30	Cognitive Phenomenology of the Psychedelic Experience Joseph Bicknell
12:30 - 12:50	Mescaline and Jean-Paul Sartre's Theory of Imagination Prof Kenneth Williford
12:50 - 13:10	Practical Consciousness Evolution Merijn de Boer
13:10 - 13:30	Altered States of Consciousness for Healing, Empowerment, Vision & Enlivenment Guy Barrington

Psychedelics, Power and Authority

Chair: Anna Waldstein

15:00 - 15:10	Introduction to Psychedelics, Power and Authority Anna Waldstein
15:10 - 15:30	Faith Versus Reason in the Battle to Decriminalize Psychedelics Diana Trimble
15:30 - 15:50	Drop Acid Not Bombs: Psychedelic Weapons at Porton Down Jonathan Hobbs
15:50 - 16:10	The Psychedelic Movement and American Fascism Robert Forte
16:10 - 16:30	Psychedemia: The Discursive Boundaries of the "Psychedelic Renaissance" Nese Senol
16:30 - 16:50	The Panoptic-Demiurgic Model: Incorporating the Mystical Experience into Modern Politics Alexander Beiner
16:50 - 17:10	Entheogens in Italy today Gastone Zanette

Room F - Sunday 3rd April

Ayahuasca

Chair: Bia Labate

10:20 - 10:40	Ayahuasca and the Process of Regulation in Brazil: National and International Implications and Challenges Kevin Feeney and Bia
10:40 - 11:00	One Year Follow Up of the Integration Process of a Series of Ayahuasca Experiences Petra Bokor
11:30 - 11:50	Experiences of an Anthropologist Helping to Establish Public Policy on the Religious Use of Ayahuasca in Brazil Edward MacRae
11:50 - 12:10	Confronting the Claim of Universal Patterns Induced by Ayahuasca Victor Petrone
12:10 - 12:30	Critical Relationship Between New Age Religiousness and Indigenous Shamanisms in Colombian Amazonia Leonardo Rodriguez Perez
12:30 - 12:50	Ayahuasca as Antidepressant? Brian Anderson
12:50 - 13:10	Ayahuasca and the Vines of British Politics Danny Diskin
13:10 - 13:30	Effects of Long Term Use of Ayahuasca on Creativity Manuel Villaescusa

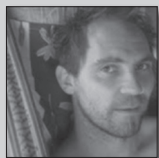
Psychedelics for Healing, Inspiration and Self-Exploration

Chair: Nick Giagnoni

15:30 - 15:50	The Rise and Fall of Psychedelic Literature Robert Dickins
15:50 - 16:10	Death and the Maiden - My Journey Into the Life of the Late Robert Lenkiewicz Jacqualine Kurio
16:10 - 16:30	A Brief History of Shamanic Mushroom Use Nick Giagnoni
17:00 - 17:20	Analysis of the Social Process of Construction of Meanings of a Psychoactive Substance: The Santo Daime Case Isabella Oliviera
17:20 - 17:40	Spiritual Use of Drugs in Contemporary Western Society Arfan Iqbal
17:40 - 18:00	On the Big White Telephone: A Ten-year Personal Journey with Ayahuasca Following the Proscriptions of the Mestizo Shamans of the Upper Amazon Donal Ruane

Invited Symposia Speaker Bios

WHAT DO PSYCHEDELICS MEAN?



DAVID LUKE, PH.D. (CONVENOR)

David Luke, PhD, is currently President of the Parapsychological Association, and Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Greenwich, UK, where he teaches an undergraduate course on the Psychology of Exceptional Human Experiences. He is also Research Associate at the Beckley Foundation, Oxford, UK, and he is a guest lecturer at the University of Northampton, UK, for the MSc in Transpersonal Psychology and Consciousness Studies. He is also Director of the Ecology, Cosmos and Consciousness lecture series at the October Gallery in Bloomsbury, London. As a writer and researcher he has a special interest in altered states of consciousness and he has studied ostensibly paranormal phenomena and techniques of consciousness alteration from every continent of the globe, from the perspective of scientists, shamans and Shivaïtes.



PAUL DEVEREUX

Paul Devereux, a veteran of the psychedelic 1960s, is a prolific author, just one of his 27 published books being 'THE LONG TRIP - A Prehistory of Psychedelia'. If you dig around in their archives enough, his occasional blogs can be found on the 'Reality Sandwich' and 'Brainwaving' websites. He also lectures worldwide, is the managing editor of the peer-reviewed publication 'Time & Mind - The Journal of Archaeology, Consciousness and Culture' (www.bergjournals.com/timeandmind), and is a research affiliate with the Royal College of Art (see www.landscape-perception.com). His personal research currently centres around the study of sound at archaeological sites, which also has implications for prehistoric altered mind states, and creating a fresh approach to parapsychology. His website is: www.pauldevereux.co.uk.



MIKE JAY

Mike has written widely on the history of science, medicine and psychoactive drugs. His books include *Emperors of Dreams: Drugs in the Nineteenth Century* (2000); *The Atmosphere of Heaven* (2009), on the discovery of nitrous oxide; and *High Society: Mind-Altering Drugs in History and Culture* (2010). <http://mikejay.net>



ANDY LETCHER, PH.D.

Andy Letcher teaches in the Study of Religions at Oxford Brookes University and is a freelance writer and folk musician. He is the author of *Shroom: A Cultural History of the Magic Mushroom*, and the paper, *Mad Thoughts on Mushrooms: Discourse and Power in the Study of Psychedelic Consciousness* published in the journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*. A songwriter and exponent of the English bagpipes, he fronts acid folk band, *Telling the Bees*.



LUIS EDUARDO LUNA, PH.D.

Luis Eduardo Luna has a Ph.D. from the Department of Comparative Religion Stockholm University (1989) and an honorary doctoral degree from St. Lawrence, Canton, New York (2002). He is the author of *Vegetalismo: Shamanism among the Mestizo Population of the Peruvian Amazon* (1986), a co-author with Pablo Amaringo of *Ayahuasca Visions: The Religious Iconography of a Peruvian Shaman* (1991), and co-author with Slawek Wojtowicz, Rick Strassman and Ede Frecska of *Inner Paths to Outer Space: Journeys Through Psychedelics and Other Spiritual Technologies* (2008). He is also a co-editor with Steven White of *Ayahuasca Reader: Encounters with the Amazon's Sacred Vine* (2000). He is the Director of the Research Center for the Study of Psychointegrator Plants, Visionary Art and Consciousness, Florianópolis, Brazil.



CHARLOTTE WALSH

Charlotte Walsh was awarded her LLB and MPhil from Manchester University. She has lectured in law at the University of Leicester for thirteen years, at the intersection of criminal justice, drug policy and neuroscience. Her research focus is on psychedelics and the law, seen from a human rights perspective. She is a founder member of Drug Equality Alliance, an organisation that campaigns for equal rights and protection of all drug users. She also teaches a blend of Ashtanga, Iyengar and Sivananda yoga.

Invited Symposia Speaker Bios

WHAT DO PSYCHEDELICS MEAN?



AMANDA FEILDING

Amanda Feilding is director and founder of the Beckley Foundation, which researches consciousness from an interdisciplinary perspective. It investigates how psychoactive substances work, why people use them, and what is the best way for society to control and integrate their inevitable presence. The Foundation has initiated pioneering research in both the scientific and policy fields, conducting breakthrough research into LSD, psilocybin and cannabis. The aim of the BF's Drug Policy Programme is to work towards a rational system of regulation which minimises the harms to the health of the individual and society while recognising personal freedoms, and optimising potential benefits to health and well-being. The BF Press recently published *Cannabis Policy: Moving Beyond Stalemate*, Hofmann's *Elixir: LSD and the New Eleusis*, and the *Pharmacology of LSD*.

PSYCHEDELIC PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHOTHERAPY AND SPIRITUALITY



BEN SESSA, M.D. (CONVENOR)

Dr Ben Sessa MBBS BSc MRCPsych is a consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist working in Taunton, Somerset. He began publishing in medical journals on the subject of psychedelics as a trainee and since then has spoken nationally and internationally to doctors in a campaign to see these fascinating substances return to the mainstream pharmacopeia where their lives began. In 2008 he became a Research Associate under Prof. David Nutt at Bristol University, where he consulted for the ACMD on MDMA before working on the UK's only human hallucinogen study in modern times - being the first person to be legally administered a classical psychedelic drug in this country for 33 years.



NEAL MARSHALL GOLDSMITH, PH.D.

Neal M. Goldsmith, Ph.D. is a psychotherapist, author, and public speaker specializing in psychospiritual development, with particular expertise in psychedelic psychotherapy. (A six-minute clip of Dr. Goldsmith's "Fusion of Spirit and Science" may be found at: <http://vimeo.com/751700>). Dr. Goldsmith has a passion for the diffusion and application of innovative knowledge and has curated dozens of successful conferences and cross-disciplinary "meetings of minds" for corporations as well as the psychedelic community, including Horizons and this year's MAPS Psychedelic Science conference. He is a founder of several salon discussion groups on integral philosophy, media, healing, and the future of society. Dr. Goldsmith's book, *Psychedelic Healing: The Promise of Entheogens for Psychotherapy and Spiritual Development*, describes the influence of psychedelics on the development of his personality theory and clinical practice. (*Psychedelic Healing*). Trained in humanistic, transpersonal, and eastern traditions, Dr. Goldsmith maintains a (non-psychedelic) psychotherapy practice in New York City and Sag Harbor, NY and may be reached via his website



PETER OEHEN, M.D.

Medical school at University of Basel/Switzerland. Specialist degree in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy 1988. Psychotherapeutic training in Guided Affective Imagery Therapy, Systemic Couple and Family Therapy and in Psycholytic Therapy. In private practice since 1988. Special interest in altered states of consciousness and psychedelic substances for more than 20 years. Board member of the Swiss Medical Association for Psycholytic Therapy (SAePT). Principle investigator of the Swiss phase II MDMA/PTSD pilot study (since 2006).

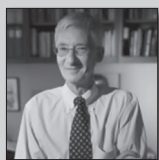


EVGENY KRUPITSKY, M.D., PH.D., D.M.SC.

Prof. Evgeny Krupitsky is a Chief of the Department of Addictions at St. Petersburg Bekhterev Research Psychoneurological Institute and a Chief of the Laboratory of Clinical Psychopharmacology of Addictions at St. Petersburg State Pavlov Medical University, Russia. Since 2006 he also holds a position of Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania. He received his MD from the Leningrad Institute of Hygiene and Sanitation in 1983, and then Ph.D. in psychopharmacology from the Leningrad Institute of Experimental Medicine in 1988. Later in 1998 he also received a special advanced degree of a Doctor of Medical Sciences in Addiction Psychiatry in 1998 from St. Petersburg Bekhterev Research Psychoneurological Institute. Dr. Krupitsky had been working as a visiting exchange scientist in the Department of Psychiatry at Yale University in 1996-97. Dr. Krupitsky received several national and international awards (including an award from the Heffter Research Institute, USA, for outstanding research in hallucinogens). He published many papers in the Russian and international psychiatric journals and he is also an author of several chapters in the international manuals and two books on the treatment of alcoholism and addictions.

Invited Symposia Speaker Bios

PSYCHEDELIC PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHOTHERAPY AND SPIRITUALITY



ROLAND GRIFFITHS, M.D.

Roland is Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Neurosciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His principal research focus in both clinical and preclinical laboratories has been on the behavioral and subjective effects of mood-altering drugs. His research has been largely supported by grants from the U.S. National Institutes on Health and he is author of over 300 journal articles and book chapters. He has an interest in meditation and is the lead investigator of the psilocybin research initiative at Johns Hopkins, which includes studies of psilocybin occasioned mystical-type experience in healthy volunteers and cancer patients, and a pilot study of psilocybin-facilitated smoking cessation.



ANDY PARROTT, PH.D.

Professor of Psychology at Swansea University, and formerly at University of East London. Over 50 journal articles on Ecstasy/MDMA and organiser of several international MDMA conferences. The papers include a comprehensive review paper entitled: Parrott AC (2007). The psychotherapeutic potential of MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamin): an evidence based review. *Psychopharmacology* 191: 182-194. Prof Parrott has shown that recreational MDMA is associated with a wide range of neuropsychobiological problems. It is a very powerful CNS stimulant, which is also damaging to brain functioning. Hence he is very sceptical as to whether MDMA can be used safely. He also believes that in many clinical cases it could cause far more problems than it solves.



JON COLE, PH.D.

Dr Jon Cole is a psychopharmacologist who has been working on controlled drugs for the past twenty years. He is currently working extensively in the criminal justice and social policy areas. A natural born sceptic he remains unconvinced of the purported harms of MDMA use but is also unconvinced that MDMA use is 'safe'.



VAL CURRAN, M.D.

Val Curran is Professor of Psychopharmacology and Director of UCL's Clinical Psychopharmacology Unit. She is also research Lead and Hon. Consultant Clinical Psychologist in Drug Services at a north London NHS Foundation Trust, a Principal Editor of *Psychopharmacology* and a member of the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs.



RICK DOBLIN, PH.D.

Rick founded MAPS in 1986. His dissertation (Public Policy, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government) was on "The Regulation of the Medical Use of Psychedelics and Marijuana," and his master's thesis (Harvard) focused on the attitudes and experiences of oncologists concerning the medical use of marijuana. His undergraduate thesis (New College of Florida) was a twenty-five year follow-up to the classic Good Friday Experiment, which evaluated the potential of psychedelic drugs to catalyze religious experiences. He has also conducted a thirty-four year follow-up study to Tim Leary's Concord Prison Experiment.

CURRENT RESEARCH ON PSYCHEDELICS AND CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT



ANNA WALDSTEIN, PH.D. (CONVENOR)

Anna is a medical anthropologist who studies self-medication with herbal medicines as a form of empowerment and/or resistance to biomedical hegemony. Her current research interests include self-medication with cannabis (arguably the world's most interesting herbal medicine), the ways therapeutic benefits of its use are defined, experienced and manipulated and the relationship between cannabis use and identity. She is also interested in the role of psychotropic substances in human evolution and biocultural constructions of addiction.



AXEL KLEIN, PH.D.

Axel Klein is a social anthropologist with a particular interest in the role played by drugs in different cultural and social settings, as well as the regulative and political framework. He has conducted research into the use and regulation of cannabis in the Caribbean, Khat in global markets, and the emergence of drug control as a system in the UK. Publications include Axel Klein, 2008 *Drugs and the World*. London: Reaktion; David Anderson, Susan Beckerleg, Degol Hailu and Axel Klein, 2007 *The Khat Controversy: Stimulating the Debate on Drugs*. Oxford: Berg; and Axel Klein, Anthony Harriott and Marcus Day (eds.), 2004 *Caribbean Drugs: From Criminalization to Harm Reduction*. Zed. 2004.

Invited Symposia Speaker Bios

CURRENT RESEARCH ON PSYCHEDELICS AND CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT



CAMERON ADAMS, PH.D. (CONVENOR)

Dr. Cameron Adams is a medical and ecological anthropologist who is currently interested in psychedelic medicine and ecological consciousness. Dr. Adams currently holds a temporary lectureship at the University of Kent where he convenes Introduction to Anthropology and Cognitive Anthropology while conducting web based research on virtual communities.



REKA KOMAROMI

Reka Komaromi is a freelance ethnobotanist and honorary research fellow/assistant at the University of Kent. Before graduating with an MSc in Ethnobotany from UKC, she travelled extensively by land and sea to remote locations and cultures in her involvement with the Institute of Ecotechnics (www.ecotechnics.edu). Her research interests encompass medicinal and ritualistic use of plants in indigenous as well as modern societies, as well as mythologies and ethics of drug use. Recently, Reka has been involved in therapeutic Cannabis research at the University, and she is planning to do her PhD thesis on contemporary therapeutic Cannabis use in Jamaica.



RAS BINGHI CONGO-NYAH

Ras Binghi Congo-Nyah, is an international Ombudsman for The Rastafari Way of Life, and director of two small companies: Lions Den Fam and Zion Networks. He is also a musical performer. Raised and educated in Jamaica (Munro College, St.Elizabeth), he was accepted to Cambridge University (in 1995), but chose to begin study, train and work in the field of Data Communication. He has recently been the main feature and mediator for a forthcoming documentary 'Rastafari In Seven Days' in which he explains the daily and weekly principles of Rastafari Way of Life (due out in Sept 2011). He has spoken on the topic of Rastafari and Herbs for Wandsworth Council, Connexions, Tooting Hub Community Centre and various youth multifair events. Ras Binghi Nyah-Congo has a uniting perspective on topics and experiences in Life, being the living proof of what he represents.



ROBIN CARHART-HARRIS, PH.D.

After completing an undergraduate degree in Psychology in 2003, Robin studied psychoanalysis at Masters level, receiving his MA in 2004. In 2005, Robin began a four year PhD in Psychopharmacology at the University of Bristol. Working for Professor David Nutt and Dr Sue Wilson, Robin's thesis focused on sleep and serotonin function in ecstasy users. In 2009, working closely with the Beckley Foundation, he successfully coordinated the first clinical study of psilocybin in the UK and the first clinical study of a classic psychedelic drug in the UK for over 40 years. Also in 2009, Robin moved to Imperial College London to continue his work under the supervision of Professor David Nutt. With the collaboration of Professor Richard Wise at Cardiff University, Robin has since coordinated the first resting state fMRI investigation of a classic psychedelic drug and the first fMRI investigation of psilocybin.



IVAN CASSELMAN PH.D., (cand.)

Ivan completed his MSc in Ethnobotany at the University of Kent, UK in September 2009 and his MPhil in Ethnopharmacology at the School of Pharmacy London, UK in 2011. He is currently a PhD candidate at Southern Cross University in Lismore, Australia. As a member of the Southern Cross Plant Science Department his work focuses on the molecular phylogeny and phytochemistry of *Salvia divinorum*. With a comprehensive understanding of chemistry, bio-medicine and botany his main research interest are plants which create heightened states of consciousness, social models of psychoactive use and the development of novel natural product therapies.



CAROLINE CHATWIN, PH.D.

Dr Caroline Chatwin is a lecturer in criminology at the university of Kent where she leads a third year optional course 'Drugs, culture and control'. Dr Chatwin has published widely in the field of European drug policy and has a book on this subject coming out in April (Drug Policy Harmonization and the European Union). Recently she has expanded her research field into the areas of cannabis users, cannabis markets and drug use within the psychedelic trance scene.



WILLIAM ROWLANDSON, PH.D.

Dr. William Rowlandson is former Head of Hispanic Studies at the University of Kent, and is co-Director of the Centre for the Study of Myth. He is currently preparing a book concerning Borges and mysticism, a chapter of which looks at a reading of Borges poetics through Jung's elaboration of individuation. His work on Cuban poet and novelist José Lezama Lima concentrated on Lezama's equation of poetry and the numinous. William's work within the Myth Centre has focused predominantly on the many aspects of the work of Jung. With co-Director Angela Voss, William is organising a conference at the University of Kent in May entitled Daimonic Imagination: Uncanny Intelligence: www.kent.ac.uk/mythconference

Invited Symposia Speaker Bios

CURRENT RESEARCH ON PSYCHEDELICS AND CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT



ANGELA VOSS, PH.D.

Angela Voss taught for 10 years in the Theology and Religious Studies section at Kent, directing an MA programme and teaching undergraduate modules in the Cultural Study of Cosmology and Divination. She is currently teaching a distance learning course for the Phoenix Rising Academy (www.phoenixrising.org.gr). Her research interests centre on the Western esoteric traditions and their understanding of the symbolic imagination, and she has published extensively on the astrological music therapy of the Renaissance magus Marsilio Ficino. More information on the cosmology and divination project can be found at www.cosmology-divination.com

BOLD VISIONS



DAVE KING (CONVENOR)

Dave King is a student of medical anthropology with a research interest in hallucinogens. In late 2009 he co-founded the UKC Psychedelics society at the University of Kent, which now has a mailing list of over 650. He has published articles on psychedelics & the Psychedelics Society in local newspapers, on the society website, and for MAPS, as well as writing a booklet entitled 'A Short Introduction to Hallucinogens'. He plans to follow up his degree with postgraduate studies in neurochemistry and pharmacognosy. His undergraduate dissertation is looking at patterns in the variations of cannabis phenomenology and use. Before becoming interested in psychedelics, his love of the unusual and the experiential led him to the practice of pyrotechnics.



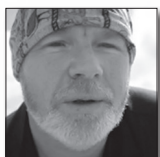
TORSTEN PASSIE, M.D., PH.D.

Torsten is assistant professor for clinical psychiatry and psychotherapy at Hannover Medical School. He studied philosophy, sociology (M.A.) at Hannover University and medicine at Hannover Medical School. His medical dissertation was on existential psychiatry. He worked at the Psychiatric University Clinic in Zürich (Switzerland) and with Professor Hanscarl Leuner (Göttingen), the leading European authority on hallucinogens. He has done extensive research on the psychophysiology of altered states of consciousness and their healing potential, including clinical research with different induction procedures including hallucinogenic drugs (cannabis, ketamin, nitrous oxide, psilocybin). He is an expert on the pharmacology and clinical/therapeutic use of hallucinogenic drugs. His publications appeared in *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, *Neuropsychobiology*, *Addiction Biology*, *Addiction*, *CNS Neuroscience and Therapeutics* and others.



GRAHAM HANCOCK

Graham Hancock is the author of *The Sign and The Seal*, *Fingerprints of the Gods*, *Keeper Of Genesis*, *Heaven's Mirror*, and other bestselling investigations of historical mysteries. His recent work focuses on shamanism and the origins of religion. His 2005 book, *Supernatural: Meetings with The Ancient Teachers of Mankind*, suggests that experiences in altered states of consciousness have played a fundamental role in the evolution of human culture and that other realities not normally accessible to our senses may surround us at all times. While researching *Supernatural* Hancock travelled to the Amazon to drink visionary brew Ayahuasca - the Vine of Souls - used by shamans for more than 4000 years. His experiences with the vine lead to his latest work, and first novel, *Entangled*, published in 2010.



ANDY ROBERTS

Andy Roberts has authored or co-authored 12 books on a wide variety of subjects from the fringes of society. His interest in psychedelic drugs, specifically LSD, stems from a thorough experiential grounding in the counterculture of the 1970s, which led him to write *Albion Dreaming*, a social history of LSD in Britain (Marshall Cavendish, 2008). Andy contributes to a number of magazines including *Fortean Times*, for which he has written feature articles for many years and co writes a sceptical monthly column about the UFO scene. He believes the secret of the universe can be found in the music of the Grateful Dead. In the real world he works for a Housing Association.



Franz Vollenweider, M.D.

Dr. Franz X. Vollenweider is currently the Vice-Director of Research and Teaching and Director of the "Neuropsychopharmacology and Brain Imaging" Research Unit of the University Hospital of Psychiatry Zürich East, and Professor of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine, University of Zürich. He is also the Director of Heffter Research Centre Zürich for Consciousness Studies (HRC-ZH), which he founded in 1998 and incorporated in his research group. Dr. Vollenweider has published over 80 peer-reviewed papers, many of which address the mechanisms of action of psychostimulants, hallucinogens, and entactogens in humans.

THE BECKLEY FOUNDATION



WORKING AT THE FOREFRONT OF SCIENTIFIC AND POLICY RESEARCH

The Beckley Foundation is a charitable trust that initiates, directs, and supports a multi-disciplinary programme of scientific studies into the potential benefits - as well as the risks - of psychoactive substances and the policies that regulate these substances.

SCIENCE

The Beckley Foundation seeks to open the doors to scientific research into psychoactive substances as tools that can be used to learn more about consciousness itself. It also seeks to rekindle the investigation of their many potential clinical applications.

POLICY

The Beckley Foundation also works to increase the understanding of the health, social and financial benefits of more liberal drug policies, and to redirect global drug policy towards a more health-oriented and less punitive approach. We also commission original research into the social and economic impact of drugs and the policies that control their use.

GROUND-BREAKING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
LSD-PSILOCYBIN-CANNABIS

DRUG POLICY SEMINARS

THERAPEUTIC APPLICATIONS OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

BOOKS

THE CANNABIS COMMISSION

SCALE OF HARM

NEW DRAFT FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

General Info

Registration Information

Breaking Convention volunteers will be on site throughout the weekend to help with any questions or queries. Registration will be open from Friday evening at 5:00PM. To collect your registration pack, please visit the desk in the downstairs foyer.

Name Badges

Our unique name badges are made from blotter paper; the medium once used for transporting LSD and now commonly seen in the form of Blotter Art (see the exhibition in the foyer). You will need your name badge to gain access to any of the talks, so please keep it on at all times.

Rules and Behaviour Requests

We ask you to please respect the other conference delegates, the volunteers and the staff. If a lecture room has reached maximum capacity and an usher asks you to leave, please do so without causing a fuss. This conference is devoted to psychedelic discussion, and will be attended by representatives of the media. It is not permitted to engage in any illegal activities on site. Please note that delegates are responsible for their own personal health and safety.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found will be run from the desk in the lower foyer. Please take any found items to the desk as promptly as you can. If you have not retrieved items by the end of the conference, please email admin@breakingconvention.co.uk.

Catering

Water will be available in the conference venue, free of charge, throughout the weekend. We will also have complimentary juice and biscuits during break times. There is a kiosk in the Woolf Foyer that will be selling hot drinks, cakes and sandwiches throughout the weekend. During lunchtimes, Rutherford dining hall (see campus map) will be open and has hot food (including vegetarian and vegan meals) on offer. Other campus eateries that will be open at various times throughout the weekend include K-bar, Origins and the Gulbenkian cafe.

Mobile Phones

When entering the lecture halls, please turn your mobile phone to silent or turn it off.

Audio/Video Recordings

Audio and video recordings will be taken by film crews at the conference. Entry to the conference assumes acceptance that one may feature in recordings, and delegates are not entitled to any royalties from said footage. Some speakers will not wish to be recorded, so please abide by their wishes if you are bringing recording equipment.



MAPS

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHEDELIC STUDIES

25th
Anniversary

Celebrating 25 Years of Psychedelic Research & Education
Conference, Workshops, and Benefit Celebration
December 9–11, 2011 • San Francisco Bay Area

MAPS is a membership-based 501(c)(3) non-profit research and educational organization. Our mission is to treat conditions for which conventional medicines provide limited relief, such as PTSD and anxiety associated with life-threatening illnesses, by developing psychedelics and marijuana into prescription medicines. To learn more about MAPS and to become a member, please visit our website:

www.maps.org





Finding Your Way

Finding your way around the campus

