
TOWARD A GLOBAL SHIFT IN DRUG POLICY?

An International and Interdisciplinary Workshop
University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland)
3rd-4th December 2015

Keynote Speakers

- **Prof. David Bewley-Taylor** (Prof. of Political and Cultural Studies, Dir. of the Global Drug Policy Observatory, University of Swansea)
- **Prof. Julia Buxton** (Prof. of Comparative Politics, Central European University)
- **Prof. Eugene McCann** (Prof. of Geography, Simon Fraser University)

Call for Papers

In the past five years, the political debate on the failure of the 'war on drug' and on a possible shift in drug policies from criminal punishment toward a legalization and a public health approach has emerged as a central issue of global governance. While these ideas are not new, it is only in the last few years that a massive transformation in global drug policy started to appear as a credible scenario in the medium term. The 'rebirth' of the anti-prohibitionist approach is taking place at different scales. Rethinking drug policies is not only part of the diplomatic agenda of supranational alliances or multilateral organizations - such as the United Nations or the Organization of American States - but it is also notable through the rise of innovative drug policies launched by countries, regions and cities. These local experiences interconnect and propel the circulation of political ideas, policy knowledge and new imaginaries related to the management of 'the drug problem'.

The aim of this workshop is to share ideas, results and methods related to the empowerment of new discourses and new practices in drug policies. It seeks to bring together scholars working on the genesis of recent debates on drug policies, innovative local initiatives and experiments, and the role of advocacy networks.

Recent shifts in the debate on drugs are revelatory of how certain public problems get constructed as issues of global governance. Therefore, the broader aim of the workshop is also to better understand how global governance issues result from a complex interplay between different spheres of action, debate and legislation (in the case of drug policies: local experiments, regional alliances, international advocacy networks and the global drug control regime).

Suggestions for topics include, but are not limited to:

- Production and circulation of political ideas and policy models related to drug issues
- Drugs as a central issue of global governance
- War on drugs: a diagnosis
- Mapping drug policies
- Geopolitics of drug policy reform
- Drug policy reform and alliances in producing and transit countries
- Social movement, advocacy networks, lobby groups and other stakeholders in drug policy reform
- Innovative methodologies in drug policy research

Application

Paper proposals should include a title and abstract (max. 250 words), a brief biographical note, as well as the name, affiliation and email address of the author.

We welcome applications from junior scholars (PhD/Postdoc researchers).

Please send submissions to julie.dedardel@unine.ch with 'International workshop on Drug policy – Paper proposal' in the subject line. **The deadline for abstract submissions is July 5th 2015.** Replies to applicants will be given by July 15th 2015.

Practical information

There is no fee to participate in the workshop. Lunches and Conference dinner will be offered by the University of Neuchâtel to all participants. Advice for accommodation options in Neuchâtel will be provided on demand (secretariat@geographie.unine.ch).

Organized by

Prof. Ola Söderström and Dr. Julie de Dardel
Institute of Geography, University of Neuchatel