

A normalised future of addiction?

Helen Keane

School of Sociology

Australian National University

The promise of a better future?



The Sociology of Expectation

(Brown & Michael 2003)

Who are the subjects of the future?

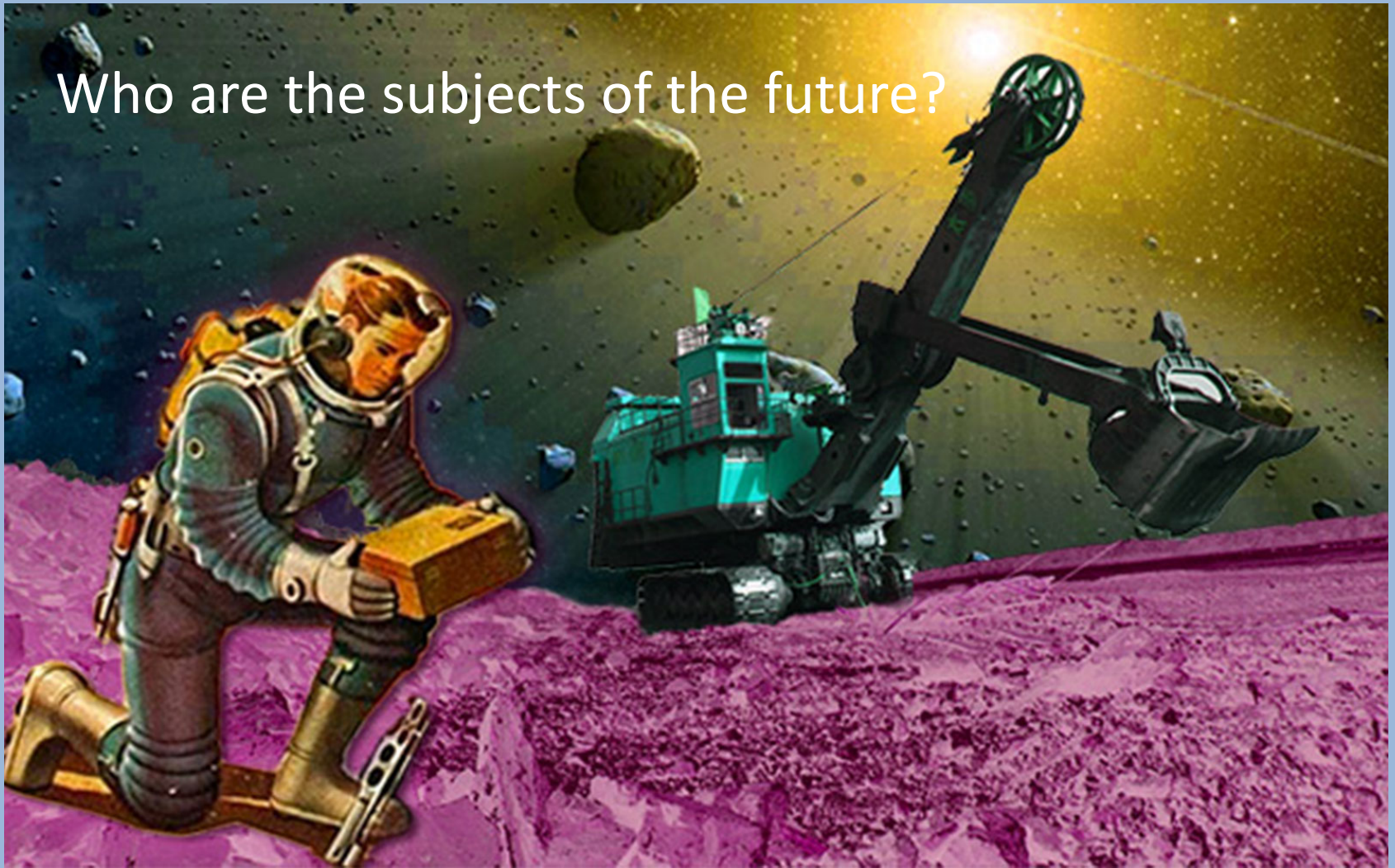
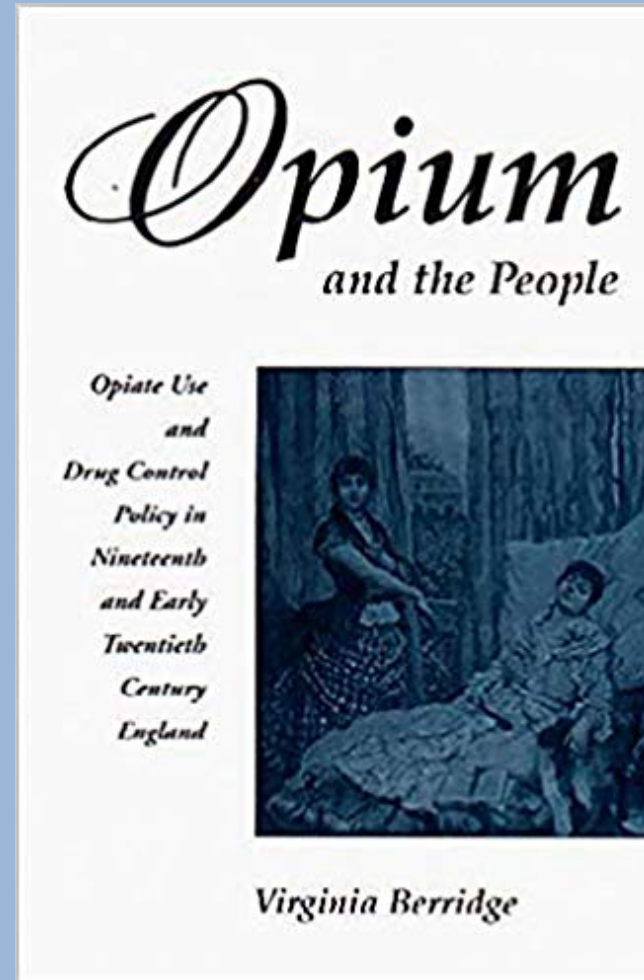
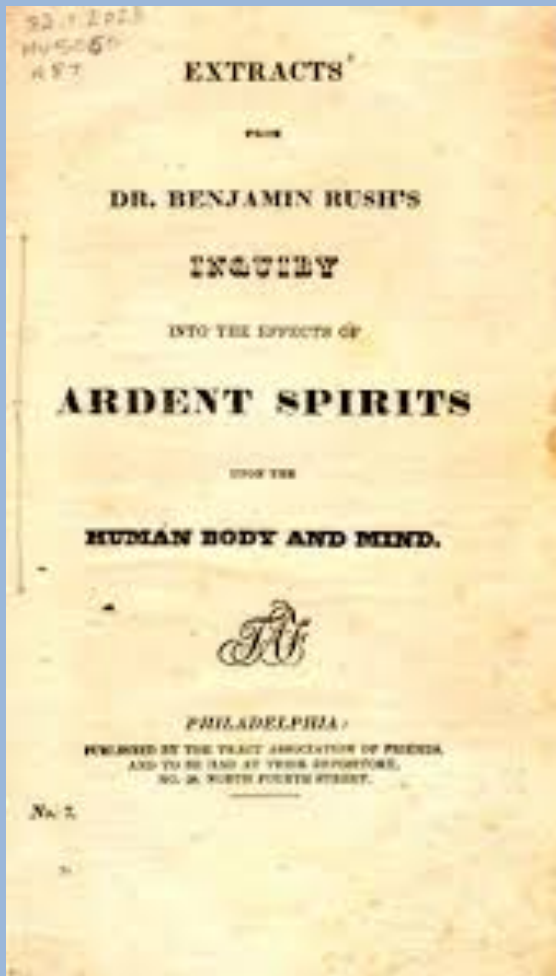




Image: Toronto Harm Reduction Alliance

Addiction has a history



Addiction: regimes of truth



Crackdown Podcast: Drug War Correspondents

A normalised future of addiction?

- Can we imagine a future without addiction as a disease – a disorder that produces a totalised identity?
- Can the medical-moral hybrid of addiction be superseded as the default model of pathological consumption?
- Can dependence be separated from harm?

Hijacked Brain

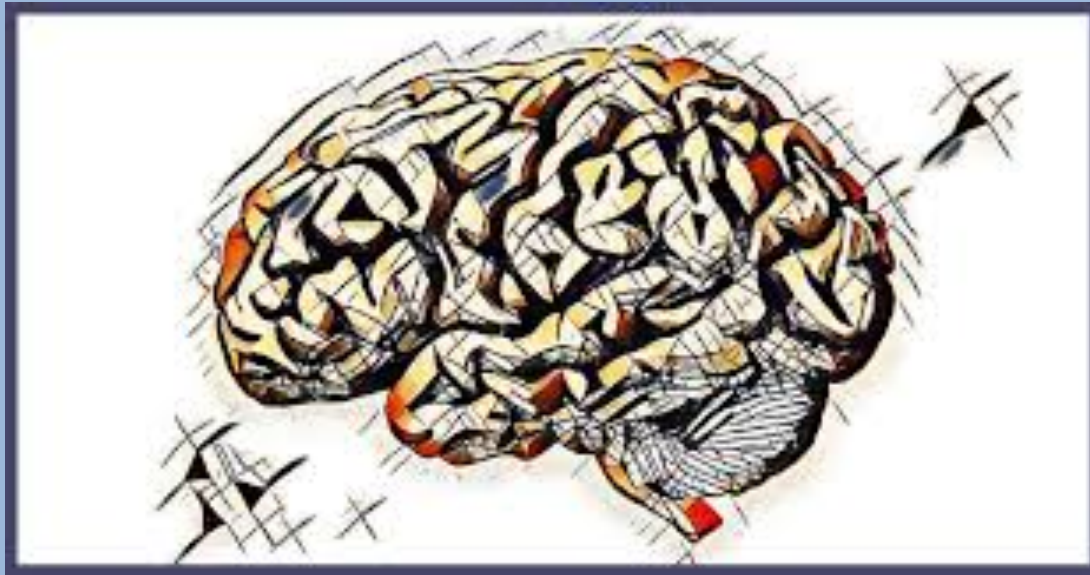


Image: Carrie de Jong & Associates

DSM-5

Defining Substance Use Disorder

NUMBER OF SYMPTOMS	MILD			MODERATE			SEVERE			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- 1** Using more or using the substance longer than intended.
- 2** Persistent desire for it or unsuccessful effort to cut back.
- 3** Spending a lot of time to obtain the substance, use it or recover from it.
- 4** Craving or desiring it strongly.
- 5** Recurring use causes failure to fulfill major obligations at work, school or home.
- 6** Use continues despite persistent or recurring social or interpersonal problems.
- 7** Giving up social, occupational or recreational activities due to use.
- 8** Recurring use in situations in which it's physically hazardous.
- 9** Use continues despite knowing it causes physical or psychological problems
- 10** Developing tolerance (diminished effect or needing more)
- 11** Experiencing withdrawal symptoms or using the substance to avoid them.

SOURCE: DSM-5 via the National Institute on Drug Abuse

GRAPHIC BY ROBERT ROY BRITT

The Logic of Substitution: Methadone, Heroin, Nicotine

Addictive substances as ‘a building block of the human subject’ rather than being inevitably corrosive of agency
(Gomart, 2002)

Dependence as not just a problem, but an opportunity for cessation
(Fagerström et al. 1997)