ICPR2016
Interdisciplinary Conference on Psychedelics Research
3 - 5 JUNE 2016 • AMSTERDAM
Dear delegates,

Welcome to the third **Interdisciplinary Conference on Psychedelics Research**!

We find ourselves in the midst of a revival of research into psychedelic substances. Each year, the number of studies investigating the potential uses of psychedelics increases. With new research projects being started at some of the world’s most prestigious universities and research institutes, the study of psychedelics is once again accepted as a legitimate subject of scientific inquiry, using these substances to help us understand the inner workings of the human brain and psyche. Our intention with ICPR is to offer you a representative sample of the multitude of fascinating topics that worldwide psychedelics research is currently addressing.

At a first glance, it may be hard to understand why pharmacologists interested into ligand binding or neuroimaging experts in functional brain connectivity should mingle with anthropologists studying ayahuasca rituals in the Amazon basin or scholars studying the metaphysical implications of drug induced ego dissolution. Nevertheless, we contend that by bringing together researchers from a wide array of academic backgrounds, we can come closer to understanding the full potential of psychedelics and truly gain insight into the broad ‘variety of psychedelic experiences’.

I hope this conference takes a small step in that direction. May you make many new connections, be introduced to novel ideas and come up with innovative directions for future research. Enjoy your stay in Amsterdam and at ICPR!

On behalf of OPEN, I wish you a marvelous, fruitful and inspiring time.

**Joost Breeksema**  
*Chairman*  
OPEN Foundation
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME
The conference programme starts on Friday at 09:50 with a plenary keynote lecture. On Saturday and Sunday the first lectures commence at 09:30. On all days, the programme ends around 18:00.

All presentations will be in English. Most lectures will be filmed and made available online after the conference.

QUESTIONS
After each lecture there will be time to ask questions about the content of the lectures. This is not the right time or place to publicly share your personal experiences or to ask speakers about theirs. Please formulate your question in a concise and clear way. Keep in mind that time for Q&A is limited and others might want to have a turn too.

DIGITAL SPACE
During the conference we will walk around and gather snapshots of the conference. You can follow our live reporting and other necessary announcements on our Facebook page and Twitter feed (#ICPR2016):

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stichting.open
Twitter: https://twitter.com/foundationopen

Would you like to share something? Ask a specific question? Please message our Facebook page or use hashtag #icpr2016!
MEDIA National and international media will be present during this event. Please keep in mind that psychedelics are a stigmatized topic and are easily stereotyped. Our mission is to dissolve this stigma, but partial responsibility also lies with our audience. We kindly ask for your cooperation.

TIME We have scheduled ample time for breaks to get refreshments, to network, and to get to know fellow delegates and presenters. We have also scheduled ten minutes in between tracks. You can use this time for a quick bathroom break or to change rooms.

CAPACITY During keynote lectures, the Atrium will be at full capacity and can fit all delegates. The capacity of the Forge is 150. During some popular tracks, it could be that you are not allowed in because of overcapacity. We apologize beforehand and ask for your understanding.

DOOR POLICY At ICPR, we follow a strict door policy. Since it is distracting for both lecturers and delegates, we will not allow entry to the conference rooms once lectures have begun. So please, make sure that you arrive on time for each track.
LUNCH AND COFFEE BREAKS
On each day of the conference there will be a 30 minute coffee break in the morning and afternoon. You will find 3 consumption tickets per day enclosed with your badge, which can be exchanged for a hot drink at the bars in the Atrium and Lounge.
During lunch break, there will be plenty of time for networking and socializing while enjoying the organic food and drinks sold at the Atrium and Lounge.
The Lounge area will be open throughout the conference for relaxation and communication. Beverages and snacks are available there.

PAYMENT OPTIONS
Cash and (debit) cards are valid payment methods during the conference. At the Lounge area, both cash and card payment is accepted. At the bars in the Atrium, you can only pay with card.

TOILETS
The ladies and men’s rooms are located next to the Forge.
WHAT? WHERE?

WARDROBE
The free, guarded wardrobe in the Lobby will be open on Friday and Saturday from 8 AM to 7 PM and on Sunday from 9 AM to 7 PM. Coats and assets that are not collected before 7PM will be transferred to the coat hooks in the corridor. The coat hooks in the corridor can also be used to put away coats. Bags, trolleys and other large assets should be deposited at the guarded wardrobe. If you lose your wardrobe ticket, we ask you to wait until 7 PM before we hand out your asset.

LOST AND FOUND
Lost and found service is available at the reception. If you find out that something is missing after the conference has passed, you can send us a message via the contact form on the website.

INFORMATION SERVICES
Please feel free to address your questions to our ushers or receptionists at the Entrance hall. General conference updates will be posted regularly on Facebook.

WIFI
The WiFi Network ‘GAST’ is OPEN and available for ICPR 2016 delegates. The eduroam network can also be used by academics with an eduroam account.

FIRST AID
We certainly hope that this will not be the case, but if a situation occurs in which you need first aid there are two official first aid helpers present at the location. Please notify one of our crew members of your needs and they will make sure you get the necessary care. Our crew members will be present in the conference rooms as ushers, stage assistants, bar employees etc. They can be recognized by the red or orange banner on their badges.
AFTER HOURS

After each conference day there is a possibility to join an after reception at the location. Come and join us at the atmospheric Lounge in Het Sieraad. The bar will serve drinks and snacks each night starting at **18:00** until **22:00**.

On Friday a local duo ‘Quartier Mustache’ will open the reception by playing loungy, cool-at-the-pool, jazzadelic, space-age-pop cocktail music. Make sure not to miss out on their show!
The OPEN Foundation is an interdisciplinary non-profit organisation that aims to stimulate scientific research into all aspects of the psychedelic experience.

OUR VISION
The study of psychedelics is gaining momentum and attention, both in academia and mainstream media. The OPEN Foundation aims to help maintain the highest standards of methodology and research protocols and to promote rigorously designed and carefully performed studies. During the coming years, our central focus will be to facilitate and fund research into psychedelics in the Netherlands.

By building an extensive network of scholars and researchers from various disciplines, and by organising conferences, lecture series and research groups, we take steps towards achieving our prospective goal: the foundation of a multidisciplinary academic research institute, dedicated to the study of psychedelic substances, the publication of research, and education.

The work of OPEN is entirely made possible by our dedicated volunteers and sponsors.

Do you want to find out more about our mission? Browse recently published papers? Watch videos and read the latest news on psychedelic research? Stay in touch with us through: openfoundation.nl

facebook.com/stichting.open
info@openfoundation.nl
@FoundationOPEN
stichtingopen.nl/participate/newsletter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>PRESENTATION TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 ~ 9:30</td>
<td>Joost Breeksema</td>
<td>Walk-in &amp; Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 ~ 9:45</td>
<td>Joost Breeksema</td>
<td>Opening</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:50 ~ 10:40</td>
<td>Roland Griffiths</td>
<td>Overview of the Johns Hopkins Psilocybin Research Project</td>
<td>Keynote Lecture</td>
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<td>10:40 ~ 11:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:10 ~ 11:35</td>
<td>Robin Carhart-Harris</td>
<td>Brain imaging and depression research with psychedelics</td>
<td>Neuroimaging &amp; Clinical Research</td>
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<td>11:35 ~ 12:00</td>
<td>Mendel Kaelen</td>
<td>Neuroimaging and therapeutic use of psychedelics and music</td>
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<td>12:25 ~ 12:40</td>
<td>Patrick Everitt</td>
<td>The Divine Cactus and the Great Beast: Aleister Crowley’s relationship with peyote</td>
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<td>13:00 ~ 14:30</td>
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<td>14:30 ~ 14:55</td>
<td>Kim Kuypers</td>
<td>Neurobiology underlying the prosocial effects of MDMA</td>
<td>Neurocognition of MDMA &amp; LSD</td>
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<td>14:55 ~ 15:20</td>
<td>Matthias Liechti</td>
<td>Experimental controlled studies using LSD and MDMA in healthy subjects</td>
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<td>15:30 ~ 16:00</td>
<td>Rick Doblin</td>
<td>Regulatory challenges involved in developing psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy</td>
<td>Regulation &amp; Clinical Trials</td>
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<td>16:00 ~ 16:30</td>
<td>George Goldsmith</td>
<td>Accelerating patient access to psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy</td>
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<td>16:30 ~ 17:00</td>
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<td>17:00 ~ 17:30</td>
<td>Alicia Danforth</td>
<td>Exploring MDMA-assisted therapy as a new pathway to social adaptability for autistic</td>
<td>MDMA-Assisted Psychotherapy</td>
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<td>17:30 ~ 18:00</td>
<td>Marcela Ot’alora</td>
<td>Using MDMA for trauma integration</td>
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<td>COFFEE BREAK</td>
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<td>11:10 ~ 11:35</td>
<td>Pieter Lemmens</td>
<td>On the Epistemological Potentials of Psychedelics: Towards a Philosophical Critique of Pharmako-Gnosis A. N. Whitehead and Psychedelic Phenomenology</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<td>11:35 ~ 12:00</td>
<td>Peter Sjöstedt-H</td>
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<td>12:10 ~ 12:25</td>
<td>Patrick Dolder</td>
<td>Acute effects of LSD in a placebo-controlled study in humans Processing of the Mismatch Negativity under LSD Neural correlates of LSD-induced, eyes-closed, psychedelic Imagery</td>
<td>LSD &amp; Neuroscience</td>
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<td>12:25 ~ 12:40</td>
<td>Chris Timmermann</td>
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<td>12:40 ~ 12:55</td>
<td>Leor Roseman</td>
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<td>LUNCH BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 ~ 14:55</td>
<td>Jonathan Hobbs</td>
<td>Altered by the hand of man - Legal clashes with ayahuasca and other plant psychedelics in the European courts Ayahuasca prosecution: opportunity for constructive policy innovation?</td>
<td>Ayahuasca &amp; Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:55 ~ 15:20</td>
<td>Ben de Loenen</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30 ~ 16:00</td>
<td>Henk Barendregt</td>
<td>Mind-states and mind-streams from unwholesome via altered to wholesome</td>
<td>Understanding Altered States</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00 ~ 16:30</td>
<td>Neşe Devenot</td>
<td>The Role of Poetic Language in Psychedelic Science Research</td>
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<td>16:30 ~ 17:00</td>
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<td>TEA BREAK</td>
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<td>17:00 ~ 17:20</td>
<td>Adele Lafrance Robinson</td>
<td>Feeding the soul with Ayahuasca-assisted therapy: A promising treatment for the healing of eating disorders Takiwasi: Addiction treatment in the “Singing House” Old World Medicine and its way into clinical research</td>
<td>Ayahuasca &amp; Therapy</td>
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<td>17:20 ~ 17:40</td>
<td>David O’Shaughnessy</td>
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<td>17:40 ~ 18:00</td>
<td>Heiner Dörfler</td>
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<tr>
<td>800 ~ 930</td>
<td>Walk-in &amp; Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>930 ~ 945</td>
<td>Maarten Belgers</td>
<td>Ibogaine and addiction in the animal model, a systematic review and meta-analysis</td>
<td>Ibogaine Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>945 ~ 1000</td>
<td>Roman Paškulin</td>
<td>Epigenetic Shift and Modus Vivendi</td>
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<td>1000 ~ 1015</td>
<td>Thomas Knuijver</td>
<td>Research with psychedelics in Academia, an exciting challenge</td>
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<td>1020 ~ 1050</td>
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<tr>
<td>1050 ~ 1140</td>
<td>Jeffrey Guss</td>
<td>The NYU School of Medicine Study on Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy for treatment of Existential Distress in Cancer Patients: History, Study Structure, Therapist Training, Outcome Data</td>
<td>Keynote Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>1150 ~ 1250</td>
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<td>Poster Presentations</td>
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<td>1250 ~ 1350</td>
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<tr>
<td>1350 ~ 1440</td>
<td>William Richards</td>
<td>Sacred Knowledge: Transcendental Experiences in Psychotherapy and Spiritual Development</td>
<td>Keynote Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>1450 ~ 1515</td>
<td>Randall Brown</td>
<td>Pharmacokinetics of escalating oral doses of psilocybin in normal adult volunteers</td>
<td>Neuroimaging &amp; Clinical Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>1515 ~ 1640</td>
<td>Luís Fernando Tófoli</td>
<td>Imaging the brain on psychedelics – a way to understand their therapeutic effects on addiction</td>
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<td>1640 ~ 1700</td>
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<tr>
<td>1610 ~ 1635</td>
<td>David Erritzoe</td>
<td>The effect of psilocybin on personality in patients with major depression</td>
<td>Psilocybin &amp; Therapeutic Mechanisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>1635 ~ 1700</td>
<td>Alexander Belser</td>
<td>Real, Relational, and Embodied: The First Qualitative Study of Patient Experiences of Psilocybin-Assisted Psychotherapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1710 ~ 1800</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
<td>Psychedelics &amp; Spirituality Panel</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>09:30-09:55</td>
<td>Tarik Najeddine</td>
<td>Novel Psychedelic Substances: A Grave Threat to the Psychedelic Renaissance</td>
<td>Harm Reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:55-10:20</td>
<td>Levente Móró</td>
<td>Crisis Intervention at Psychedelic Festivals</td>
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<td>10:20-10:50</td>
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<td><strong>COFFEE BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50-11:15</td>
<td>Tobias Buchborn</td>
<td>Differential tolerance to hyperthermia induced by LSD and DMT is paralleled by differential desensitisation of fronto-cortical, but not hypothalamic 5-HT₂ receptors</td>
<td>Fundamental Neuroscience</td>
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<td>11:15-11:40</td>
<td>Jesper Kristensen</td>
<td>Development of selective 5-HT₂AR Agonists</td>
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<td>12:50-13:50</td>
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<td><strong>LUNCH BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15:15-15:40</td>
<td>Matthew Clark</td>
<td>Soma, haoma, and ayahuasca</td>
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<td>15:40-16:10</td>
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<td><strong>TEA BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16:10-16:35</td>
<td>Mauricio Diament</td>
<td>An approach to Brazilian Portuguese only scientific production on ayahuasca: Biomedics and Psychology</td>
<td>Ayahuasca Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:35-17:00</td>
<td>Helle Kaasik</td>
<td>Ritual ayahuasca use in Estonia</td>
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<td>17:10-18:00</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
<td>Neuroscience Panel</td>
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# Timetable Sunday

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<td>900 ~ 930</td>
<td>Walk-in</td>
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<tr>
<td>930 ~ 955</td>
<td>Amanda Feilding</td>
<td>The Beckley Foundation Psychedelic Research Programme</td>
<td>Perspectives on Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>955 ~ 1020</td>
<td>Toine Pieters</td>
<td>Towards the chemically transformable mind</td>
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<td>1020 ~ 1050</td>
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<tr>
<td>1050 ~ 1115</td>
<td>Jordi Riba</td>
<td>Recent advances in the study of the neural mechanisms and therapeutic potential of Ayahuasca</td>
<td>Neuroimaging &amp; Clinical Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>1115 ~ 1140</td>
<td>Draulio B. de Araújo</td>
<td>Acute, lasting and antidepressant effects of Ayahuasca</td>
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<tr>
<td>1150 ~ 1210</td>
<td>Monika Wieliczko</td>
<td>Psychological effects of MDMA: the function of the set and setting</td>
<td>MDMA Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>1210 ~ 1230</td>
<td>Katie Anderson</td>
<td>‘It’s a whole fresh, clean slate of communication’: Exploring the MDMA experiences of couples using a pluralistic, qualitative approach</td>
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<td>1230 ~ 1250</td>
<td>Ben Sessa</td>
<td>MDMA as an Antibiotic for Infectious Mental Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>1430 ~ 1455</td>
<td>Albert Dahan</td>
<td>Ketamine, a versatile drug, with many effects and side effects</td>
<td>Perspectives on Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1455 ~ 1520</td>
<td>Jeffrey Guss &amp; Elizabeth Nielson</td>
<td>Proposal for an Integrated Model for Psychedelic Psychotherapy Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>1530 ~ 1630</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
<td>Therapy Panel</td>
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<td>1630 ~ 1710</td>
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<tr>
<td>1710 ~ 1800</td>
<td>Torsten Passie</td>
<td>Waves of research with psychedelics 1980-2015: an overview</td>
<td>Closing Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIME</td>
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<tr>
<td>930 ~ 955</td>
<td>Timo Schmidt</td>
<td>Phenomenoconnectomics - Big Data on Altered States of Consciousness</td>
<td>Neuroscience &amp; Modelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>955 ~ 10:20</td>
<td>Sarit Hashkes</td>
<td>Perception is in the Details. A Predictive Processing Account of the Effects of 5-Hydroxytryptamine 2A (5-HT2A) Agonists On Perception</td>
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<td>10:20 ~ 10:50</td>
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<td>COFFEE BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50 ~ 11:15</td>
<td>Kenneth Tupper &amp;</td>
<td>Psychedelics, Entheogens and Public Policy: Scoping the Intersections between Renaissance and Reform</td>
<td>Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 ~ 11:40</td>
<td>Andrea Langlois</td>
<td>A psychedelic cure; an exploration and analysis on the state’s relationship with scientific research</td>
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<td>11:50 ~ 12:10</td>
<td>Raphaël Millière</td>
<td>A Quantitative Analysis of Narrative Reports of Drug-Induced Ego Dissolution</td>
<td>Ego Dissolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10 ~ 12:30</td>
<td>Matthew Nour</td>
<td>Ego-Dissolution and Psychedelics</td>
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<td>12:30 ~ 12:50</td>
<td>Bradley Vines</td>
<td>Jazz improvisation as a catalyst for transcendent states of mind</td>
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<td>12:50 ~ 14:30</td>
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<td>LUNCH BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 ~ 14:45</td>
<td>Susanna Prepeliczay</td>
<td>Motivations and morphology of recreational psychedelics use in Germany: A qualitative empirical study</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>14:45 ~ 15:00</td>
<td>David Luke</td>
<td>The transpersonal psychedelic experience and change in ecological attitude and behaviour</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 ~ 15:15</td>
<td>Iker Puente</td>
<td>Subjective effects of different psychedelics: a comparison</td>
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<td>15:30 ~ 16:30</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
<td>Panel: Ayahuasca, globalization and health</td>
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During the conference, many international researchers from a wide range of academic disciplines will share their latest results and advances in scientific research on psychedelics. Psilocybin, LSD, ayahuasca, mescaline, DMT, ibogaine, ketamine and MDMA are amongst the substances discussed. These researchers have investigated not only the neuroscience, physiology, and therapeutic effects of psychedelic substances but also covered the sociological, anthropological, philosophical, ethical and legal aspects.

The following pages provide an alphabetical overview of the speakers during the conference, along with an abstract of their talk and a short biography.
‘It’s a whole fresh, clean slate of communication’: Exploring the MDMA experiences of couples using a pluralistic, qualitative approach

Background information: MDMA (‘ecstasy’) is well-known for its pro-social effects including heightened empathy and openness. These effects seem to facilitate closeness yet there has been limited research looking at MDMA’s impact on romantic relationships. Research question: How do shared MDMA experiences influence a romantic relationship? Method: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 10 couples using a pluralistic approach. Results: Couples’ emotional environments were transformed: communication changed from knowing something on a rational, cognitive level to a deep, felt understanding; a protective bubble was formed around the couple: free from existing fears/judgments and an emotional sense of self was brought to the fore. Conclusion: The study opens up new understandings of the role of MDMA in romantic relationships through an appreciation of how emotional experience can be transformed by MDMA. It also points to a reconsideration of the therapeutic use of MDMA for couples.

BIOGRAPHY

Katie Anderson is a PhD student researching couples who take MDMA together and how they feel these ecstasy experiences have influenced their relationship. The research is qualitative and supervised by Professor Paula Reavey and Dr Zoë Boden. She completed her MSc Psychology at the University of East London in 2013, where her dissertation explored the meaning of MDMA experiences to users, and has a BA in Philosophy from the University of Cambridge.
Acute, lasting and antidepressant effects of Ayahuasca

Our previous fMRI studies during the acute effects of Ayahuasca were focused on the mental imagery system and on the Default Mode Network (DMN). We have found that Ayahuasca changes the activity of the frontopolar cortex (BA 10), occipital visual areas, and the medial temporal lobe. We have also found decreased activity, and functional connectivity changes, of the Default Mode Network (DMN). In the last few years, we have also been studying the potential antidepressant effects of Ayahuasca. Preliminary evidences, from an open-label study, suggest that Ayahuasca is well tolerated by patients with depression, and indicate a significant lasting antidepressant effect after a single dose of Ayahuasca. Besides these studies, in this presentation we will also show preliminary results, from a single-blind placebo controlled experiment, which indicates lasting effects of Ayahuasca (24h after) over biochemical markers of the HPA axis (cortisol), the immune system (Interleukin-4 and 6), and BDNF.

BIOGRAPHY

Draulio Barros de Araujo is a professor of neuroimaging at the Brain Institute (UFRN), Natal, Brazil. In recent years his research has focused on using functional neuroimaging methods (EEG and fMRI) to investigate the acute and lasting effects of Ayahuasca. His research group has also been studying the antidepressant potential of Ayahuasca.
Rediscovering Dionysus: Gender, Nature and Politics in Ancient Ecstatic Rituals

The practice of altered states of consciousness has accompanied and inspired the evolution of human culture since time immemorial. In Europe for thousands of years the ingestion of psychotropic plants, trance dancing to the sound of the frame drum and ritual sexuality were the preferred means to enter into a state of deep connection with nature and channel its wisdom.

In this presentation we will explore how these primordial shamanic practices survived into the historical period to spread and flourish in the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. In particular we will look at how the rituals of Dionysus offered the possibility to construct alternative gender roles and the reactions of the ruling classes both in ancient Greece and Rome.

Chiara Baldini is an independent researcher from Italy. Her work explores how techniques of ecstasy have been embedded in different rituals over the course of Western history, particularly in ancient Greece and Rome.
Mind-states and mind-streams from unwholesome via altered to wholesome

Neuroscience, insight meditation, and Buddhist psychology all indicate that consciousness consists of a stream of discrete flashes (moments) of consciousness called ‘cetas’ (momentary mind-states). These cetas are neither normal nor altered, it is the stream of cetas that can be normal or altered. On the other hand, a single ceta can be wholesome or unwholesome. A (mind-)state is a tendency to act, where acting means behaving, and providing behavioral and mental reactions. Unwholesome states are those that are conducive to mental suffering and physical discomfort. Wholesome states provide mental and physical balance.

Altered streams of consciousness (‘altered states’) are different from the usual. These altered states are necessary to make a transition from unwholesome to wholesome states. This needs to be done in a very careful and patient way, being ready to “face the most inexplicable experiences” (Rilke, from “Letters to a young poet”).

BIOGRAPHY

Henk Barendregt is an emeritus mathematical logician, recipient of the Spinoza award in 2002. He has been meditating since 1972 and teaching insight meditation since 2001. He combines traditional Buddhist models of the mind with insights from computer science. The main features are that the mind is a fluctuating and deterministic process that can be understood better by careful inner observations.
Ibogaine and addiction in the animal model, a systematic review and meta-analysis

Ibogaine is a naturally occurring substance which has been increasingly used in the lay-scene to reduce craving and relapse in patients with substance use disorders (SUDs). Although human clinical trials on the safety and efficacy of ibogaine are lacking, animal studies do support the efficacy of ibogaine. In a systematic review and meta-analysis we have summarized these animal findings, addressing three questions: 1) does ibogaine reduce addictive behaviour in animal models of SUDs?; 2) what are the toxic effects of ibogaine on motor functioning, cerebellum and heart rhythm?; 3) what are neuropharmacological working mechanisms of ibogaine treatment in animal models of SUDs? We will present the conclusions of our findings.

BIOGRAPHY

Maarten Belgers is Medical Doctor in Addiction Medicine (Master in Addiction Medicine KNMG) at Iriszorg. He is Researcher at Iriszorg and Radboud University Medical Center.
Real, Relational, and Embodied: The First Qualitative Study of Patient Experiences of Psilocybin-Assisted Psychotherapy

Findings will be presented from the first qualitative study of participant experiences in psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy. Semi-structured interviews were carried out with 13 adult participants aged 22 to 69 years (M = 50 years) with clinically elevated anxiety associated with a cancer diagnosis. Participants received a moderate dose of psilocybin and adjunctive psychotherapy. Transcribed interviews were analyzed by a five-member research team using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). Results suggest new psychological mechanisms of action: patient experiences were relationally embedded, physically embodied, affect laden, biographically instantiated, and deeply meaningful. These findings suggest that the current measures being used in psychedelic research are incomplete, and that the domain of psychedelic research should be broadened to assess emotional range and catharsis, interoceptive and embodied phenomena, attachment style, and human relationships.

BIOGRAPHY
Alexander Belser, Ph.D. (cand.), M.Phil., is a Fellow and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Applied Psychology at New York University (NYU). He co-founded the psychedelic research team at NYU in 2006. Alex is the Lead Investigator of a study at NYU exploring how patients with cancer experience psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy. Alex serves as the Co-Primary Investigator of the NYU Psilocybin Alcohol Dependence Qualitative Study. He is interested in psychedelic spiritual experiences and is currently helping to design an interview study of religious leaders.
**Pharmacokinetics of escalating oral doses of psilocybin in normal adult volunteers**

Twelve healthy adult volunteers with psychedelic drug experience received oral doses of psilocybin of 0.3, 0.45, and 0.6mg/kg at 4-week intervals. Blood samples were collected at 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 18, and 24hrs post-dose. Urine was collected for 24 hours after the dose. Psilocybin and psilocin concentrations were determined by a validated HPLC-MS-MS assay. No psilocybin was detectable in plasma or urine. The Cmax and AUC of the active metabolite psilocin were linear with dose level, and all doses were well tolerated. Less than 5% of the administered dose was found in the urine as psilocin. There were no serious adverse effects. Positive psychological effects of psilocybin were similar across all three doses on the Mystical Experience Questionnaire and Persisting Effects Questionnaire (PEQ), with the exception of a dose 1 to dose 3 increase in the MEQ subscale Transcendance of Time and Space.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Randall Brown is an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin (UW) School of Medicine and Public Health. He is Board Certified in Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine, and holds a PhD in Population Health Sciences. He is the Director of the Center for Addictive Disorders at UW Hospital, the Director of UW’s Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program, and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Addiction Medicine. His research interests center on the provision of care to patients with substance use disorders in general medical settings and through innovative systems interventions (such as mobile technology).
Differential tolerance to hyperthermia induced by LSD and DMT is paralleled by differential desensitisation of frontocortical, but not hypothalamic 5HT2 receptors

It is known that serotonergic hallucinogens, such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), produce profound alterations of human consciousness, which –when repeatedly applied– substantially decrease or completely disappear. The only exception to this rule seems to be the sHG dimethyltryptamine (DMT), whose psychedelic effect for reasons unknown even with multiple applications reappears. As sHGs are thought to alter human consciousness by activation of serotonin (5-HT) 2A receptors, we here use an animal model of 5-HT2(A) activity (i.e. hyperthermia) and [35S]GTPγS binding techniques in rat brain homogenates to investigate whether differences in regulation of 5-HT2(A) receptors might account for the differential tolerance development noted for LSD and DMT in humans.

BIOGRAPHY
Tobias Buchborn is a German psychologist who does neuropharmacological research on serotonergic hallucinogens. He studied Psychology at the OvG University in Magdeburg, and within his Diploma thesis investigated the antidepressant-like properties of LSD in an animal model of depression. Currently, Tobias concludes his PhD thesis at the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology in Magdeburg. His research addresses the behavioural and molecular biological correlates of tolerance to LSD, DMT, and DOB. In June 2016, Tobias starts working as a Marie Curie Fellow at the Imperial College in London.
Brain imaging and depression research with psychedelics

This talk will review brain imaging work on the action of psychedelics on the brain and describe the results of a clinical trial assessing psilocybin as a treatment for depression. It will also review the broader societal impact of psychedelic drug-use and discuss its implications.

BIOGRAPHY
Robin studies the brain effects of LSD, psilocybin (magic mushrooms) and MDMA. Most recently he has completed the first phase of a clinical trial looking at the potential of psilocybin to treat depression. He is Research Fellow at the Centre for Neuropsychopharmacology, Division of Brain Sciences, Imperial College London.
**MATTHEW CLARK, PhD**

**Soma, haoma, and ayahuasca**

The identity of the plant known as soma in ancient India, and as haoma in the Zoroastrian tradition, has for around 250 years exercised the wits and imagination of scores of scholars. This plant is praised in the highest terms—as a kind of deity—in both Zoroastrian and Vedic texts that date from around 1,700 to 1,500 BCE; it is said to provide health, power, wisdom and even immortality. It has been variously identified by researchers as a non-psychoactive plant, as a medicine, as merely water, as an alcoholic, as a ‘narcotic’, as a stimulant, and as a psychedelic. Currently, the three most supported theories are that soma/haoma was either fly-agaric mushrooms, ephedra, or Syrian rue. I suggest, alternatively, that the ritual drink was based on analogues of ayahuasca, using a variety of plants, some of which I have identified.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Since 2004, Dr. Matthew Clark has been a Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London), where he has taught courses on Hinduism. He has spent many years in India, which he first visited in 1977. He first engaged with yoga in the mid-1970s and lectures regularly on yoga and philosophy. His publications include ‘The Daśanāmī-Saṃnyāsīs: The Integration of Ascetic Lineages into an Order’ (2006), which is a study of a sect of sādhus, and a short book on the origins and practices of yoga (2007). He is also a song-writer and musician (Mahabongo).
Ketamine, a versatile drug, with many effects and side effects

Like many other drugs, ketamine has multiple effects rendering it suitable for various indications including anesthesia, sedation, acute and chronic pain relief and treatment of therapy-resistant depression. Clinical effects include anesthesia due to dissociation between thalamus and limbic system (i.e. Ketamine is a dissociative anesthetic), relief of acute pain due to inhibition of excitatory NMDA receptors at spinal and supraspinal sites, relief of chronic pain due to activity at NMDA, opioid and cytokine receptors (e.g. the IRR), rapid antidepressant effects, due to enhancement of synaptogenesis at prefrontal cortical areas. Notorious are ketamine’s side effects including addiction, psychedelic or schizotypical effects (hallucinations, paranoia, anxiety/panic attacks), cardiovascular, liver and urogenital toxicity. Research in volunteers and patients in the LUMC has led to a wealth of information on ketamine’s analgesic and antidepressant behavior which will be discussed.

ALBERT DAHAN, MD, PhD

BIOGRAPHY
Dr. Dahan is Full Professor of Anesthesiology at Leiden University Medical Center. He graduated from de Free University in Amsterdam (MD) and Leiden University (PhD). He is head of Research at the Department of Anesthesiology. He founded and heads the Anesthesia & Pain Research Unit since 1995, a non-profit academic institute that performs outcome research aimed at improvement of care in anesthesia and pain treatment and the distribution of gained knowledge. The research on opioids and ketamine are among the major research topics of the Anesthesia & Pain Research Unit. Prof. Dahan has published over 300 papers in peer-reviewed journals.
ALICIA DANFORTH, PhD

Exploring MDMA-assisted Therapy as a New Pathway to Social Adaptability for Autistic Adults

The first randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled Phase 2 study of MDMA-assisted therapy for the treatment of social anxiety in autistic adults is nearing completion. Fear and avoidance behaviors associated with social anxiety interfere with the ability to work, attend school, and develop relationships. The search for psychotherapeutic options for autistic adults who want to improve social adaptability is imperative considering the lack of effective conventional treatment options for this population in which social anxiety is common. This talk will feature an overview of the research as well as preliminary findings.

BIOGRAPHY

Alicia Danforth, PhD is a psychologist and co-investigator for a randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled study on MDMA-assisted therapy for social anxiety in autistic adults. Her dissertation research was on the subjective MDMA/ecstasy experiences of adults on the autism spectrum. She began her work in clinical research with psychedelics on a Phase 2 pilot study of psilocybin treatment for anxiety related to advanced-stage cancer with Charles Grob, MD at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles in 2004.
NEŞE DEVENOT, PhD

The Role of Poetic Language in Psychedelic Science Research

This presentation argues that experimental uses of language represent crucial data about the content of psychedelic experiences in the context of scientific research. Devenot calls for the need to develop psychedelic studies in the humanities, since the discourse of science is essential but insufficient for exploring these liminal realms of consciousness. Although the majority of recent work in psychedelic studies relies on quantitative, objectively verifiable measures, the process of exploring non-ordinary states of consciousness depends on the communication of unprecedented subjective experiences—a process that necessarily relies on metaphor and other creative uses of language. For this reason, literary theory and poetic interpretation are as critical as chemical analysis in generating data for psychedelic science and the scientific study of consciousness more generally, suggesting new directions for research on the relationships between psychedelics, neurochemistry, and language.

BIOGRAPHY

Neşe Devenot is Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities at the University of Puget Sound, where her book project is exploring psychedelic philosophy and the literary history of psychedelic science. She is a 2015-16 Research Fellow at the New York Public Library’s Timothy Leary Papers and a Research Fellow with the New York University Psilocybin Cancer Anxiety Study, with which she collaborated on a qualitative study of patient experiences. She is a founder of the Psychedemia interdisciplinary psychedelics conference and a founding member of the MAPS Graduate Student Association.
An approach to Brazilian Portuguese only scientific production on ayahuasca: Biomedics and Psychology

This lecture will present a review of the Brazilian academic production (mainly articles and postgrade thesis) on ayahuasca, in the fields of Biomedical sciences and Psychology, that have never been published in any other language than Portuguese and that could be of benefit for the international scientific community.

BIOGRAPHY

Mauricio Diament is a psychiatrist from São Paulo, Brasil, interested in research on psychedelic therapeutics, etnopsychiatry and the potentials of ayahuasca. He is member of LEIPSI (Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Studies on Psychoactives) interested in psychedelic research on Ayahuasca and its clinical implications as well as on other psychoactive substances.
RICK DOBLIN, PhD

Regulatory challenges involved in developing psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy through the FDA/EMA process

This talk will focus on the regulatory challenges involved in developing psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy through the FDA/EMA process. Issues to be discussed will be the initial reasons behind the strategy of working through the FDA/EMA process, the rationale for why MAPS is prioritizing MDMA as the substance and PTSD as the clinical condition to move first into Phase 3 trials, standardizing the therapeutic method with treatment manual and adherence criteria, how MAPS approached the double-blind issue, the importance of an outcome measure that is administered by Independent Raters and the procedure used to minimize bias, how we reached out to the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD, the issue of the FDA’s Risk Evaluation and Mitigation System (REMS) to regulate MDMA-assisted psychotherapy post-approval, and the FDA's data exclusivity program and MAPS' sustainability plan through our MAPS Public Benefit Corporation.

Friday
15:30 - 16:00
Atrium

BIOGRAPHY
Rick Doblin, Ph.D., is the founder (in 1986) and executive director of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS). He received his doctorate in Public Policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, where he wrote his dissertation on the regulation of the medical uses of psychedelics and marijuana. His undergraduate thesis at New College of Florida was a 25-year follow-up to the classic Good Friday Experiment. Rick studied with Dr. Stanislav Grof and was among the first to be certified as a Holotropic Breathwork practitioner.
Acute effects of LSD in a placebo-controlled study in humans

LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) is a classic hallucinogen. It was widely studied in the 1950s to 1970s as an adjunct to psychotherapy. Today, LSD is again in the focus of several investigations ranging from pharmacological research studies in healthy subjects to studies investigating LSD as an adjunct in psychotherapy. A random order 2-period cross-over design (100 µg LSD vs. Placebo) was used in 24 healthy subjects. Subjective effects and autonomic effects were measured. Additionally, we investigated the effects of LSD on the processing of emotional information. LSD did moderately increase systolic and diastolic blood pressure, body temperature, and pupil size. In addition to alterations in perception, LSD produced overall positive subjective feelings of closeness to others, openness, and trust. LSD also reduced the recognition of sad and fearful faces. It is concluded that LSD induced positive subjective effects and empathogenic effects in a controlled setting.

BIOGRAPHY

Due to his interest in the anatomy and physiology of the human body, Patrick started his studies in pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Basel. In 2013 he wrote his master thesis in the group of Prof. Liechti and Prof. Rentsch and thereby got first contact with clinical studies in humans. In 2014, he started his PhD at the division of clinical pharmacology & toxicology in the group of Prof. Liechti and since then has conducted clinical studies with MDMA, LSD, and d-amphetamine. In the group of Prof. Rentsch he develops the analytical methods to obtain the pharmacokinetic data.
Old World Medicine and its way into clinical research

Five case studies exemplify the ayahuasca-practice in a medical and psychotherapeutic setting in Bogotá. An intercultural symbiosis of knowledge and practice is taking place with the collaboration of physicians and indigenous healers.

Ayahuasca can facilitate reflective processes which can lead to an improved coping and healing of diseases. Establishing research in complementary and traditional medicine, as well as implementing social and cultural approaches, can facilitate the de-stigmatization of ayahuasca as a drug and the acceptance of traditional ways of gaining knowledge.

The interest of Western mainstream culture to this potential medicine is increasing. How can we conduct research while respecting traditional knowledge and culture? In order to preserve traditional education, knowledge of medicine and ecosystems, we should work in collaboration with the indigenous communities to spread the use of this old world medicine.

BIOGRAPHY

Heiner Dörfler conducted a qualitative field study in Colombia about the medical use of yagé and how the medicine is applied by medical and psychotherapeutic professionals, in cooperation with traditional healers (2008-2010). Recently he studied the use of yagé in Inga (Mocoa), Siona (Puerto Asis) and Cofán (Orito, Sucumbios) communities in Colombia (2015-2016). He was research assistant at the Beckley Foundation in England in 2014 and currently is working as a resident physician at the Psychiatric University Clinic Zurich/Switzerland.

Psychiatric University Clinic Zurich Switzerland
The effect of psilocybin on personality in patients with major depression

Over the last few years, a number of clinical pilot studies have examined the therapeutic potential of psilocybin for a variety of mental health conditions; including anxiety, OCD, smoking and alcohol dependence, and we have recently completed a similar feasibility study in treatment-resistant major depression. Based on previous observations in healthy psychedelic naïve volunteers of long-lasting increases in the personality trait “openness” after a single high-dose of psilocybin, we speculated that similar changes in personality may occur in patients with major depression after their treatment with psilocybin. This talk will report on a clinical trial involving 19 patients with treatment-resistant depression who received two doses of psilocybin in an open label pilot study. Significant changes in personality traits, as assessed with pre- and post-treatment personality measurements using the full 240-item NEO-PI-R, were observed. These data and their relationships with treatment response will be presented in this talk.

BIOGRAPHY
David Erritzoe is a medical doctor and clinical psychiatrist. After finishing medical school at Copenhagen University, he obtained his PhD on serotonergic neurotransmission in the Center for Integrated Molecular Brain Imaging (CIMBI) in Copenhagen. He is post-doctoral researcher at Imperial College London under the mentorship of Professors Anne Lingford-Hughes and David Nutt. There, he investigates dopaminergic and opioid neurotransmission in addiction. Additionally, he is part of a research programme together with Professor Nutt and Dr Carhart-Harris conducting research in the neurobiology and the treatment potential of MDMA and classic psychedelics.
The Divine Cactus and the Great Beast: Aleister Crowley’s relationship with peyote from 1900 to 1918

Aleister Crowley (1875 – 1947) is one of the most colourful characters in the history of modern religion. Once an initiate of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, he was also one of the first Westerners to study and practice Eastern yoga. Crowley advocated a scientific investigation into the processes that occasion mystical experiences, including meditation, ritual, sexual activity, and psychoactive drugs, which earned him a sinister reputation as a ‘black magician’.

One of the drugs Crowley experimented with was peyote, the mescaline-containing ‘divine cactus’ of Mexico, at a time when almost nothing was understood about peyote’s dramatic effects. This presentation will outline the details of Crowley’s relationship with peyote, illustrate the important role peyote played in his own life and work, and highlight his place in the history of psychedelic research and psychedelic religion in the twentieth century.

BIOGRAPHY

Patrick Everitt holds a B.A in Philosophy and Classics from Maynooth University, a Baccalaureate in Philosophy from St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, and previously completed a B.Sc. in Software Engineering and a M.Sc. in Security and Forensic Computing, both at Dublin City University.

He studied for a M.A. in Philosophy at KU Leuven and is currently completing a M.A. in Western Esotericism at the University of Amsterdam. His current research focuses on the work of the occultist Aleister Crowley and the field of study Prof. Wouter J. Hanegraaff has recently dubbed ‘Entheogenic Esotericism’.
The Beckley Foundation Psychedelic Research Programme

To provide a context for introducing the Beckley Foundation’s Scientific Programme, and to explain its role in shaping the psychedelic renaissance, I shall begin with a brief history of psychedelics and what has motivated my long-standing interest in this subject. I will then summarise our latest findings, including the first ever brain imaging study of LSD and results from the psilocybin for depression study, and introduce new studies we are developing. My focus will then shift to our Research Programme on ayahuasca/DMT, investigating the neural and psychological mechanisms whereby ayahuasca exerts effects on the human psyche. I will also explicate a new observational study monitoring long-term well-being and mental health of participants at an ayahuasca centre in Peru. Finally, I will emphasise the exceptional role that psychedelics have played in shaping society, and conclude with the observation that much of their potential has yet to be explored.

BIOGRAPHY

Amanda Feilding is Director of the Beckley Foundation, a UK-based think tank and UN-accredited NGO, which she founded in 1998. Its chief objectives are studying the mechanisms underlying altered states of consciousness and reforming global drug policy. She is dubbed the ‘hidden hand behind the renaissance of psychedelic science and drug policy reform.”
The Beckley Foundation is a UK-based think-tank and UN-accredited NGO founded and directed by Amanda Feilding. The Foundation’s dual purpose is the scientific investigation of consciousness and the creation of balanced drug policies. Our areas of focus include Science, Policy and Culture.

www.beckleyfoundation.org
GEORGE GOLDSMITH

Accelerating patient access to psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy

Psychedelic science is at an important juncture. Recently conducted double-blind, randomised controlled trials in highly supported clinical settings among well-defined patient populations with high unmet needs provide evidence of large effect sizes with durable results. At the same time, it is a rich period of regulatory innovation with different regulatory options in Europe and the US that may be used to accelerate patient access to valuable treatments. Translating academic research into effective mental health care pathways requires early engagement of regulators, health technology assessors payers and patients to ensure this next phase of research leads to patient care. Approaches for achieving this will be shared, compared and discussed at this presentation. This session is most suited for clinical researchers who wish to design studies with the greatest likelihood of contributing to regulatory approval, health system utilisation and reimbursement.

BIOGRAPHY

George Goldsmith is a co-founder and director of COMPASS – a non-profit medical research organisation dedicated to accelerating access to evidence-led innovation in mental health and wellbeing. George’s early training and experience was a blend of cognitive psychology, clinical psychology and computer science. He has served as the Managing Director of the Lotus Institute and as CEO of TomorrowLab at McKinsey & Company. As chairman and founder of Tapestry Networks he has worked with medicines regulators, payers, patient groups, pharmaceutical companies, and researchers in Europe and the US to accelerate drug development and improve cost-effective patient outcomes. George enjoys working with teams seeking to do extraordinary things - creating environments where people suspend disbelief, build trust and pursue unlikely combinations of new ideas and technologies to improve the lives of others.
A psychedelic cure; an exploration and analysis on the state’s relationship with scientific research

Neo-liberal western democracies strongly encourage scientific research and promote freedom of scientific practice. When taking a closer look at the legislation around research in psychedelic substances, however, it becomes apparent that there are number of obstacles restricting this scientific freedom. This paper explores these obstacles in light of the paradoxical relationship between the state and science. It is particularly timely because of the increasing interest in research on psychedelics in the West and rising awareness of their therapeutic potential. The paper aims to raise awareness about difficulties and obstacles present while doing research in psychedelics, and seeks to contribute to our understanding of how the state and scientific research are inextricably linked through historical, cultural and economic dependencies.

BIOGRAPHY

Aleksandra Gracjasz is a student at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. She started her current research master’s degree in Anthropology at the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences in September 2015. Her present master’s thesis topic deals with altered states of consciousness (ASC) achieved through dance rituals. This topic was inspired by the essay she will present at the conference, which explores the relationship between the state and the research in psychedelic substances.
Overview of the Johns Hopkins Psilocybin Research Project

This presentation will summarize past and ongoing studies from the Johns Hopkins Psilocybin Research Project which started about 15 years ago. Laboratory research includes administering psilocybin to healthy volunteers, psychologically distressed cancer patients, cigarette smokers seeking abstinence, ordained clergy, and beginning and long-term meditators. Internet survey research includes studies of psychedelic-facilitated mystical-type experiences, challenging experiences resulting in adverse events, experiences of encounters with the Divine, experiences that have resulted abstinence from drugs of abuse, and experiences that have altered attitudes about death and dying.

BIOGRAPHY
Roland R. Griffiths, PhD, is Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Neurosciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is author of over 350 journal articles and book chapters. He has been a consultant to the National Institutes of Health, and to numerous pharmaceutical companies in the development of new psychotropic drugs. He is also currently a member of the Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Dependence for the World Health Organization. In 1999 he initiated a research program at Johns Hopkins investigating the effects of the classic hallucinogen psilocybin that includes studies of psilocybin-occasioned mystical-type experiences in healthy volunteers, psilocybin-facilitated treatment of psychological distress in cancer patients, psilocybin-facilitated cigarette smoking cessation, and psilocybin effects in meditators and clergy. The Hopkins laboratory has also conducted a series of internet survey studies characterizing the effects hallucinogen-occasioned mystical experiences, challenging experiences, and effects on substance abuse.
On the Genealogy of Mescaline (1887–1919)

According to Sasha Shulgin, Mescaline has become the “meter” for psychedelic substances, as it was the first of its kind to be approached scientifically. But how did a Mexican cactus turn into a chemically pure substance after all?

Berlin 1888: the toxicologist Louis Lewin published his first analysis of a yet unidentified cactus, which he brought with him from North America. Only later did it become clear that this was a specimen of Peyote, which indigenous people have traditionally used and worshipped as a spiritual vehicle. Testing on animals led to the identification of some alkaloids; but it took until 1897, when Arthur Heffter finally ‘dared’ to test the cactus’ effects on himself, that “Mezcalín”, the main psychoactive ingredient responsible for the “wonderful color-visions”, became chemically isolated. More than twenty years later, the chemist Ernst Späth accomplished the first fully artificial synthesis of Mescaline (Vienna, 1919), which precipitated a veritable research-boom in university clinics all over Germany and in other European countries: under the assumption that Mescaline would work as a psychotic agent that could trigger transitory psychoses, German psychiatrists tried to approach madness systematically. In order to understand how it came to this excessively restricted view of the psychedelic phenomenon, and by which means it was sustained, I want to take a closer look at this very first encounter of a psychedelic substance with western science.

BIOGRAPHY

Ivo Gurschler is a PhD-candidate at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna. Currently, he is on a scholarship at the International Research Institute for Cultural Studies in Vienna (IFK) as a Junior Fellow. He studied Media Theory, Communications and Philosophy at the University of Vienna and Cultural Studies at Middlesex University in London.
JEFFREY GUSS, MD

The NYU School of Medicine Study on Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy for treatment of Existential Distress in Cancer Patients: History, Study Structure, Therapist Training, Outcome Data

Existential distress in reaction to a life-threatening illness is often undertreated and mistreated in western medicine. A randomized clinical trial of psilocybin assisted therapy for treatment of existential distress in cancer patients was recently completed at NYU School of Medicine with Stephen Ross, MD, Principal Investigator and Drs. Anthony Bossis, PhD and Dr. Guss as Co-Principal Investigators. The results will be published as “Rapid and Sustained Symptom Reduction following Psilocybin Treatment for Anxiety and Depression in Patients with Life-Threatening Cancer: A Randomized Controlled Trial” during 2016. During the talk, Dr. Guss will describe the NYU study in detail, including its history, the structure and content of the therapy sessions and our method for training clinicians to work as study therapists. After presenting outcome data from the study, a short film with participants from the study will be shown.

BIOGRAPHY

Jeffrey Guss, MD is a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and researcher with specializations in psychoanalytic therapy and the treatment of substance use disorders. He is Co-Principal Investigator and Director of Therapist Training for the NYU School of Medicine’s study on psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy in the treatment of cancer related existential distress. Dr. Guss is interested in the integration of psychedelic therapies with contemporary psychoanalytic theory. He is an Instructor with the CIIS Center for Psychedelic Therapies. He maintains a full time private practice.
Perception is in the Details. A Predictive Processing Account of the Effects of 5-Hydroxytryptamine 2A (5-HT2A) Agonists On Perception

The Predictive Processing framework to model the effect of 5-Hydroxytryptamine 2A (5-HT2A) agonists such as Psilocybin on the brain. This framework is becoming increasingly popular, explaining cortical processes using key concepts such as the brain as prediction machine (Dayan, Hinton, & Neal, 1995; Hohwy, 2007), the free energy principle (Friston, 2010) and the hierarchical organization of the brain (Friston, 2005). Our model explains results from studies regarding 5-HT2A agonists as stemming from the distribution of predictions from affected areas becoming more diffuse due to over excitability of layer 5-pyramidal neurons. These diffuse predictions create a higher entropic state in the brain. Lower areas in the brain now classify incoming data into more granular bins which leads to higher prediction errors. We show that the brain’s attempts to minimise higher levels of prediction error while being in this state explain the core effects of the psychedelic experience.

BIOGRAPHY

Following her BSc in Physics from the Hebrew University, Sarit worked for the forensic department for a few years then traveled the world teaching and studying martial arts and dance. She is currently completing a master’s degree in Cognitive Neuroscience at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour. Her research has been focused on using ideas from the Predictive Coding framework to understand how the brain creates prediction and how these predictions might be changed and updated to allow for learning.
Altered by the hand of man - Legal clashes with ayahuasca and other plant psychedelics in the European courts

In Europe, the legal challenges facing ayahuasca practitioners are becoming increasingly apparent. By studying reported and unreported court proceedings from England as well as information gleaned from personal communication with defendants and lawyers, I clarify why its legality is so difficult to pinpoint as well as the reflexive implications on the outcome of future cases. I identify important legal points in the current debate and show that, despite judgments from the appellate courts, the pervasive uncertainty is no closer to a meaningful resolution. While other European countries including the Netherlands have different judicial systems, they have also yielded judgments that render the English court decisions acutely relevant to further potential legal action. This presentation highlights why emerging strategic trends in plant psychedelic prosecutions are so troubling and summarises the coming challenges to ayahuasca users and jurisprudence scholars both in the UK and abroad.

BIOGRAPHY
Jonathan Hobbs read Natural Sciences at Cambridge where his dissertation looked at the medical history of psychedelics. He went on to study Science, Technology and Medicine in Society at Imperial College, UCL and the Wellcome Trust in London. His research interests include the philosophy of psychedelic consciousness and the social history of drugs control and governance.
Rental ayahuasca use in Estonia

Motivations for use, subjective effects, and activities and experiences related to ayahuasca use were described. Personality, quality of life, and mental health of users were compared to those of non-users.

30 ayahuasca users (15 female) and 30 matched non-users completed questionnaires, psychometric tests and psychiatric interviews. In Estonia ayahuasca is used by people of diverse backgrounds mainly in group ceremonies. Main motivations for use are spiritual development, self-knowledge, spiritual experiences and psychological healing. No deterioration of mental health, abuse of ayahuasca or addiction to it was found. Life satisfaction and happiness about life were higher in ayahuasca using group. Personalities of ayahuasca users were characterized by moderately lower neuroticism, higher openness and agreeability. Indicators of depression and anxiety were lower in users. Users reported mostly positive influences on their mental health, social adjustment and personal development.

BIOGRAPHY

Helle Kaasik is an academically trained research geek with a long-standing interest in varieties of mystical and ecstatic experiences. She met ayahuasca in Santo Daime. This big leap for her became also a small step for research of ayahuasca: she infused ayahuasca as her research topic drop by drop into her academic environment.

Helle recently defended her master’s thesis about psychology of ayahuasca users in her homeland Estonia. She will present results of this work at the ICPR.
Neuroimaging and therapeutic use of psychedelics and music

Music and psychedelic drugs are potent tools to modulate affective states, and they have been used by humans throughout history. The therapeutic potentials of psychedelic drugs are being re-examined today in clinical trials, and with promising results. During psychedelic therapy, a patient typically listens to a carefully designed music playlist. In this context, music is considered to interact with the drug to facilitate therapeutic insight, often with profound emotion. This presentation will present findings from a first neuroimaging study to the acute effects of music on brain activity and connectivity after intravenous LSD in healthy volunteers, and results from a clinical trial to treat major depression with psilocybin.

BIOGRAPHY
Mendel Kaelen holds a master’s in neuroscience from the University of Groningen and is now a PhD candidate at Imperial College London. His research interest lies in studying the role of music in psychedelic therapy from a neuroscience perspective. For his work he uses neuroimaging data from healthy volunteers administered with LSD as well as from a clinical trial with psilocybin to treat major depression.
Research with psychedelics in Academia, an exciting challenge

This presentation will share the experiences with doing research on psychedelics in an academic environment in psychedelics. Ethical considerations, media coverage and reactions from academia will be discussed.

BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Knuijver has been working as an addiction physician since 2013 in a clinical setting as well as teaching. In 2015 he and his colleagues started clinical treatment of patients with opioid addiction with ibogaine. Thomas is studying to be a clinical pharmacologist and currently works at IrisZorg and RadboudUMC.
JESPER KRISTENSEN, PhD

Development of selective 5-HT2AR Agonists

Activation of the serotonin 2A receptor (5-HT2AR) is directly linked to the psychedelic effects of classic hallucinogens like psilocybin and LSD that interact with several receptors in the CNS – including the 5-HT2AR. The effects of selectively activating the 5-HT2AR are unknown, as appropriate agonist ligands remain elusive. In order to gain a better understanding of the effects of classic hallucinogens we are trying to develop a selective 5-HT2AR agonist.

Our research is primarily based on the design and synthesis of new ligands followed by characterization in various assays within molecular, cellular and in vivo pharmacology - in the pursuit of a suitable candidate that could be advanced into clinical research.

BIOGRAPHY

Jesper L. Kristensen is Associate Professor at the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology, University of Copenhagen in Denmark. His research deals with the development of selective ligands targeting various CNS targets. Within CIMBI (Center for Integrated Molecular Brain Imaging) he has been involved in the development of selective ligands and PET-tracers that can be used to study and image the serotonin 2A receptor - the site of action of classic hallucinogens like psilocybin.
Neurobiology underlying the prosocial effects of MDMA

Ecstasy (MDMA) is a psychoactive substance with unique properties as it acutely induces facilitation of social behaviour i.e. increased feeling of closeness to others, empathy, and euphoria. The mechanism underlying these acute effects of MDMA on social behaviour is to date not known. In two placebo-controlled studies we investigated the roles of 2 serotonin receptors and oxytocin in these effects. It was concluded that MDMA enhances emotional empathy but these effects are not mediated by these 2 serotonin receptors or oxytocin. Limitations and directions of future research will be discussed.

BIOGRAPHY
Kim Kuypers has been studying the effects of MDMA on cognition for over 13 years. The research grant she obtained in 2011 helped her to set up her own research line in which she chose to shift her focus from negative drug effects to positive effects of drugs and underlying neurobiology.
Beatriz Caiuby Labate has a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil. Her main areas of interest are the study of psychoactive substances, drug policy, shamanism, ritual, and religion. She is Visiting Professor at the Center for Research and Post Graduate Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS), in Guadalajara, Mexico. She is also co-founder of the Nucleus for Interdisciplinary Studies of Psychoactives (NEIP), and editor of NEIP’s website. She is author, co-author, and co-editor of fourteen books, one special-edition journal, and several peer-reviewed articles.

**Presentation of the book “Peyote: History, Traditions, Politics, and Conservation”**

This book explains the role that peyote—a hallucinogenic cactus—plays in the religious and spiritual fulfillment of certain peoples in the United States and Mexico, and examines pressing issues concerning the regulation and conservation of peyote as well as issues of indigenous and religious rights.

Why is mescaline—an internationally controlled substance derived from peyote—given exemptions for religious use by indigenous groups in Mexico, and by the pan-indigenous Native American Church in the United States and Canada? What are the intersections of peyote use, constitutional law, and religious freedom? And why are natural populations of peyote in decline—so much so that in Mexico, peyote is considered a species needing “special protection”? This book addresses these questions and many more. It also examines the delicate relationship between “the needs of the plant” as a species and “the needs of man” to consume the species for spiritual purposes.
Feeding the soul with Ayahuasca-assisted therapy: A promising treatment for the healing of eating disorders

Ayahuasca is a psychoactive plant-based tea originally used by Amazonian indigenous groups for medicinal and spiritual purposes. Preliminary scientific studies and a history of ethnomedical use suggest that ayahuasca has promise for the treatment of mental health issues. Eating disorders (EDs) are regarded as highly treatment-resistant disorders and new healing modalities must be explored. Anecdotal reports have indicated that some individuals with EDs have engaged in ceremonial ayahuasca drinking with positive results. Fifteen individuals with a history of an ED who have also drunk ayahuasca for healing purposes were interviewed in order to better understand this medicine’s potential value. The data suggest that ceremonial ayahuasca use can serve as a valuable therapeutic tool, giving hope to those along the continuum of disordered eating, including individuals with refractory ED or those for whom standard medical treatments have been ineffective.

BIOGRAPHY
Dr. Adèle Lafrance PhD, C. Psych is a clinical psychologist and Associate Professor in the Psychology Department at Laurentian University. Dr. Lafrance has published extensively in the field of clinical psychology and she is the co-developer of Emotion-Focused Family Therapy. She is also studying the use of psychedelics in the healing of mental health issues, with a particular focus on eating disorders.
Pschedelics, Entheogens and Public Policy: Scoping the Intersections between Renaissance and Reform

The resurgence of interest in the medical and spiritual uses of psychedelic and entheogenic substances is occurring in many parts of the world. However, restrictive drug policies that criminalize people and create obstacles for research are a major impediment to realizing the potential of these substances to catalyze healing and learning. This presentation will examine the intersections between the psychedelic and drug policy reform movements, exploring areas of synergy and potential for mutual advancement. It is based on interviews conducted with 30 informants working in psychedelic research or drug policy reform, along with supplementary internet research, to explore perceptions of cross-fertilization between movements. Our findings suggest that by fostering cross-sectoral capacity building, each of these movements can be strengthened and contribute to shared goals of shaping global drug policies that minimize harms and maximize benefits of psychedelic and entheogenic substances.

BIOGRAPHY
Andrea Langlois holds a Master’s in Media Studies from Concordia University (Montreal, Canada) and lives and works in Victoria, British Columbia. She is a community-based research facilitator, working to create links between community and university researchers and to build capacity for involvement in engaged geared at catalyzing social change. Andrea’s current research focuses on the areas of HIV/AIDS, housing, drug policy, stigma, and social movements and psychedelics. She has also written and edited books and articles on autonomous media and pirate radio in Canada.
On the Epistemological Potentials of Psychedelics: Towards a Philosophical Critique of Pharmako-Gnosis

My talk will focus on the epistemological potentials of psychedelics or on what I would like to call the question of ‘pharmako-gnosis’, borrowing a term from Dale Pendell. Psychedelics are consistently experienced as sources of gnosis and frequently seen as ‘teachers’ that convey knowledge, but knowledge of a particular nature, which seems in our culture to be a ‘forbidden knowledge’ as Pendell writes yet is also unmistakably a ‘knowledge with the power to heal’. How should we understand the nature of such pharmako-gnostic knowledge claims philosophically and might it be possible to develop something like a ‘critique of psychedelic reason’ (as Govert Derix has suggested) to evaluate such claims? Applying in particular the ideas of the French philosopher Bernard Stiegler on the originally pharmacological nature of ALL human knowledge to psychedelics understood as epistemological (as well as psycho-spiritual) tools, I will try to develop some building blocks for such a critique.

BIOGRAPHY

Pieter Lemmens teaches philosophy and ethics at the Radboud University Nijmegen. He has published on themes in the philosophy of technology and innovation, on the work of Martin Heidegger, Peter Sloterdijk and Bernard Stiegler and on post-autonomist Marxism. Current interests are the political potentials of new digital IC-technologies, the politics of human (cognitive) enhancement technologies, psychedelics and philosophy and philosophy of technology in the age of the anthropocene.
MATTHIAS LIECHTI, MD

Experimental controlled studies using LSD and MDMA in healthy subjects

With his psychopharmacology research group at the Department of Biomedicine Matthias Liechti investigates the pharmacology of psychoactive substances both in vitro and in humans. The group is best known for the work on the acute effects of MDMA (ecstasy) in humans. The team characterizes the pharmacology of the constantly emerging novel psychoactive substances (designer drugs) using in vitro methods. In experimental clinical studies Matthias Liechti described the acute effects of MDMA and psychostimulants (methylphenidate, neuroenhancers) on social cognition (mood recognition, empathy, prosocial behaviour, sexual arousal). The team also recently investigated the effects of LSD in a clinical experimental research setting in healthy subjects and conducts Pharmaco-fMRI studies in collaboration with other groups.

BIOGRAPHY
Matthias E. Liechti, born in 1970 in Zurich, obtained his MD in 1998. He was a research fellow in psychiatry and specialized in internal medicine at the University Hospital Zurich (1999-2005) followed by a postdoctoral research fellowship at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, and at the University of California, San Diego, USA (2005-2007). He then specialized in Clinical Pharmacology at the University Hospital in Basel (2008-2009) where he works since 2010 as attending physician and professor in clinical pharmacology and internal medicine.
Ayahuasca prosecution: opportunity for constructive policy innovation?

Since the end of 2009 we have witnessed a significant increase in arrests and political pressure around the use of traditional psychoactive plants, particularly ayahuasca. The upsurge of ayahuasca practices is mistakenly understood as yet another New Psychoactive Substance (NPS) hype along with legal highs, research chemicals and spice. ICEERS has supported many of those prosecuted in the last 6 years, which has developed in the establishment of the Ayahuasca Defense Fund - ADF (www.defendayahuasca.org). This presentation will provide a comprehensive view on the political and legal climate of ayahuasca and provide insight in the scientific aspects and cultural contextualization of the defense strategies in different ayahuasca legal cases, using audiovisual fragments.

BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin graduated with honors in his Masters in audiovisual media in the HKU in The Netherlands with his documentary “Ibogaine-Rite of Passage” (2004), a film that would become a world reference about this subject matter. Since the production of his film he has been dedicated to the advancement of particularly iboga and ayahuasca as therapeutic and personal development tools in contemporary society and in 2009 he founded the International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research & Service (www.iceers.org) and served the Board of Directors of the Global Ibogaine Therapist Alliance.
The transpersonal psychedelic experience and change in ecological attitude and behaviour

Mapping the empirical territory between the growing research fields of ecopsychology and psychedelic therapy there is virtually no data on the relationship between the psychedelic experience and the apparent concomitant development of increased eco-consciousness, despite numerous anecdotal reports. In an anonymous online survey 150 psychedelic users reported on their use of psychedelics, their experiences in relation to Nature, and how their experience had changed their attitudes towards ecological issues. It was hypothesised that the majority of psychedelic substance users would report an increased connection with Nature and expanded eco-consciousness as a result of their experience, and that the use of psychedelics would generally increase rather than decrease eco-consciousness. It was also expected that specific types of substances would lead to specific types of transpersonal-type encounter experiences. The results are discussed in detail.

BIOGRAPHY

David Luke is Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Greenwich where he teaches the Psychology of Exceptional Human Experience. His research focuses on transpersonal experiences, anomalous phenomena and altered states of consciousness, especially via psychedelics, having published more than 100 academic papers in this area, including 5 books, most recently Neurotransmissions: Essays on Psychedelics (2015) and Talking with the Spirits: Ethnographies from Between the Worlds (2014). He is also the cofounder and a director of the Breaking Convention psychedelic conference.
A Quantitative Analysis of Narrative Reports of Drug-Induced Ego Dissolution

A number of psychoactive compounds are known to produce disturbances of self-consciousness, described as a dramatic breakdown of one’s sense of self, a phenomenon sometimes referred to as ‘drug-induced ego dissolution’ (DIED). It has been suggested that the study of DIED could contribute to the scientific understanding of self-consciousness. However, clinical studies are limited by their small sample size. We used computer-assisted data mining techniques to analyze narrative reports found on Erowid.org. A quantitative analysis revealed that between 13% and 16% of trip reports concerning mushrooms, LSD, Salvia, DMT, 5-MeO-DMT and ketamine involve the description of DIED, associated to the loss of self-awareness, the feeling of dying, the loss of self/world boundaries and the loss of sense of bodily ownership. Our analysis confirmed that DIED is highly dose-dependent and can occur with serotoninergic hallucinogens, dissociative anesthetics and kappa opioid receptor agonists.

BIOGRAPHY
Raphaël Millière is a PhD student in philosophy at the University of Oxford. He is also affiliated to the Center for Subjectivity Research in Copenhagen, and to ARTEMOC, an interdisciplinary research group on altered states of consciousness based in Paris. His philosophical interests lie mainly within philosophy of mind, cognitive science and phenomenology. His thesis investigates the notion of pre-reflective self-awareness, through an interdisciplinary study of the boundaries of self-experience in a variety of anomalous cases – ranging from psychosis to drug-induced ego dissolution.
Crisis Intervention at Psychedelic Festivals

Psychedelic festivals pose extra safety risks due to drug impurities, dosing errors, misidentifications, drug interactions, medical conditions, or reckless attitude. Harm reduction services include water distribution, substance information, first aid, psychological help, and drug checking. While hallucinogens (LSD, DMT, psilocybin, mescaline, etc.) may cause life-enriching experiences in an ideal “set” and “setting”, temporary alterations of consciousness may turn into a “bad trip”, “psychedelic emergency”, or “spiritual crisis”. Specially trained harm reduction teams (“psychedelic support”, “psycare”) intervene in psychedelics-related problematic situations. I introduce harm reduction and psycare services, discuss psychological suitability for psycare work, and describe psychedelic consciousness alteration. I summarise methods to help in difficult experiences, and present example cases and data collected by an international psycare team (Psy-Fi festival, Leeuwarden, August 2015).

BIOGRAPHY

Levente Móró is a PhD candidate in the Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Turku in Finland. He researches the topic of altered states of consciousness (ASC), particularly dreaming, hypnosis, hallucinations, and psychedelic drugs. Within the topic of psychedelics, his special areas are online drug-user communities, sacramental and spiritual drug use (entheogens), and psychedelic harm reduction at parties and festivals. Residing in Budapest, he is the current president of the Hungarian MAPS organisation.
Novel Psychedelic Substances: A Grave Threat to the Psychedelic Renaissance

While cocaine & heroin have always been targets for adulteration, recently published research details how novel psychoactive substances and surgical anesthetics have been found in drug related overdoses and deaths across the world. In the last five years, more than 250 new psychoactive research chemicals have been documented. With research chemicals such as NBOMe & Alpha-PVP & painkillers like Fentanyl filtering into the drug supply, recreational use becomes much more dangerous. Although illegal under the Scheduling/Analogue Act laws, governing bodies remain steps behind, scheduling a substance years after peak usage as seen with MDPV, one of the first bath salts.

BIOGRAPHY
Tarik Najeddine obtained his Masters degree in clinical psychology at Columbia University, and is now an independent researcher, blogger & harm reduction coordinator based in New York City. This led him to the homeless veteran population in NYC, focusing on substance use & mind-body medicine. Tarik coordinated harm reduction services for events dating back to 2008 & have worked with the Electronic Music Alliance, DanceSafe, The Drug Policy Alliance & many other organizations. He hopes to communicate the dangers novel psychoactive substances & their unscheduled analogues pose to the drug taking community.
Proposal for an Integrated Model for Psychedelic Psychotherapy Training

This presentation will offer descriptions of two of works-in-progress. As two Phase II studies on cancer related existential distress approach publication, and Phase III studies enter the development phase, refinement of the education process for therapists is underway. Dr. Guss and Dr. Nielson will present highlights of a proposed training manual for therapists who will be working the Phase III studies currently in the earliest stages of formulation. This manual is based on Dr. Guss’ experience in training therapists for the recently completed NYU Phase II.

Dr. Nielson will describe an emerging research initiative that corrects the current paucity of data on the subjective experiences of study therapists who have worked in psilocybin studies. This study looks both at the ways that therapists integrate their prior training as clinicians with psychedelic contexts of treatment and inquiries into psychological variables that the therapists have observed in study participants.

BIOGRAPHY
Elizabeth Nielson, PhD, CASAC, is a psychologist and researcher with a specialization in addictions and qualitative research. She is the Principal Investigator of an ongoing qualitative interview study of psychedelic therapists and is presently developing the qualitative study of psilocybin-assisted treatment of alcohol dependence patients at NYU. Dr. Nielson has also been involved with the later Phase II trial. Dr. Nielson is interested in substance abuse counselor education and dismantling barriers to the use of empirically supported treatments for addictive disorders.
MATTHEW NOUR, MD

Ego-Dissolution and Psychedelics

The experience of ‘self’ or ‘ego’ is a cardinal feature of normal waking consciousness, yet its precise nature and neurobiological underpinning remains poorly understood. The experience of a compromised sense of ‘self’, termed ‘ego-dissolution’, is central to the psychedelic experience, suggesting that psychedelics may offer a precious window into the nature of normal and abnormal self-experience. Such an understanding promises to shed light on altered mental states such as the mystical experience and acute psychosis.

This presentation will provide an overview of prominent attempts to understand the nature of self-experience from philosophical, psychological and neuroscientific disciplines. Special attention will be given to how self-consciousness is disturbed in certain psychiatric conditions. Finally, the close relationship between ego-dissolution and psychedelics will be discussed in light of new data collected at the Imperial Neuropsychopharmacology Group.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Matthew Nour is an academic psychiatrist and clinical neuroscientist working in London. He studied Medicine and Neuroscience at Oxford University, and has conducted research with neuroscience groups at Oxford University, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, King’s College London and Imperial College London.
Using MDMA for trauma integration

Sponsored by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic studies (MAPS), this Phase II clinical pilot study explores the safety and efficacy of administering MDMA in conjunction with Psychotherapy to participants with treatment resistant Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Evidence in completed phase II trials, and preliminary findings in this phase II trial show promising results in reducing PTSD symptoms with a good safety profile. Given the limited effectiveness of current available medications and therapeutic strategies, MDMA-assisted psychotherapy holds promise as a treatment option. This talk will focus on methodology as well as individual participant experiences.

BIOGRAPHY
Marcela has dedicated her professional life to the treatment and research of trauma, specifically PTSD, first through art and later through the use of MDMA-assisted Psychotherapy. She worked as a co-therapist in the first government approved MDMA-assisted psychotherapy study in Madrid Spain and is the Principal Investigator of the Phase II MDMA-assisted psychotherapy study in Boulder, Colorado.
Epigenetic Shift and Modus Vivendi

Tabernanthe iboga with its alkaloid ibogaine is recognized in the West as a remedy against diverse addictions, while traditionally it is used as inductor of maturation. Its uniqueness lays in the multiple actions - it triggers psychedelic insights, facilitates metabolic adaptations and sets new spiritual habitus.

Our study was a quest for common denominator for these seemingly diverse effects through investigation of ibogaine’s influence on gene expression. The induction of energy metabolism related enzymes and facilitated shifts in homeostasis were found. While various drugs of abuse interfere with energy metabolism findings suggest that facilitated detoxification, tolerance reversion and craving elimination are related to restoration of satisfactory bioenergetics.

Pharmacology of ibogaine and risk reduction measures should be evident to all who are about to enter such process; either self-healing, personal growth, spiritual insights, recreational use or just mere curiosity.

BIOGRAPHY

Roman Paškulin M.D., PhD. is a founder of OMI Institute for anthropological medicine and researcher in Laboratory for Neuroregeneration at University of Ljubljana. He studies impact of ibogaine on gene expression and metabolism. His special interests lie in lifestyle diseases, especially addiction and most of his work deals with »soul healing« herbs. He has conducted field researches on iboga, ayahuasca, and mandrake ethnopharmacology and is the author of a series of scientific publications that bridge molecular genetics with physiological, psychosocial and spiritual impact of entheogen use.
Waves of research with psychedelics 1980-2015: an overview

A rough overview is provided of four decades of research into psychedelics in Europe and the US. The progression of research since the late seventies will be discussed, from the resurgence after the ban and further development aided by the founding of the Swiss Physicians Society for Psycholytic therapy (SAEPT) and the European College for the Study of Consciousness (ECSC) in 1985, to the stabilisation of developments marked by the founding of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) in 1986 and the Heffter Research Institute (HRI) in 1993. From 2010 onwards the scientific climate changed. Substances which were formerly called “dirty drugs” for not being specific to one receptor (system) became interesting again because they may configure a matrix of brain-functioning helpful for healing. A retrospective view suggests a wave-like pattern of interest in psychedelics. Appropriate recognition of the limits of using these substances in everyday psychiatric/psychotherapeutic practice is discussed.

BIOGRAPHY
Torsten Passie is currently Visiting Professor at Harvard Medical School (Boston, USA). He studied philosophy, sociology (MA) at Leibniz-University, Hannover and medicine at Hannover Medical School. He worked at the Psychiatric University Clinic in Zürich (Switzerland) and with Professor Hanscarl Leuner (Göttingen), the leading European authority on hallucinogenic drugs. His extensive research at Hannover Medical School covers the psychophysiology of altered states of consciousness and their healing potential, including clinical research with hallucinogenic drugs (cannabis, ketamine, nitrous oxide, MDMA, psilocybin). He is an internationally known expert on altered states of consciousness and the pharmacology of hallucinogenic drugs.
Towards the chemically transformable mind

LSD paved the way for a productive alliance between the neurosciences, pharmacology, psychiatry and clinical epidemiology. The suggestion of a relationship between chemical and clinical psychosis opened up a new scientific, medical and public horizon of brain chemistry and statistics in mental health care. The gradual acceptance of the ‘chemistry of the brain’ neurotransmitter paradigm paved the way for a productive alliance between psychopathology and clinical epidemiology. Over time this would turn the so-called ‘neurotransmitter revolution in medicine’ into an addictive form of neurological mythology—the chemically transformable mind. Mental discovery was superimposed on mental recovery by chemical means.

BIOGRAPHY

Professor of the History of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences at Utrecht University (UU) and fellow at the Descartes Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Sciences and the Humanities (UU). He has published extensively on the history of the production, distribution and consumption of drugs from the early modern period up to 21th century. His broader interests include digital humanities and the reuse of heritage resources.
Motivations and morphology of recreational psychedelics use in Germany: A qualitative empirical study

Surveys estimate the prevalence of LSD and hallucinogenic mushrooms use between 7% and 25% among young adults, and up to 50% in nightlife settings. However, there is a lack of research into the patterns, settings, motivations and consequences of use and the subjective experience of drug effects.

These questions are investigated by qualitative methods, focusing on interactions of set and setting determinants. Findings reveal 3 types of motivations characterising recreational psychedelics use: Self exploration and insight (psychotherapy or spirituality) correlate with moderate use in private settings, introspective drug experiences and perceived benefits for personal development. Hedonistic motives (sensory enhancement, entertainment, sensation seeking) correlate with intensive use in public party settings, extraverted experiences and perceived problematic consequences. Different motivations tend to be confirmed by subjective experiences like a self-fulfilling prophecy.

BIOGRAPHY

Susanna Prepeliczay received a diploma in social sciences in 1997. From 1998 through 2009, she worked at Bremen University for the ARCHIDO library on drugs and addictions. She was the coordinator of the ELISAD Gateway Project, an online inventory of web-based resources about illicit drugs (funded by European Commission). She also worked as a consultant expert in the Serbia Assessment of Drug Abuse and provided psycho-social interventions at a Methadone Treatment Centre. Currently, she finishes her Ph.D study, a qualitative empirical investigation of recreational psychedelics use in Germany.
Subjective effects of different psychedelics: a comparison

In this talk I will present the results of a study on the subjective effects of different psychedelics, specifically looking to the occurrence of mystical or peak experiences. The test used for the present study was the States of Consciousness Questionnaire (SCQ), also known as Peak Experience Profile (PEP). The PEP was originally developed by Walter Pahnke (1963) with the aim of measuring and for the evaluation of the potential single mystical experiences occasioned by psilocybin. A modified version of the questionnaire, the SCQ, was developed and administered recently by Griffiths et al (2006, 2008, 2011) to conduct a number of studies to characterize the mystical-type effects of psilocybin. The aim of the present study was to compare the subjective effects produced by different psychedelic compounds and/or in different contexts. Significative differences were found between the subjective effects produced by different psychedelics, including the occurrence of mystical experiences.

BIOGRAPHY
Psychologist and researcher from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), holds a Psychology PhD with his dissertation “Complexity and Transpersonal Psychology: chaos, self-organization and peak experiences in psychotherapy”, exploring short, medium term and subjective effects of Holotropic Breathwork. Member of the psychedelic emergency service at BOOM festival. He works as a psychotherapist in Barcelona and organize breathwork workshops. Assistant Editor of the Journal of Transpersonal Research (JTR), and a founding member of the Asociación Transpersonal Iberoamericana (ATI).
Recent advances in the study of the neural mechanisms and therapeutic potential of Ayahuasca

Ayahuasca induces an introspective experience characterized by emotion, visions and autobiographic memories. Increasing evidence suggests that ayahuasca has therapeutic potential. However, the mechanisms underlying these benefits are poorly understood. Here we present data on the neural and psychological mechanisms associated with ayahuasca making use of studies of brain oscillations, magnetic resonance spectroscopy, and psychological facets. We found that Ayahuasca disinhibits posterior sensory processing areas, sub-acutely decreases neurometabolic markers of functional activity in the posterior cingulate cortex, and reduces judgmental processing of experiences. Conclusions: Ayahuasca modifies ordinary neural hierarchies, decreases activity of key areas of the default mode network and allows an accepting and detached view of one’s own thoughts and emotions. We argue that these mechanisms may be useful in the treatment of several psychiatric conditions.

JORDI RIBA, PhD

BIOGRAPHY

Jordi Riba holds a PhD in Pharmacology. He leads the Human Neuropsychopharmacology Research Group at Sant Pau Hospital in Barcelona. He has a broad interest in psychoactive drugs with publications on psychedelics, psychostimulants, cannabinoids, and kappa agonists. He has been studying ayahuasca for over fifteen years and has published around thirty journal articles and book chapters on the subject. His more recent research deals with the neural and psychological mechanisms that could underlie the beneficial effects of ayahuasca in the treatment of various psychiatric conditions.
WILLIAM A. RICHARDS, PhD

Sacred Knowledge: Transcendental Experiences in Psychotherapy and Spiritual Development

On the basis of research with psilocybin at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine during the past 16 years, as well as a decade of earlier studies at the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center, this presentation will focus on the promise of the respectful and skillful use of psychedelic substances in medicine, education and religion. The presentation will include recent studies on the contribution of transcendental experiences facilitated by psilocybin to the well-being of persons coping with symptoms of psychological and physical distress associated with potentially terminal conditions as well as to the lives of healthy normal volunteers.

BIOGRAPHY

Bill Richards, author of Sacred Knowledge: Psychedelics and Religious Experiences, is a clinical psychologist, also trained in religious studies. During the past 16 years he and his colleagues have focused on psilocybin research in facilitating personal development, with cancer patients coping with end-of-life issues, and in the continuing education of religious leaders. After encountering psychedelic research at the University of Göttingen in 1963, he pursued investigations with LSD, DPT, MDA and psilocybin at the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center from 1967-1977.

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LEOR ROSEMAN, PhD cand.

Neural correlates of LSD-induced, eyes-closed, psychedelic Imagery

LSD, with eyes-closed, produced marked increases in the functional connectivity between the primary visual cortex (V1) and the rest of the brain, measured with fMRI. Furthermore, these increases correlated positively with the subjective ratings of eyes-closed psychedelic imagery ($r=0.74$, $p=0.0016$), and they correlated with decreased alpha power in occipital sensors measured with MEG ($r=-0.81$, $p=0.0015$; MEG was measured approximately 90 minutes after fMRI). Since V1 is centrally involved in visual processing, these results imply that increased communication between V1 and several brain regions may underlie LSD’s characteristic effects on eyes-closed visual perception.

BIOGRAPHY
Leor did his BSc in Neuroscience in Tel Aviv University. Since June 2013, he has been working under the supervision of Prof. Nutt and Dr. Carhart-Harris as a research assistant, MRes student and PhD student in neuroscience as part of the Beckley-Imperial Research Program. Leor specializes in analysis techniques of fMRI, and his main focus is the study of psychedelic visual imagery and its neural correlates.
Phenomenoconnectomics - Big Data on Altered States of Consciousness

The neuroscientific study of altered states of consciousness aims to characterize neuronal mechanisms underlying changes in perception and thinking during different altered-state conditions. With the psychedelic renaissance, new pharmacologic neuroimaging studies (fMRI) were conducted. However, these studies were limited to small numbers of subjects and therefore suffer from low statistical power. In my presentation, I will introduce ‘Phenomenoconnectomics’ as a new meta-analytic approach to identify common neuronal mechanisms across diversely induced ASCs. This approach aims to characterize basic ‘dimensions of consciousness’ and relates them to neuronal processes. Following the assumption that similar subjective experiences rely on similar neuronal processes, the study of similarities between diversely induced ASCs, might allow to relate aspects of subjective experiences to brain processes, particularly to patterns of brain connectivity.

BIOGRAPHY
Timo received a bachelor’s degree in cognitive science from the University of Osnabrück, Germany, a master’s degree in medical neuroscience from the Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, and is an associate of the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience, Berlin. The study of brain processes during altered states of consciousness is the focus of his research with current neuroimaging methods such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).
**MDMA as an Antibiotic for Infectious Mental Disease**

In my clinical experience I have found that underpinning most, if not all, chronic anxiety disorders and addictions are issues of unresolved childhood trauma. The traditional psychiatric treatments with trauma-focused exposure therapies and maintenance medications are often ineffective, and disorders remain lifelong. In this talk I will look at how the neurobiological mechanisms of action of MDMA relate so beautifully to the ideal conditions a clinician would desire when choosing a tool to help their patients with trauma. In reference to two on-going MDMA studies underway in the UK – one mechanistic study with fMRI neuroimaging in patients with PTSD and one interventional pilot study using MDMA Psychotherapy to treat alcohol addiction – I will explore how MDMA Psychotherapy, delivered in a clinical setting by experienced clinicians, has the potential to safely and effectively provide patients the opportunity to address their trauma and start them on the road to recovery.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Ben is a UK addictions psychiatrist with specialist training in child and adolescent psychiatry. He is interested in the developmental trajectory from child maltreatment to adult disorders and the author of two books exploring psychedelics; The Psychedelic Renaissance (2012) and To Fathom Hell or Soar Angelic (2015). He is currently conducting research with Imperial College London and Cardiff universities studying MDMA-assisted therapy for the treatment of PTSD and alcohol dependence. Ben’s a co-founder and director of the UK’s premier international psychedelic conference, Breaking Convention.
Takiwasi: Addiction treatment in the “Singing House”

In the treatment of addiction at the Takiwasi Centre in Peru, a therapeutic integration of traditional Amazonian and Western techniques has been pioneered for over 20 years, yet there is surprisingly little data available on within-treatment patient effects.

Between 2014-2015, I conducted an observational pilot study combining biological, psychological, and anthropological methods with the aim of understanding Takiwasi’s treatment approach, as well as measuring within-treatment patient change. I collected cortisol samples on a monthly basis, administered a battery of repeated-measures psychological tests, and carried out ethnographic fieldwork over a 10 month period.

Grouped results indicate an absence of harm and positive therapeutic change for the majority of patients. The ethnographic fieldwork process also raised some interesting questions regarding the therapeutic use of traditional medicines.

BIOGRAPHY

David O’Shaughnessy is a PhD candidate from the James Cook University medical school in Townsville, Australia. His background is in psychology (GDip, Hons; Adelaide University), although his current doctoral work at James Cook draws on anthropology, psychology, and biology in order to understand the evolution of patients undergoing treatment for addiction at the Takiwasi Centre in Peru. The results of the study will be presented at ICPR 2016.
A. N. Whitehead and Psychedelic Phenomenology

The panexperientialism of A. N. Whitehead can inform our understanding of psychedelic consciousness.

The dissolution of apperception in the psychedelic state may be understood not as mere non-veridical perception, but as a fragmentation of the superordinate sentience and thus a downward fusion into the subordinate sentiences that panexperientialism asserts as existent. Likewise, yet contrariwise, such dissolution may also suggest an upward fusion into what Whitehead tentatively calls ‘God’ in a particular, panentheistic sense.

In addition to these vertical movements, there is scope to investigate a horizontal influx into other actualities. For Whitehead, perception operates in the relation part-to-whole rather than in the typically-believed relation of representation-to-object. This former mereological relation may be emphasised under certain psychoactive-chemical induced states. Through the eyes of such a process philosophy, psychedelic consciousness can be viewed in a novel manner.

BIOGRAPHY

Peter Sjöstedt-H is an Anglo-Scandinavian philosopher who specialises in the thought of Schopenhauer, Nietzsche and Whitehead – and within the field of Philosophy of Mind. Peter has a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and a Master’s degree in Continental Philosophy from the University of Warwick. He subsequently became a Philosophy Lecturer in South Kensington, London for six years but is now engaged in his PhD at Exeter University. He is the author of Noumenautics and an inspiration behind the new inhuman philosopher Marvel Superhero, Karnak.
CHRIS TIMMERMANN, PhD cand.

**Processing of the Mismatch Negativity under LSD**

The Mismatch Negativity (MMN), is a neural signature used to determine changes in consciousness as well as connectivity patterns in the human brain. In this study, a placebo-controlled design was used to study the effects LSD has on consciousness as indexed by the MMN.

20 healthy volunteers underwent magnetoencephalography recordings under placebo and LSD conditions and were presented with auditory stimuli. Scalp-level analysis was performed to detect significant differences in brain activity following the presentation of standard and infrequent auditory stimuli. While early components were preserved in both the LSD and placebo conditions, late components differed across them.

These preliminary results may reflect brain connectivity and modulation of prediction error under the LSD state, thereby providing insights on the brain mechanisms underlying the altered state of consciousness provided by psychedelics. Grouped results indicate an absence of harm and positive therapeutic change for the majority of patients. The ethnographic fieldwork process also raised some interesting questions regarding the therapeutic use of traditional medicines.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Chris Timmermann has a background in cognitive neuroscience and psychology. He is currently completing his PhD in neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London, investigating the effects of psychedelic drugs in the human brain with Robin Carhart-Harris and David Nutt. He is developing his research with a focus on the effects of psychedelics in consciousness and brain connectivity.
**Imaging the brain on psychedelics – a way to understand their therapeutic effects on addiction**

Preliminary studies suggest that psychedelics may help with the treatment of drug-related disorders. However, it is still not clear how their action resulted in the observed outcomes. We performed a systematic review about recent neuro-imaging studies on the state induced by classic psychedelics in humans. Results point to effects in medial prefrontal cortex, anterior and posterior cingulate cortex and precuneus. Psychedelics also seem to affect limbic structures (e.g. amygdala), insula, occipital lobe and, less frequently, thalamus. They have been associated with a deactivation of the default mode network. Psychedelics have a relatively modest impact on dopaminergic circuits associated with addiction, but they affect structures implicated in cue processing and decision-making about drug-seeking behavior. These results and other social, psychological and biological explanations for the potential therapeutic role of psychedelics on substance-related disorders will also be commented.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Luís Fernando Tófoli graduated in Medicine at the University of São Paulo (1996), completed his medical residency in Psychiatry (2000) at the Institute of Psychiatry, University of São Paulo Medical School, and his Ph.D. in Medicine (Psychiatry) at the University of São Paulo (2004). He has experience in Mental Health and Psychiatry, acting on the following subjects: mental health and drug policies, ayahuasca and medically unexplained symptoms. He coordinates the Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Studies on Psychoactive Drugs (LEIPSI) in Campinas, Brazil.
Psychedelics, Entheogens and Public Policy: Scoping the Intersections between Renaissance and Reform

The resurgence of interest in the medical and spiritual uses of psychedelic and entheogenic substances is occurring in many parts of the world. However, restrictive drug policies that criminalize people and create obstacles for research are a major impediment to realizing the potential of these substances to catalyze healing and learning. This presentation will examine the intersections between the psychedelic and drug policy reform movements, exploring areas of synergy and potential for mutual advancement. Our findings suggest that by fostering cross-sectoral capacity building, each of these movements can be strengthened and contribute to shared goals of shaping global drug policies that minimize harms and maximize benefits of psychedelic and entheogenic substances.

Grouped results indicate an absence of harm and positive therapeutic change for the majority of patients. The ethnographic fieldwork process also raised some interesting questions regarding the therapeutic use of traditional medicines.

BIOGRAPHY
Kenneth Tupper is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia. His scholarly interests include: psychedelic studies; the cross-cultural and historical uses of psychoactive substances; public, professional and school-based drug education; and creating healthy public policy for currently illegal drugs. Kenneth’s doctoral research developed the concept of “entheogenic education,” a potential theoretical frame for understanding how psychedelic plants and substances—in particular ayahuasca—can function as cognitive tools for learning.
Jazz improvisation has long been a catalyst for transcending barriers, whether cultural, racial, or geographic. It is also commonly recognized as a means to transcend barriers of mind between musicians and to enable what can be characterized as transpersonal states beyond the normal sense of self. Interviews with musicians and writings on the subject provide evidence of the phenomenology of altered states of consciousness associated with jazz improvisation. This paper presents that evidence as well as research on the neuroscience of music, and jazz in particular, which gives insight into why this may be the case. Music engages multiple areas of the brain, including centres hypothesized to be involved in mystical experience, based on research with meditation and psychedelics. Characteristics of the jazz process, including the simultaneous focus on internal creativity coordinated with external awareness of other musicians, may be ideally suited to generating transcendent states.
Psychological effects of MDMA: the function of the set and setting

The function of the set and setting introduced by Zinberg’s ‘Interaction Model’ (1994) and their role in shaping the psychological effects of MDMA, as well as their function in reducing the risk of the drug abuse was investigated. This model implies that the content of a drug-induced experience is a function of the pharmacological properties of a drug, e.g. its dose and presence of adulterants; the set defined as the user’s characteristics (e.g. one’s intention and personality). The setting is defined as a physical and social context in which intoxication occurs. Participants answered questions regarding their pattern of drug use, the set and setting of MDMA use, the subjective effects of MDMA, and completed measures of psychological insight, emotional intelligence, and personality traits. A preliminary analysis showed that MDMA users displayed higher levels of emotional intelligence, insight and self-reflection than non-MDMA users. Similarly, MDMA polydrug users presented higher levels of Openness to new Experiences and Extraversion, and lower levels of Neuroticism and Conscientiousness, in comparison to the control group. A further analysis exploring the role of the set and setting in altering the drug experience will be presented.

BIOGRAPHY

Monika is a clinical psychologist in training researching psychological effects of MDMA as part of her doctoral training at the Canterbury Christ Church University, UK. She works for the National Health Service providing psychological therapy for adults and children suffering from mental health problems. Monika’s interests in treatment of psychological trauma and personality disorders, and the use of psychedelic compounds to facilitate the therapeutic process led her to develop her research interests in MDMA.
POSTER PRESENTERS

POSTER PRESENTATION SESSION
In addition to the lectures, several researchers have created posters to present the results of their studies.

On Saturday afternoon between 11:50 and 12:50, we have scheduled a special session at the Atrium, during which they will be present to elaborate on their results as well as answer your questions about their research.

Be sure to have a look!

The poster area will also be open during all breaks of the conference.

**Saturday 11:50 - 12:50 Atrium**

**THARCILA CHAVES, PharmD**
The ketamine afterglow: applications for depression and pain treatments

**HEINER DÖRFLER, MD**
Indigenous medicine in the medical setting of Colombia – ayahuasca-rituals in the city

**RENATO GARITA FIGUEIRIDO, MSc**
Building a unifying database to enable flexible meta-analyses of data on altered states of consciousness
DÉBORA GONZÁLEZ, MSc
In search for effective tools to face grief: the case of ayahuasca

NISHA JAGAN-NATHAN, BSc
A taxonomy of experimental induction methods for altered states of consciousness and their potential for neuroscientific research

RITA KOČÁROVÁ, MSc
Effective factors of ritual ayahuasca use in the treatment of addictions in the psychotherapeutic context

KIM KUYPER, PhD
Ayahuasca enhances creative divergent thinking while decreasing conventional convergent thinking

ADELE LAFRANCE ROBINSON, PhD
Classic hallucinogen use, emotional regulation, and disordered eating: a mediational model

SUZANNE RUSS, PhD
Trait and state predictors of transformational mystical experience under psilocybin
POSTER PRESENTERS

JUDIT POPOVICS, BA
The existential consequence of psychedelic experiences

TOMÁŠ PÁLENÍČEK, MD, PhD
Psilocybin effects on brain connectivity – human EEG study

MINA PAŠ, MD
Evaluation of healing potential of ayahuasca on psychopathology and general well being

SEBASTIAN LETH-PETERSEN, MSc
Metabolic fate of hallucinogenic NBOMes

JORDAN SLOSHOWER, MD, MSc
Creation of a psychedelic science interest group at Yale University: A case study

Saturday
11:50 - 12:50
Atrium
MAARTEN STRUIJK, BSc
Medium-term effects of ayahuasca consumption in healthy adults

BALAZS SZIGETI, PhD cand.
The use pattern of MDMA as characterised by the Global Drug Survey and its relation to neurotoxicity

FILIP TYLŠ, MD
Psilocybin administration in clinical trial: acute effects, long-term effects and perception of music

ČESTMÍR VEJMOLA, BSc
Translational validity of the serotonergic model of psychosis in rats

MICHAELA VIKTORINOVÁ, MSc
ERPs (P300, mismatch negativity) reveal altered cognitive processing during psilocybin intoxication

RYAN WALLACE, MD
Psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy as a novel treatment for major depression: A pilot study

LUÍS FERNANDO TÓFOLI, MD, PhD
Efficacy and safety of ayahuasca ritual use in the treatment of alcohol use disorder: an open randomized controlled study
The Beckley Foundation is a UK-based think-tank and UN-accredited NGO founded and directed by Amanda Feilding. The Foundation’s dual purpose is the scientific investigation of consciousness and the creation of balanced drug policies. Visit us at www.beckleyfoundation.org

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Since 2008, the Global Drug Policy Program has promoted drug policies rooted in human rights, social justice, and public health. Visit us at www.opensocietyfoundations.org

RiverStyx Foundation attempts to lessen human suffering caused by fear and misguided social policy while advocating for greater compassion, healing, and transformation. Visit us at www.riverstyxfoundation.org/

ICEERS’ primary goal is to bridge the ancestral ethnobotanical knowledge of the indigenous cultures with occidental therapeutic practice and science, working towards the integration of such plants as therapeutic tools and personal growth catalysts in our society today. Visit us at www.iceers.org
The Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) is a proud sponsor of the lectures on MDMA-assisted psychotherapy at the Interdisciplinary Conference on Psychedelics Research (ICPR) 2016.

MAPS is working with regulators around the world to complete the clinical trials needed to make MDMA-assisted psychotherapy a legal prescription treatment for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by 2021.

MAPS is a U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit research and educational organization that develops medical, legal, and cultural contexts for people to benefit from the careful uses of psychedelics and marijuana. Since our founding in 1986, MAPS has disbursed over $26 million to developing these substances into prescription medicines and to educating the public honestly about the risks and benefits of their use. Learn about current research, education, harm reduction, and donate at maps.org.

Visit the MAPS table in the Lobby to learn more about our work.

MAPS-affiliated speakers at ICPR 2016 are (left to right) Rick Doblin, Ph.D., Marcela Ot’alora, M.A., and Alicia Danforth Ph.D.
The OPEN Foundation is a Dutch non-profit, public benefit organisation (charity) dedicated to promoting, stimulating and facilitating scientific research on psychedelics.