

SESSION 1 – GENDER AND DRUGS: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE



Liesbeth Vandam holds a master's degree in European criminology and criminal justice systems and a PhD in Criminology, focusing on drug use among people released from prison (Ghent University, Belgium). Liesbeth joined the European Union Drugs Agency in 2011 as scientific analyst and since 2017 has been head of the support to policy sector within the agency's public health unit. She has (co-)authored several scientific publications on illicit drug monitoring, cannabis policies, drugs and prison, drug policy evaluation and drug related crime.



Elena Hedoux, Deputy to the Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group, has been working in the Council of Europe for 20 years in different sectors of the organisation. For the last 12 years in the field of international drug policy cooperation, the Pompidou Group. In the Pompidou Group she is the Director of Programme Implementation of the Group's International Drug Policy Academy. Furthermore, she is co-secretary to the Pompidou Group's steering committee and Ministerial Conference. She is also the responsible for programmes related to online addictions, gender dimension and children, as well as the cooperation with countries of Latin America and the Organisation of American states. In addition, as certified Executive Coach, Elena leads the Council of Europe's internal coaching programme. Elena holds degrees in psychology and pedagogy.



Jane Mounteney is the Head of the Public Health Unit at the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) and has been at the Agency since 2010. She has been working in drug research, policy and practice since 1994, both at a national and European level. In her current position at the EUDA she has an overall responsibility for the areas of drug epidemiology, drug policy and interventions. For many years she was lead writer on the European Drug Report and has authored numerous scientific publications. Prior to joining the EUDA she worked in drug research, policy and practice in both Norway and the United Kingdom.



Linda Montanari. Health sociologist, working at the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) as a principal scientist since 2000. Within the centre, she coordinates three key areas, including those linking drugs and: gender, prison and mental health. In the area of gender and drugs in particular, her work is aiming at systematically integrating a gender perspective in the European drug field, including in monitoring, responses, policies and training. She has set up and coordinates the European Gender and Drugs Group (EDG) involving European and international experts in the field of gender and drugs and organised the first symposium on gender and drugs as side event of the LX Addiction 2022; this is the second symposium.



Cristina Vale Pires. Graduated in psychology with an MSc and PhD in Anthropology and has worked in the drug field since 2009. She has experience as a psychologist, harm reduction practitioner, and manager in projects working with people who use drugs, sex workers, people who have experienced gender-based violence (GBV), and chemsex practitioners. She has also developed research studies regarding the experiences of people who use drugs in nightlife environments, GBV, gender stereotypes, drug stigma, and gender double standards in the drug field, city-level drug policies, and harm reduction responsiveness in crisis contexts. She is a founding member of the NGO Kosmicare, a lecturer at the Faculty of Education and Psychology of the Catholic University of Portugal, and a researcher at the Research Center for Human Development. She is also a member of the European Group on Gender and Drugs.



Wendee Wechsberg. PhD. Director of both the RTI Global Gender Center and the Substance Use, Gender, and Applied Research Program. She served as the Chair of International Women's and Children's Health and Working (InWomen's) Group for over 16 years. The InWomen's Group is a multidisciplinary forum addressing all aspects of substance use among women and families and consists of a network of over 800 individuals from 47 countries. She has conducted substance use and gender studies funded by NIH since 1994. Dr. Wechsberg has received the NIDA International Pioneer Award and Mentoring Award and is a Forbes' Women 50 Over 50 Impact Honoree.



Nuria Romo. Professor of Medical Anthropology and a member of the Institute of Research on Women and Gender Studies at the University of Granada (Spain). She uses ethnographic and qualitative research methods to study the gender impact in drug abuse and addictions. She is currently looking at alcohol cultures on social media and the impact of gender violence in drug abuse treatment.



Alexis Goosdeel joined the EMCDDA in 1999 as a project manager in the area of EU enlargement and international relations. From 2005, he headed the agency's Reitox and international cooperation unit. In this capacity, he played a central role in: coordinating a network of 30 national drug monitoring centres; preparing EU candidate and potential candidate countries for membership of the EMCDDA; developing cooperation with neighbouring countries to the EU; and nurturing relations with countries beyond the Union (Central Asia, Russia, Latin America). Much of his 35-year career working in the field of public health at national, European and international level. He holds a Master's degree in clinical psychology and a special diploma in advanced management. He is proficient in six languages: French (mother tongue); English, Spanish, Greek, Portuguese and Dutch. He was born on 7 November 1959 in Brussels. On 2nd July 2024 he became the Executive Director of the European Union Drugs Agency.

Practical demonstration



Julie Schamp. PhDs in Special Needs Education. Julie is a Trauma-Sensitive Yoga Facilitator (TCTSY-F). She holds a Master's Degree in Educational Sciences and in Sexology. She is also qualified in ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy). Julie has spent over ten years doing research and working alongside people with a history of or current alcohol or drug dependency. For the last few years, she has been practicing yoga and 2ikram yoga and became more and more passionate about it. She received her certification as a TCTSY-F in 2021 and has since been teaching trauma-sensitive yoga.

SESSION 2 – Parallel sessions

1A) Trauma informed interventions with a gender responsive approach



Sharon Arpa is the Manager of the Research Team at the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS) in Malta, overseeing research across a wide range of social issues, including substance use. She has contributed to projects on gender and drugs. Sharon is a member of the European Gender and Drugs Group and serves on the International Steering Committee for the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD). She holds a Master of Science in Epidemiology: Principles and Practice from the University of London.



Monica Barbovschi. Researcher in the field of gender-based violence at EIGE. She is involved in several projects at the agency, such as the project on Administrative data collection on intimate partner violence (IPV) and domestic violence (DV), or the second EU-wide survey on violence against women (Eurostat, FRA, EIGE). She has a Ph.D. in sociology, with more than 15 years of experience in conducting social research in the field of young people's use of social media (including gender-based violence and cyberviolence against girls).



Carol Weiss. Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York-Presbyterian Hospital. She is the Associate Medical Director of the Weill Cornell Center for Trauma and Addiction. She is the US Representative to the ISAM Regional Council. She is co-chair of the ISAM PTSD-SUD Dual Disorders workgroup. She has worked both in private practice and with underserved populations such as people with HIV/AIDS, adolescents with addiction, and veterans. She is board certified in both Addiction Medicine and Addiction Psychiatry.

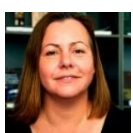


David McPhillips. Professional with over 12 years in the addiction field, with experience in a range of areas including in adolescent substance misuse and recovery and in trauma-informed and gender-responsive approaches. David is a certified trainer in both Motivational Interviewing (MI) and he Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA), holding an MSc in Drug and Alcohol Policy from Trinity College Dublin, and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Limerick.

1B) Understanding masculinities in the drug field



Brendan Hughes (British) has been working at EMCDDA/EUDA since 2001 in the field of national drug legislation, after gaining a Masters degree in International Criminal Law (LLM) specialising in narcotics law. He has written various comparative overviews and analyses on different topics relevant to drug laws; not only use, possession and trafficking laws, but also issues such as drug classifications, threshold quantities, alternatives to punishment, drug driving, and procedures for classifying new substances as drugs. Brendan Hughes has advised various ministers and parliamentary committees and published several peer-reviewed articles, reports and book chapters. He is currently focussing on the different models and variations of cannabis regulation and control, and is starting to look at human rights and gender equality aspects.



Tatiana Moura. Observatory on Masculinities / Centre for Social Studies – Coimbra, Portugal



Geoffrey Hunt. Professor, Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research (CRF), Aarhus University, Denmark



Sotiris Lainas. Psychologist, who holds an MSc and a PhD in the field of addictions and self-help/mutual aid groups. He works as the deputy Scientific Supervisor of Self-Help Promotion Program of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Self Help Promotion Program is an ongoing (23 years) university project that aims to the promotion of self – help / mutual aid practices to the prevention and confrontation of addiction and various psychosocial and health related issues. Dr. Lainas works for more than 23 years in the field of addictions, and in the field of self-help/mutual aid groups' support and he actively participates to the scientific dialogue about addictions and other psychosocial problems and self-help/ mutual aid groups. He has worked for 5 years as an adjunct lecturer at the Psychology Department of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and works the last eight years as an adjunct lecturer at the Hellenic Open University. Dr. Lainas was a member of the counselling committee of the Greek National Coordinator for Addressing Drugs for five years (2019 – 2024).

Discussion



Marica Ferri is an experienced public health expert and leader, currently serving as the Head of Sector Support to Practice at the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) since 2017. She leads a team of senior staff focused on prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and social reintegration, among other key areas. Marica has played a pivotal role in shaping scientific publications and educational initiatives like the European Drugs Schools. With a background that includes senior editorial roles and contributions to systematic reviews, she is recognized for her contributions to evidence-based public health interventions across Europe. Marica holds a PhD in Public International Health and has earned an Executive Master in Management of International Organizations from Bocconi School of Management.



Anna Paola Lacatena. A sociologist at the ASL (Local Health Authority) Department of Pathological Addictions of Taranto, Italy; freelance journalist since October 1994, Coordinator of the “Gender Issues and Legality” Group for the Italian Society of Addiction (SITD) and a member of the Scientific Committee.

SESSION 3 – Parallel sessions

2A) Drugs, intersectionalities and sexual/gender diversities



Ricardo Fuertes is a psychologist with extensive experience in harm reduction, public health, and community research. He began his career at the Drug Consumption Room SAPS/Red Cross in Barcelona (2006-2009) before working as a peer counselor with men who have sex with men at Checkpoint Barcelona (2009-2010) and Checkpoint Lisbon/GAT (2011-2013). From 2012 to 2017, he directed IN-Mouraria/GAT, a harm reduction center for people who use drugs. Ricardo has also advised on HIV, drug policy, and LGBTQI+ initiatives for the Lisbon Municipality (2018-2021) and contributed to the National HIV/STIs Program (DGS) from 2021 to 2022. He served as an advisor to the Secretary of State for Health Promotion in the Ministry of Health (2022-2024). Currently, he is working at the Supervised Drug Consumption Room at GAIA in Paris.



Amanita Calderón-Cifuéntes. Colombian scientist and trans-activist with over a decade of research in microbiology and cellular stress response. Her work focuses on sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly infectious diseases like HIV and MonkeyPox. Her expertise as a Microbiologist and personal experience as a person living with HIV inform her work and advocacy efforts. Amanita worked at Gilead Sciences for a span of a year and a half on different projects aimed at educating the general public about HIV and Serophobia. She then began her position as HIV Research and Advocacy Officer at Transgender Europe, where she serves as an expert for global health organizations such as UNAIDS, the WHO, and the ECDC, advocating for policy changes in high decision spaces at the EU, that support at-risk trans communities. At TGEU, her main task is to lead research on SRHR and address issues surrounding violence, discrimination, and harassment against trans people globally.



Roberto Perez Gayo (they/she) is a researcher, university teacher, and social designer working in the fields of harm reduction, public health, social justice, and innovation. Currently, they serve as the Head of Policy of Correlation - European Harm Reduction Network. From this position, they function as the Coordinator of the European Network of Drug Consumption Rooms, Core Group Member of the Civil Society Forum on HIV/VH/TB, and contribute as expert to thematic groups at the EUDA, ECDC, or WHO, among others.



Aura Roig Forteza, is an anthropologist and has a Master's Degree in Criminology and Sociology of the Penal System. Currently, she is working on her PhD in Medical anthropology. She is the Founder Director of Metzineres, first non-governmental cooperativa dedicated to develop Sheltered Environments for women and non-binary gender people who use drugs, surviving violence and multiple situations of vulnerability. She is also international advisor on drug policy, harm reduction, human rights and gender mainstream, combining research with design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies, programs and services. She has been working in Spain, USA, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica and around Europe.

2B) Parenthood and drugs: main challenges and practical examples



Florence Mabileau. Graduated in languages, European law and international trade. She just achieved her career within the Council of Europe, the oldest international organization in Europe which mission is to promote democracy, rule of law and human rights. Within this organization, she mostly worked at the Pompidou Group, international group on drugs and addiction. Her main areas of work were the cooperation in the Mediterranean Region where she initiated the setting up of MedNET, gender issues and recently initiated the research work concerning children whose parents use drugs. She also was Pompidou Group liaison officer with EUDA and collaborated with Linda Montanari to the setting up of the European Drugs and Gender Group.



Anália Torres, PhD in Sociology, Full Professor of Sociology at the Institute of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lisbon. Founder and director of CIEG (Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies). She was President of the European Sociological Association (2009-2011) and the Portuguese Association of Sociology (2002-2006). Since 2020, she is a member of the Management Board of the Portuguese Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education. Since 2023, she is a member of the National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences (CNECV). She was distinguished with the Scientific Merit Medal 2023, awarded by the Portuguese Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education.



Corina Giacomello. Professor at the Autonomous University of Chiapas, Mexico and consultant of the Pompidou Group in the project "Children whose parents use drugs". She has 20 years of experience in advocacy-oriented research and development of legal, judicial and public policy proposals at the national and international level. Her lines of research include women deprived of their liberty, adolescents in conflict with the law, children with incarcerated parents, drug policies and families with substance dependence. She has published extensively on these topics.



Linnea Fryk Afzelius is a specialist in Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine at the Stockholm Center for Dependency Disorders. She serves on the board of the Swedish Society of Addiction Medicine and lectures at Karolinska Institute, Medical school. Her clinical focus is on women with substance use disorders and co-occurring psychiatric conditions. Dr. Fryk Afzelius is particularly interested in gender differences in addiction, recognizing how substance use disorders manifest differently in men and women, which leads to distinct treatment needs. She also highlights the importance of addressing parenthood as a crucial element of care for women in recovery.

Session 4 – Working Groups



Carine Mutatayi is a scientific analyst for the French Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT), postgraduate in Applied Epidemiology and Community Health. She has a special focus on Prevention, Drug and Gender issues as well as analysis of Marketing techniques related to licit and illicit drugs and gambling.

Working group 1: Trauma informed interventions with a gender responsive approach



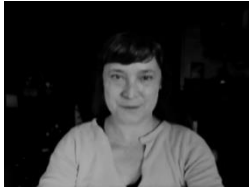
Sara Evli Özhan is a dedicated professional with a passion for sustainable development and environmental conservation. She holds a Master's degree in Applied Psychology, specializing in child development, and has extensive experience providing psychological support to vulnerable populations. Currently serving as an International Cooperation and Policy Expert at the Turkish Green Crescent Society, Sara collaborates with institutions and organizations to advance public health and advocacy. She represents the organization in international forums, demonstrating a proven track record of successful collaborations and impactful projects.

Working group 2: Understanding masculinities in the drug field



Franca Beccaria. PhD, sociologist, president Eclectica+ Research and Training (Italy), deputy director EMDAS, *European Master on Drug and Alcohol Studies*, University of Torino (Italy) and Associate professor (title of docent), Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki. Her main research interests are drinking cultures, drugs, gambling, addictions, health promotion and health policies, stakeholders and community engagement, and sociology of health.

Working group 3: Drugs, intersectionalities and sexual/gender diversities



Ligia Parodi. Feminist, harm reduction activist, psychologist, mother and drug user. Based in Porto, Portugal, she is a member of CASO, the Portuguese association of people who use drugs, where she contributes to peer-led harm reduction and human rights initiatives, especially with a focus on women. She currently coordinates the Advocacy Team of the European Network of People Who Use Drugs (EuroNPUD). She is a member of the advisory bodies of the Women Harm Reduction International Network (WHRIN) and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).

Working group 4: Parenthood and drugs: main challenges and best practices



Graciela Ahumada. Bachelor in Sociology, Master in Demography and PhD in Social Sciences. Researcher and university professor. Since 2001 he has been dedicated to research and management of drug research policies in Argentina and the region. Between 2001 and 2013 she was part of the design and implementation of the Argentine Drug Observatory of SEDRONAR, being its research coordinator and national director until 2013. Since 2014 to date, she has worked as a consultant for the OID-CICAD-OAS, he coordinated the subregional program on Smokable Cocaines and participated in other CICAD projects, such as the writing of Reports on drugs and the preparation and delivery of EWS training. Task Force for the coordination of the OND Strengthening component in the COPOLAD II and III Program (currently), in which five lines of work are being developed with the LAC ONDs

Practical demonstration



Anita Bajzát is an Addiction and Recovery Counsellor. She works as a counsellor and Mindfulness therapist at the Department of Addictions in a hospital in Hungary, as well as for NGOs and for the private sector. She was trained at the University of Sussex, UK; Semmelweis Medical University, Hungary; and at the Oxford Mindfulness Foundation, UK.

Anita supports her clients with combining several trauma-focused somatic modalities. She has a background in public administration. She worked for several years as an expert in international relations at the European Parliament and European Commission.

SESSION 5 – FINAL DEBATE



Alessandra Liquori, a national from Italy, is a Programme Management Officer and Rome Liaison Officer at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). Ms. Liquori has over 30 years of international experience with the United Nations across regions – including the Middle East, Africa, and Europe – managing and leading criminal justice, drug control and crime prevention programmes.



Mulka Nisic is a Research Officer at the Centre for Hate Studies, University of Leicester, Secretary General of the Recovered Users Network (RUN), and Chair of the Global Gender Committee within the World Federation Against Drugs. With decades of active engagement in drug policy and addiction recovery, she has contributed to EU and UN debates within the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD) and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), advocating for gender-sensitive approaches to drug-related issues. Mulka also serves on the Scientific Advisory Council of the International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) and the Global Women's Network. Her current research examines the lived experiences of individuals in recovery and gender-specific recovery pathways across nine European countries, with a focus on recovery capital and the impact of stigma.



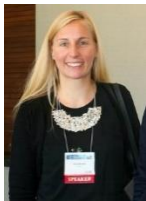
Gabriele Fischer. Prof. Dr. Gabriele Fischer works as psychiatrist and human rights specialist at the Medical University Vienna, where she has been acting for many years as director of the Addiction clinic with a double affiliation to the Center of Public Health and Department of Psychiatry & Psychotherapy. Through her academic career she published more than 160 peer-reviewed scientific papers, many books in addition to > 600 international presentations, next to many international educational trainings in substance use disorder and related co-morbidities. For many decades she has been engaged as consultant for UN, WHO and other international organisations, next to her research focus is neuropsychopharmacology, neuroscience, comorbidity (like ADHD), sex/gender related aspects, cost-economy, vulnerable populations (prisoners, migrants) and human rights aspects in psychiatry with special consideration of substance use disorder. She also serves as an expert at CPT (Committee for the prevention of torture) at the Council of Europe next to many board & committee activities related to (poly) substance use.



Malliori Minerva-Melpomeni. Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry. National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Dental and Medical diploma from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She worked as Consultant in World Health Organization-WHO, as President of the Organization against Drugs in Greece, as Vice President in the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control-ECDC, as Member of the Management Board in the European Union Drugs Agency-EUDA. She served also as a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004. Her research activity is mainly concentrated on Addictions, Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology. She participated as a speaker in more than 400 Greek and International Scientific Congresses and 220 publications in medical scientific Journals and books.



Michal Miovský. PhD. Professor of Clinical Psychology on Charles University (Czech Republic), clinical psychologist and psychotherapist and clinical supervisor. He is vice-dean for non-medical health study programs on the 1st Medical Faculty and head Department of Addictology of the 1st Medical Faculty, Charles University and General teaching Hospital in Prague. He led a process of creating and establishing Bachelor (BC), Master (MA) and postgraduate doctoral (PHD) addiction study program in Prague (called "Prague model of Addiction Studies"). He was a president of ISAJE (International Society of Addiction Journal Editors) in 2015-2017 and since 2016 he has worked as a president of ICUDDR (International Consortium of Universities on Drug Demand Reduction. Since 2022 he is also regular member of Board of Directors in International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP).



Anja Busse. Programme Officer at UNODC PTRS, coordinates UNODC's global projects on drug dependence treatment and care, including the UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care, as part of UNODC's Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section. She is a Psychology graduate (University of Berlin, Germany) with further training in Public Health (Medical School Hanover, Germany), Systemic Psychotherapy and Media Pedagogics.

SESSION 6 – CONCLUSIONS



Denis Huber began his diplomatic career in January 1990 with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before joining the Council of Europe Secretariat in September 1993. There, he gained 10 years' experience in the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers, acting as political adviser for 18 successive presidencies of the Council of Europe. Between 2006 and 2012, he was posted to Belgrade, as Special Representative of the Council of Europe, then to Lisbon, as Executive Director of the North-South Centre, before returning to Strasbourg, to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. Since July 2018, he has been the Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe's International Cooperation Group on Drugs and Addiction ('Pompidou Group'). As of January 2022, he is also responsible for overseeing the Council of Europe's cooperation activities in the fields of police and detention. Denis Huber is the author of the book 'A decade which made History: the Council of Europe 1989-1999' and the director (and co-author) of the collective work "Europe, a human enterprise", published in September 1999 and September 2019 respectively.