

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS

Ninth Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy

The ninth annual conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP) will be held in **Ghent (Belgium)**, from **Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd May, 2015**. The event will be hosted by the **Institute for Social Drug research (ISD)** which is part of the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology of the Faculty of Law, Ghent University. The venue of the conference ("**Het Pand**"; address: Onderbergen, B-9000 Ghent) is a former Dominican monastery and nowadays a historical monument, situated in the historical town center at the banks of the river Leie.

The conference should be of interest to policy makers, practitioners and academics from a wide array of disciplines who are engaged in drug policy analyses pertaining to drug markets, the harms caused by both the supply of and demand for drugs, and the intended and unintended consequences of policy.

Researchers and/or practitioners interested in contributing scholarly papers that advance future thinking regarding the development, assessment, or evolution of drug policy nationally or internationally are encouraged to submit abstracts. As at all ISSDP conferences we welcome papers on the monitoring, analysis and evaluation of international and national drug policies and methodological and theoretical developments in drug policy analysis. Other areas of particular interest this year include the following:

- **Qualitative research methods, drug markets and drug policies**
How does qualitative research inform us about drug markets? How does qualitative research link with drug policy debates and policy formation?
- **Historical lessons for the future**
Can we still learn from the distant past: (the Prohibition era, the history of (criminalization and regulation of) coffee, the Opium wars,... How can historical analyses pertaining to drug markets, the harms caused by both the supply of and demand for drugs, and the intended and unintended consequences of policy inform drug policies today?
- **The Dutch coffeeshop-model: recent developments and discussions.**
What did the (historical development of the) Dutch coffeeshop system teach us? Which impact (intended and unintended) did recent regulatory decisions (introduction of the ‘weed pass’, residents only) have on cannabis markets, on bilateral relations with neighbouring countries, etc. What are the most recent developments in cannabis policy debates in the Netherlands?
- **Drug trends, drug markets and policy responses in Africa, the Middle East, Asia.**
What are the most recent drug trends and societal responses (harm reduction, prevention, treatment, enforcement)? What can we learn about/from the development, assessment, or evolution of drug policies? What are the methodological and theoretical developments in drug policy analysis in these countries?
- **Reviewing the international drug control system.**
Is UNGASS 2016 an unparalleled opportunity? Has the moment come to move beyond current changes within the regime to substantive changes of the regime?
- **Drug problems and drug policies in major cities**
How do local authorities cope with drug problems? What kind of (unique or original) experiments are being developed by cities or local communities? What kind of debates on (alternative) drug policies are being held on the local political, level?
- **The insider’s perspectives: dealers, traffickers and users on drug policy**
What are the attitudes of the ‘insiders’ (users, dealers, traffickers) on regulation or ‘legalization’, on drug policy? How can their voices be heard, and how can they be involved in policy making processes?
- **Drugs and human rights**
Must human rights practitioners focus more on drug policies? What are the methodological and theoretical developments in the study of the intersections between international human rights and drug control obligations? How should we envision the protection of human rights in alternative drug policy regimes?

Of course, interesting quantitative or qualitative papers in other areas are also welcome. The term “drugs” should be interpreted broadly to include any illicit substance, the non-medical use or abuse of prescription drugs, the non-sanctioned use of legal regulated substances, and the diversion of legal chemicals for the production or use of psychoactive substances.

Confirmed key note speakers are:

- **Prof. Dr. Virginia Berridge** (Professor of History and Director of the Centre for History in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London)
- **Dr. Reyhad Abdool** (Medical practitioner and demand reduction expert and Senior Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS Adviser from the United Nations Office on, Drugs and Crime (UNODC))
- **Prof. Dr. David Moore** (Professor at the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University, Australia)
- **Dr. Jallal Toufiq** (Director of the Ar-razi University Psychiatric Hospital and Head of the National Center for Drug Abuse Prevention and Research, Morocco)
- **Dr. Frank Masao** (Head of Methadone Clinic – Tanzania AIDS Prevention Program (TAPP) and Head of the Psychiatry Department and methadone clinic, Muhimbili National Hospital)

- **Prof. Dr. Ludwig Kraus** (IFT Institut für Therapieforschung, Munich, Germany, and guest professor in the Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs (SoRAD) at Stockholm University, Sweden).

On Friday 22 May 2015 three workshops will be organized in the afternoon (after the conference), at the conference venue. These workshops are only open to registered participants to the ISSDP conference:

- **Workshop 1: The Dutch Cannabis Model: Recent Developments and Future Challenges.** This workshop will be convened by Dirk Korf (University of Amsterdam).
- **Workshop 2: Challenges and Opportunities for Cross-Jurisdiction Drug Policy Analysis.** This workshop will be convened by Beau Kilmer (RAND Drug Policy Research Center).
- **Workshop 3: Public Scholarship? Key Issues and Challenges of Research Use in Drugs Policy Making.** This workshop will be convened by Mark Monaghan (University of Leeds) and Julie Tieberghien (Ghent University).

Individuals from Latin American, African, Asian or Middle Eastern countries are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts or panels. Panels including participants from diverse countries will be preferred to panels consisting of papers from researchers in only one country.

Abstracts containing between 200 and 400 words and panel proposals should be submitted through the on-line abstract submission system at <http://www.issdp2015.ugent.be/abstracts-2/> before 15 January, 2015. All abstracts are peer reviewed, and decisions will be provided in the second week of February 2015.

This conference requires that all presenters submit a written paper prior to the conference (which will be due on 15 April 2015) and will be available to delegates only (password protected) through the conference website: www.issdp2015.ugent.be . The rationale for written papers can be found on the ISSDP website : <http://www.issdp.org/docs/ISSDP%20Conference%20Style.pdf>.

ISSDP is working in partnership with the **International Journal of Drug Policy (IJDP)**, the **official journal partner** to the 9th annual conference (Impact Factor 2.47). **Selected papers presented at the ISSDP conference will be considered for publication as part of guest-edited themed sections in the International Journal of Drug Policy.**

We strongly encourage PhD students and scholars from developing countries. A competitive scholarships program is available for these delegates. For more information about the scholarships, please see: <http://www.issdp2015.ugent.be/scholarships>.

Conference registration will open on 1 December 2014 and close on 15 May 2015. Information on how to get to the venue in Ghent and on discounted hotels that have been reserved for this conference is available on the webpage <http://www.issdp2015.ugent.be>.