



## DRINKING & DRUGS DIVISION

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# Matters of Substance

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## Message from the Chair:

Drinking & Drugs Division Members:

I hope that you had a productive meeting in Montréal this summer. I would like to especially thank those of you who made presentations, attended our sessions and participated in the division's business meeting. I'd like to give a special thanks to Margaret Kelley for her work as past Division Chair. Lastly, I would like to thank the members that volunteered last year to chair and serve on the Junior Scholar Committee and the Student Paper Competition Committee.

Our attention now turns to the upcoming 2007 SSSP annual conference in NYC. We have some excellent session topics and organizers to help schedule presentations for the 2007 annual conference (see sessions and organizers listed later in this newsletter). I'd like to thank all of you who have agreed to chair these sessions and

those who will serve on this year's committees. Please read the newsletter and announcements about our 2006 award winners, new and recently accepted publications, and newly funded research awards. This is an important year for SSSP and other drug researchers as funding priorities seem to be shifting away from the behavioral sciences to more biological and neuroscience.

I would also like to introduce **Evelio Salinas Escamilla** who will be assisting me with this newsletter during my tenure as Chair. Hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season.

Respectfully,

Avelardo Valdez, Chair

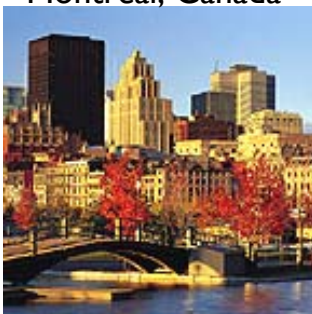
## Division Award Winners - 2006

The Drinking & Drugs Division of The Society for the Study of Social Problems presented the following awards at the annual meeting in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

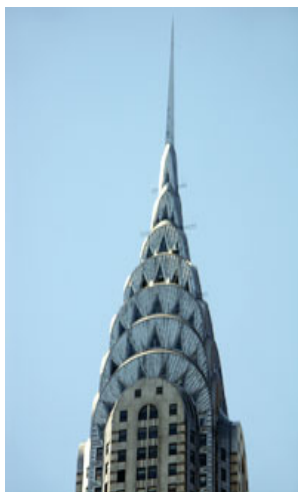
The Junior Scholar Award to **Amie Nielsen** from the **University of Miami** for outstanding achievement in social problems research. We would like to recognize Richard Wilsnack who agreed to chair the committee.

First prize in the Student Paper Competition was awarded to **Phil Kavanaugh** from the **University of Delaware** for excellence in social problems research demonstrated in his paper. We would like to recognize Brian Kelly from Columbia University who chaired the committee and volunteered to be chair this year as well.

### Montréal, Canada



## 2007 Annual Meeting - New York, NY



### Drinking & Drugs Division Sponsored Sessions

**Session 1:** Gaps between Substance Abuse and Policy - **THEMATIC**

Organizer: Ellen F. Benoit, W: 212-845-4400; [benoit@ndri.org](mailto:benoit@ndri.org)

**Session 2:** How Local are Drug Markets and Scenes?

Co-organizer: Paul Draus, W: 313-583-6628; [draus@umd.umich.edu](mailto:draus@umd.umich.edu)

and

Co-organizer: Stephen Sifaneck, W: 212-845-4509; [stephen.sifaneck@ndri.org](mailto:stephen.sifaneck@ndri.org)

**Session 3:** Drinking and Drugs Roundtables

Organizer: Avelardo Valdez, W: 713-743-8112; [avaldez2@uh.edu](mailto:avaldez2@uh.edu)

The call for papers is available online, <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/267> and a hard copy will be mailed to all current members.

*Thanks for a  
great job in  
Montreal.  
Take note of  
our future  
division  
sponsored and  
co-sponsored  
sessions.*

### Drinking & Drugs Division Co-Sponsored Sessions

**Session 1:** Social and Health Consequences of Katrina

(Community Research & Development and Poverty, Class, and Inequality)

Organizer: Bruce Johnson

W: 212-845-4500; [johnsonb@ndri.org](mailto:johnsonb@ndri.org)

**Session 8:** Drug, Crime and Punishment - **THEMATIC** (Crime al & Juvenile Delinquency and Law & Society)

Organizer: Paul D. Steele

W: 606-783-2254; [pd.steele@morehead-st.edu](mailto:pd.steele@morehead-st.edu)

**Session 22:** Impact of Globalization and Drug Markets (Global)

Organizer: Steve Lankenau

W: 323-660-2450, ext. 311; [slankenau@chla.usc.edu](mailto:slankenau@chla.usc.edu)

**Session 23:** Drugs Research/Research with Drugs (Health, Health Policy, and Health Services)

Co-organizer: Elizabeth Ettore

W: 1 +44 (0)1752 233223; [e.ettore@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:e.ettore@liverpool.ac.uk)

and

Co-organizer: Paul Draus

W: 313-583-6628; [draus@umd.umich.edu](mailto:draus@umd.umich.edu)

This is available online, <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/595>

*We appreciate the service  
of those who serve on  
these committees.*

*We hope to receive a  
good number of  
nominees and papers.  
Thanks!*

## 2007 Division Award Committee Chairs

### 2007 Senior Scholar Award

Bruce D. Johnson, Chair

### 2007 Student Paper Competition

Brian Kelly, Chair



## New Publications

**Sifaneck, S.J., Ream, G.L., Johnson, B.D. & Dunlap, E. (in press) Retail Marijuana purchases in designer and commercial markets in New York City: Sales Units, Weights, and Prices Per Gram.** *Drug and Alcohol Dependence.*

. This paper documents the bifurcation of the market for commercial marijuana from the market for designer marijuana in New York City. Commercial marijuana is usually grown outdoors, imported to NYC, and of average quality. By contrast, several strains of designer marijuana are usually grown indoors from specially bred strains and carefully handled for maximum quality. The mechanisms for selling include street/park sellers, delivery services, private sales, and storefronts. Retail sales units vary from \$5 to 50 and more, but the actual weights and price per gram of retail marijuana purchases lacks scientific precision. Ethnographic staff recruited marijuana purchasers who used digital scales to weigh a purposive sample of 99 marijuana purchases. Results indicate clear differences in price per gram between the purchases of commercial (average \$8.20 g<sup>-1</sup>) and de-

signer (average \$18.02 g<sup>-1</sup>) marijuana. Designer purchases are more likely to be made by whites, downtown (Lower East Side/Union Square area), via delivery services, and in units of \$10 bags, \$50 cubes, and eighth and quarter ounces. Commercial marijuana purchases are more likely to be made by blacks, uptown (Harlem), via street dealers, and in units of \$5 and 20 bags. Imported commercial types Arizona and Chocolate were only found uptown, while designer brand names describing actual strains like Sour Diesel and WhiteWidow were only found downtown. Findings indicate clear divisions between commercial and designer marijuana markets in New York City. The extent that these differences may be based upon different THC potencies is a matter for future research.



**Huo, Dezheng, Bailey, Susan, L., Ouellet, Lawrence J. Cessation of injection drug use and changes in injection frequency: findings from the Chicago Needle Exchange Evaluation Study,** *Addiction*, 101 (11):1606-13.

Aims To examine the effect of a needle exchange program (NEP) on incidence of injection cessation and change in injection frequency; to explore predictors for injection cessation and change in injection frequency; and to assess whether injection quitters transitioned to non-injected drug use. Design and setting Between 1997 and 2002, 901 injection drug users (IDUs) were recruited from an NEP program or an area with no NEP in Chicago, Illinois, interviewed for drug use behaviors, tested for HIV and followed for three annual visits. All participants were exposed to prevention services targeting HIV and drug abuse. Measurements Injection cessation was defined as no injection drug use since the last interview, and changes in the number of injections in a typical

month were examined. Findings Sixteen per cent of study participants reported stopping injection for a median duration of 16 months, and most of them also ceased rather than initiated the use of non-injected drugs. Those who continued injecting reduced their injection frequency by 12% per year, on average. Independent predictors of injection cessation were infrequent injection at baseline, younger age and injecting with others. NEP use was not associated with injection cessation and change in injection frequency. Conclusion These results did not support the hypothesis that NEP use influences the frequency of injection over time. One-sixth of IDUs stopped injection for more than 1 year, providing a substantial window for relapse prevention interventions.



## Newly Funded Projects

### Alcohol Use and Victimization: The Role of Gender & Sexual Identity

This Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01 Award) from NIAAA will provide five years of support to Dr. Amy Hequem-bourg for mentored training, advanced coursework, and data collection in the area of gender and sexual identity differences in alcohol use, victimization, and related factors. The award will provide Dr. Hequem-bourg, a Research Scientist at the University at Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions (RIA), with the foundation for a programmatic career plan to examine differential exposure and vulnerability to alcohol-related stressors among sexual minorities and heterosexuals. Surveys will be conducted to assess alcohol and drug use, victimization (e.g., childhood sexual and physical abuse, adult sexual assault, intimate partner violence), and related risk factors within a sexual minority stress model. One hundred gay men, 100 lesbians, 100 bisexual men, and 100 bisexual women (N = 400) will be recruited for the study using Respondent Driven Sampling procedures. This study will be the first to examine gender and sexual identity differences in alcohol use and victimization from a sexual minority stress perspective. Dr. Hequem-bourg's mentoring team consists of RIA Senior Scientists, Drs. Kathleen Parks, R. Lorraine Collins, and Michael Frone, and consultants Drs. Jeffrey Parsons (Hunter College, Director CHEST), Tonda Hughes (Univ. Illinois at Chicago), and Esther Rothblum (San Diego State). Funded by a grant of \$579,325 from NIAAA, 2006-2011.



### Psychiatric Disorders and HIV Risk Behav-



Studies of injection drug users in drug treatment have shown elevated rates of co-morbid psychiatric disorders or symptoms, which likely present challenges to effective drug treatment and HIV/HCV risk reduction programs. However, many questions relevant to targeted treatment and risk reduction services for young injection drug users who are not in treatment, remain unanswered. This study seeks to better understand the relationships between drug injection, psychiatric problems, service utilization, and HIV risk behavior, to form recommendations for targeted outreach and HIV-prevention programs for young IDUs. We will recruit young injection drug users 18-25 years old from Chicago neighborhoods through respondent driven sampling. Trained clinicians will administer the Psychiatric Research Interview for Substance and Mental Disorders to assess psychiatric disorders and symptoms. Respondents will also complete an ACASI survey to assess risk behavior, treatment and service history, sociodemographic background, and social-cognitive measures. Results of this study will provide (1) general prevalence estimates of psychiatric disorders among young IDU, (2) knowledge about gaps in access to psychiatric care, drug treatment, and prevention services, and (3) information about the relationships between psychiatric disorders and treatment/service utilization and HIV/HCV risk behaviors that may be informative to the design of future drug treatment and HIV/HCV prevention efforts that target young IDUs. The study is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The principle and co-investigators are Larry Ouellet, Mary Ellen Mackesy-Amiti and Geri Donnenberg, respectively, all of whom are at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

## Announcements

Walter F. Carroll (Bridgewater State College) and Lutz Kaelber (University of Vermont) are compiling the fourth edition of the *ASA Instructor's Resource Guide on Social Problems*. They welcome course syllabi, class exercises and assignments, online resources, examinations and evaluation instruments, computer software and film reviews, and essays on pedagogical challenges and opportunities involved in teaching Social Problems courses. Please send pertinent materials, as attachments in MS Word format, to Walter Carroll at [wcarroll@bridgew.edu](mailto:wcarroll@bridgew.edu).

## Announcements (Cont.)

**SSSP MEMBERSHIP:** I invite you to renew your membership now and urge your colleagues and students to do the same. You can renew your SSSP membership via our secure website, <https://web.dii.utk.edu/SSSP/> or complete the attached renewal form and mail or fax to the address/fax number at the top of the form. The benefits of membership are numerous-receiving *Social Problems*, our newsletter, division newsletters, and information about the annual meeting. I know that you will want to continue your connection to the most essential organization in our field. Please consider the option of becoming a Sustaining Member (formerly Life Member). Individuals who become Sustaining Members not only save money, but their contributions increase SSSP's endowment and support the Society's future activities..

**We're on the web!!**

<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/21/pagelid/53>

## U N I V E R S I T Y of H O U S T O N

Office for Drug & Social Policy Research

Funded by the

National Institute on Drug Abuse,

National Institutes of Health

Announces the

### 2007 National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse Summer Research Training Institute

June 4 - 13, 2007

**THE RESEARCH TRAINING INSTITUTE:** This training institute is designed to train promising graduate students in drug research methods. It aims to increase each student's knowledge of drug research issues, promote interest in, and professional commitment to Hispanic drug abuse, and to guide every student in the production of a publishable manuscript on Hispanic-focused drug research. The institute also aims to foster mentoring relationships between students and leading Hispanic drug abuse researchers.

**TO APPLY:** To apply submit via postal mail or e-mail the following: 1) application form; 2) a 500-word essay describing yourself, how you would benefit from participating in this institute and in a career on Hispanic drug research; 3) your application packet must include a résumé, listing your social security number, current address and e-mail, phone number, computer skills, and research software with which you are familiar; 4) two letters of recommendation, and 5) official transcripts from your currently enrolled institution or last completed degree.

**DEADLINES** Applications must be received by **February 28, 2007**. Decisions of award will be finalized by

April 2, 2007. Please call the Office for Drug & Social Policy Research at (713) 743-8345 or e-mail Evelio Salinas Escamilla at [eescamilla2@uh.edu](mailto:eescamilla2@uh.edu)

Available to applicants on the websites of the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse or Office for Drug & Social Policy Research, is an application form and information on the training site, including previous training institute curricula and faculty rosters.

<http://www.hispanicscience.org>

or

<http://www.uh.edu/odspr>

Please mail your applications to:

NHSN Summer Research Training Institute  
Selection Committee

Office for Drug & Social Policy Research

University of Houston

237 Social Work Building

Houston, Texas 77204-4013



## Drinking & Drugs Division

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