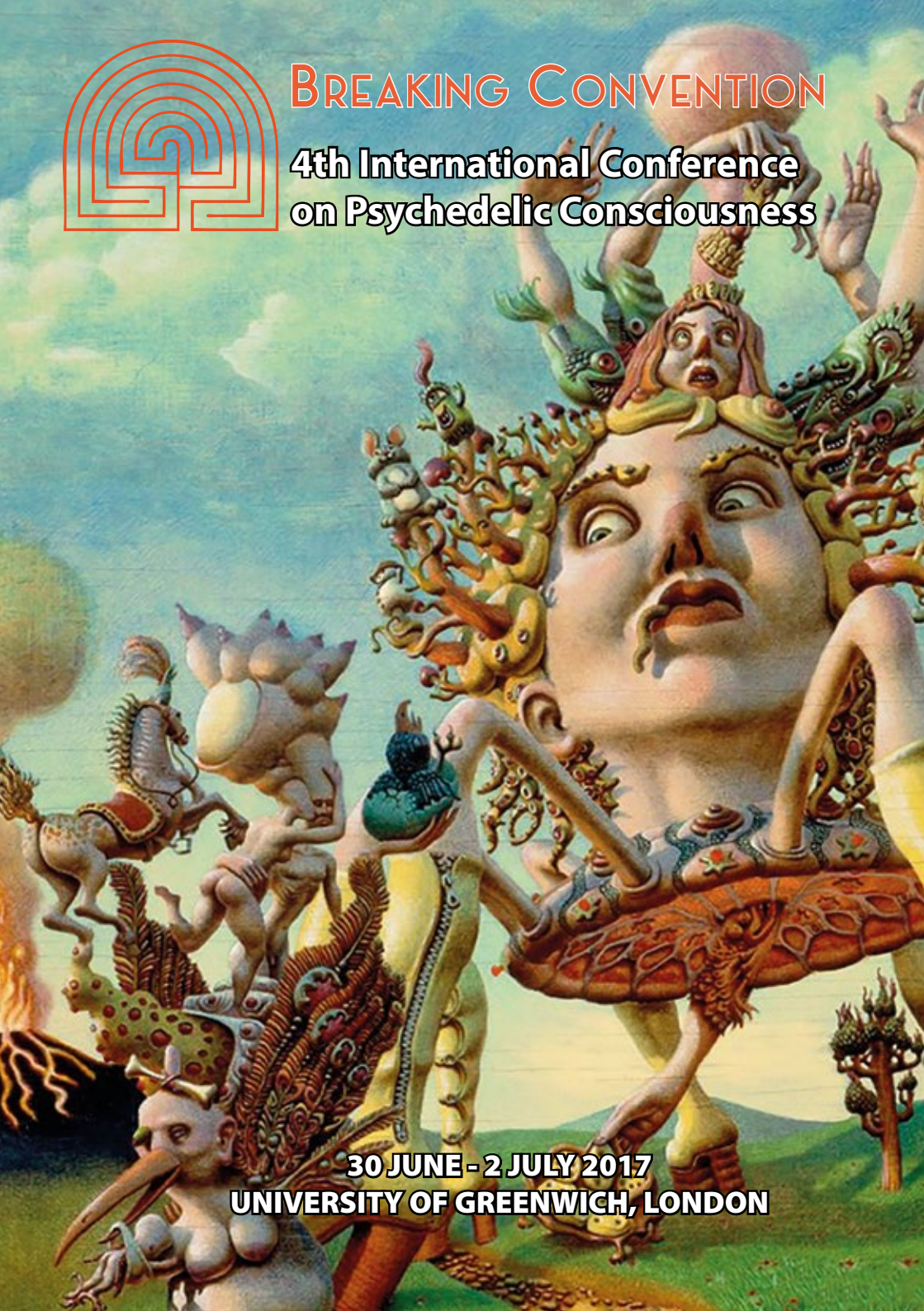




# BREAKING CONVENTION

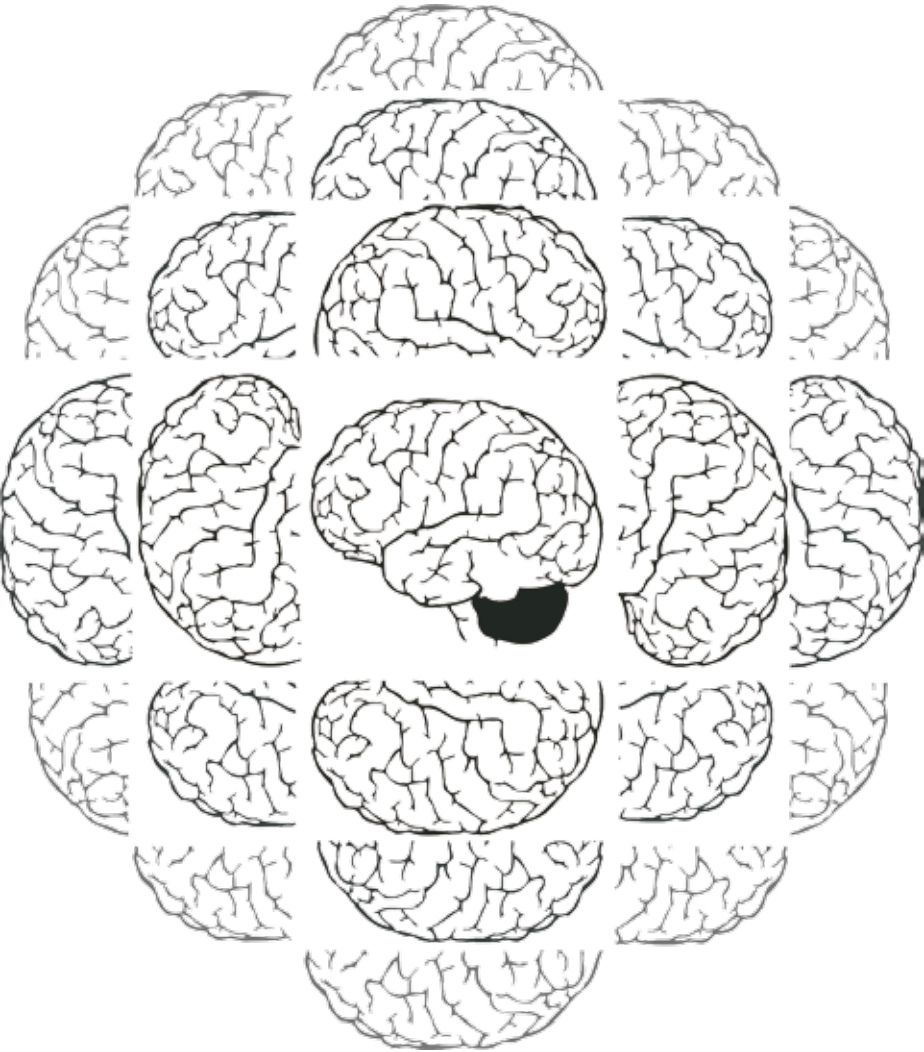
**4th International Conference  
on Psychedelic Consciousness**



**30 JUNE - 2 JULY 2017  
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH, LONDON**

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Front cover artwork: **Cuteness Mania** by Maura Holden



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BREAK TIMES - ALL DAYS	
11:00 - 11:30	Break
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
16:30 - 17:00	Break



## INTRODUCTION



So here we are again, friends. Welcome to Breaking Convention 2017, our 4th international conference on psychedelics. In some respects, what are two measly years compared to the millennia of humanity's development alongside psychedelic compounds? It's all been done before – probably more thoroughly than our blind fumbling today. The lessons we can learn from psychedelics are never new. But, if we look at psychedelics through a different lens, that of modern society, medicine and culture, what a couple of years it's been!

We're going mainstream, baby! Psychedelic music, art, literature, festivals, acceptance and therapies are reaching their tendrils into all strata of society. We are treated daily to positive media representations of psychedelics. Gone are the stereotypical images, the grainy Woodstock footage, the urban-myths, the erroneous warnings. Instead, these messages are replaced by sensible, considered, evidence-based and (rightly) positive narratives about the safe use of psychedelic plants and medicines. And this, dear reader, is not simply a biased, cherry-picked opinion written by starry-eyed over-zealous supporters. This is science.

Many of us have always known about the benefits of psychedelics. And now, the rest of the world are waking up too. 1967 was a psychedelic-led technicolor dream of potential, but the authorities refused to join the dance. In leaden grey, the subculture was driven underground, seeking refuge from the thunderclap of the gavel, beneath the ever-rising mountains of dodgy newspaper clippings, fearmongering rhetoric and police busts. But there was gold in them thar hills... leaden punishments transmuted in the alembics of those alchemists who refused to take no for an answer. This gold is not just a substance of value, but "the medicine that ... can influence all other earthly and material things in a positive way"<sup>1</sup>. And through the art, "the alchemist has been reborn as the Sun which is equal to Gold. He has been enlightened"<sup>2</sup>. Now at the 50th Anniversary of the Summer of Love we find the Psychedelic Renaissance in full swing. As the Renaissance led to the Enlightenment, this golden anniversary leads to its own enlightenment; that of the spirit and of empirically-founded policies.

Thank you all for your part in immanentizing this renaissance. Thanks to the old 'uns amongst you for never giving up. Thanks to the youth who know a good thing when you see it. Keep hanging on. We are almost there! Now come on, let's have a good time and feel the love.

<sup>1</sup> Gerhard Dorn 16thc

<sup>2</sup> Johann Joachim Nercher, *Actorum Laboratoriichici Monacensis, seu Subterraneae* 1669

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Adam A. Aronovich**

*Sunday 2nd, 15:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Broadening Our Definitions Of Normalcy And Sanity: Crafting Alliances For Cognitive Liberty, Neurodiversity, And Non-Pathologizing Approaches To Mental Health.**

In common with prohibitive drug policies, western biopsychiatry tends to pathologise many expressions of human diversity with narrow definitions of normalcy and sanity. An ethnographic approach to mental illness, however, unveils a variety of ways in which mental affliction is experienced, both cross-culturally and intra-culturally. Many non-ordinary experiences and states of awareness are not universally understood to be observable signs of mental disease but can be understood to be meaningful experiences that carry important information towards integration and recovery, or as natural expressions of neurodiversity. Recovering the narrative voices of collectives who may take pride in their madness (Mad Pride, Mad Studies), of people who may not regard their manic episodes as inherently pathological but as bearing "dangerous gifts" to be intelligently navigated (Icarus Project) or collectives of "voice hearers" who regard their auditory hallucinations as carrying important information and potentially beneficial when discussed and integrated in depathologised spaces with their peers.

**Ahnjili ZhuParris**

*Friday 30th, 12:30, Hofmann Hall*

**The Comparison Of Reversal Learning Under The Influence Of Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (Lsd), Methylphenidate (MPH) And Mindfulness.**

Cognitive flexibility is the ability to adjust to unexpected and novel changes in the environment. LSD, from anecdotal evidence, promotes divergent thinking, a more flexible, original and flowing thinking process, whilst MPH promotes more convergent thinking, which tends to be more logical, rigid and less diverse. Mindfulness has shown to both promote attention and cognitive flexibility. Hence, we compared the effects of LSD, MPH and Mindfulness on cognitive flexibility using the Probabilistic Reversal Learning task. Although there was no significance amongst the differences in the interventions, there was a trend in which LSD improved reversal learning and reduced perseveration, whilst MPH had the opposite effect. Mindfulness training lead to improved PRL scores, and PRL scores prior to the Mindfulness training were predictive of the outcome of the Mindfulness Skills scores.

**Alain Pire**

*Saturday 1st, 15:30, The Sand Pit*

**Psychedelic Substances And The Composition, Perception And/Or Appreciation Of Music.**

Since the accidental discovery of fuzz sound on Don't Worry by Country singer Marty Robbins in 1961 and even ten years earlier for the first distorted guitar sound in Rocket 88 by Jackie Brenston & his Delta Cats, the guitar sound in particular and the music sound in general changed dramatically during the Sixties and early Seventies. The musical innovators blew the boundaries of the classic Fifties sounds to virtually open new universes of sonic exploration. From Fuzz to Echo, Reverberation, Backwards Loops, Phaser, Flanger, Wah-Wah etc. – many creative musicians used these new sounds to translate into music, the visions and sounds that they heard while on psychedelics. I will also talk about the relationship between psychedelics and creativity like the experiments that Harman and Fadiman conducted before LSD became illegal and also talk about many musicians witnesses on that matter.

**Alessio Bucci**

*Friday 30th, 09:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Breaking Down Consciousness: Hints For A Conceptual Clarification Of The Notion Of "Altered States" From Psychedelics Studies.**

In this paper I explore some conceptual issues related to the notion of "altered states of consciousness". This notion has been used extensively in the scientific and philosophical literature since the first attempts to define it (Ludwig, 1966). To establish whether a conscious state is altered or not is crucial for a taxonomy of consciousness (Jonkisz, 2012). A recent new wave of scientific studies about the effects of psychedelics on the brain and its ability to process information (Carhart-Harris et al., 2014; Carhart-Harris et al., 2016) has put pressure on current theories of consciousness to accommodate these results in a clearer picture. In this paper I discuss these studies through the lens of Predictive Processing (Clark, 2016) and Integrated Information Theory (Tononi, 2015) and, following Bayne et al. (2016), I suggest that there are reasons to understand consciousness as a continuum of states in a multidimensional space, revising our ontology of the mental.

**Alexander Beiner**

*Friday 30th, 11:30 - 13:00, Wasson*

**Psychedelic Meditation based on TTI.**

Open Meditation teaches non-religious mindfulness meditation. We also specialise in the combination of mindfulness meditation and structured, ceremonial and legal psychedelic experiences as a practice for increasing self-awareness and self-development. The workshop will explore meditation techniques that can be used to navigate and integrate psychedelic experiences more effectively, drawing on Open Meditation's TTI (Trip, Train, Integrate) model.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Alexander Beiner**

*Sunday 2nd, 14:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **The Role Of Psychedelics In A Post-Truth World.**

This talk will examine the history of progressive culture since the 1960's, and ask the question of what, if any, cultural role psychedelics can play in a post-Trump, post-Brexit world. Drawing on Integral Studies, I'll examine whether psychedelics can reliably help people move through stages of psycho-spiritual development. Using this as a basis to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the TTI model, which combines meditation and psychedelics into a structured psycho-spiritual practice, the talk will lead to a pressing question: can psychedelics still change the world?

**Andrea Zeuch**

*Friday 30th, 10:30, Hofmann Hall*

### **Mainstreaming Psychedelics: LSD For Intensive Care Doctors?**

In hospital settings, non-ordinary states of consciousness are not exclusive to Psychiatric wards, but are also common in other fields of medicine. Examples here are acute delirium in intensive care patients as a consequence of physical trauma or substance abuse and dementia. However, the understanding of such non-ordinary states of consciousness tends to be very limited and pathology-focussed. The common treatment models aim at suppressing anything that is considered an unwanted disturbance of clinical routine. Here, we explore the possible benefits of Psychedelic self-experience for critical care staff and propose a paradigmatic shift in the perception of physically induced altered states of consciousness involving a transpersonal approach.

**Andy Letcher (Skype)**

*Friday 30th, 16:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **'Psychic Spies From Gaia' – Magic Mushrooms, Nature And The New Animism.**

One of the most enduring Western discourses about the experiences occasioned by psilocybin ('magic') mushrooms, is that they facilitate a beyond-normal sense of communion, or even communication, with other-than-human nature. Mushrooms are regarded as agentic, and as able to confer important insights about our relationship to planetary ecology at a time of severe environmental degradation. As one informant puts it, "Mushrooms are psychic spies sent from Gaia to rebalance, reconnect and re-mind us; a corrective mechanism of the biosphere if you like". In this paper, I examine this discourse from an hermeneutic perspective. While I conclude that the ontological status of these claims eludes us, the pressing need for action in regards to climate and environment compels that we take them seriously. I argue that they are certainly justified in the light both of developments in cognitive science and what is called in anthropology, the new animism, both of which stress relationality.

**Andy Roberts**

*Sunday 2nd, 10:30, Sabina Stage*

### **Operation Julie.**

March 1977, Britain saw the largest ever series of organised drug squad raids in one twenty four hour period. This was the culmination of a police initiative conducted by a specially created national drug squad and named 'Operation Julie'. 'Julie' had been convened in 1975 to identify, track, observe, infiltrate, convict and smash an LSD manufacturing and distribution ring which was producing and supplying millions of doses of high quality LSD. Using extracts from contemporaneous audio visual materials, taped interview with one of the two acid chemists a recent (2017) video interview with Smiles (Alston Hughes), this talk brings fresh thought and insight to a part of Britain's psychedelic history we must not forget and whose full story has not yet been told.

**Anthony Gabay**

*Friday 30th, 12:00, Hofmann Hall*

### **MDMA Administration Produces Context-Specific Alterations To Social Decision-Making.**

The range of social cognitive mechanisms altered by MDMA has yet to be fully explored. In this talk I will present the results of a study investigating the effect of MDMA on two social decision-making tasks, the Ultimatum Game (UG) and Prisoner's Dilemma (PD). These tasks investigate behaviour during reciprocal social interactions; modelling cooperation, trust and reactions social norm violations. In the UG, we found that MDMA reduced the rejection rates of 'unfair' offers, while increasing the amount of money offered by the participants themselves. In the PD, MDMA increased cooperation with trustworthy, but not untrustworthy opponents. When receiving feedback of their opponents' decisions, this increased cooperation was accompanied by increased activation of brain regions believed to be involved in social cognition. I will present evidence that the neural changes underpinning this effect may be due to altered engagement with, and appraisal of, the other players' behaviour.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Anwar Jeewa**

*Saturday 1st, 11:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **The Role Of Ibogaine In The Treatment Of Substance Abuse.**

It has become increasingly difficult to assist an individual to maintain long term recovery from substance abuse. Irrespective of which treatment centre the individual has been to, none guarantees a successful recovery. This is frustrating to individuals, their families and also service providers. The reason for this trend is not absolutely clear. Many treatment centres are rigid in use of their programs and depend on aftercare to improve recovery rates. Service providers are increasingly acknowledging that there is no one "best treatment" option as there are too many variations and complexities in reaching the goal of freedom from dependence and social reintegration. Hence the focus of this presentation, is to discuss the role of an anti-addictive herbal plant known as ibogaine in the treatment of substance abuse.

**Ayana Iyi**

*Saturday 1st, 12:30, The Sand Pit*

### **Modern Day Witches, Women & Entheogens.**

Ayana Iyi is a modern day witch with ancient sensibilities, utilizing entheogenic plants in her work as a Psychic and Medium. Ayana has an intimate relationship to spirit going back to early childhood. Sharing many decades of experience working as a healer of immense knowledge and power. Incorporating teaching fungi into her work was the perfect complement to accessing the ancient worlds of the divine feminine. Many testify to the fullness, depth and passion that Ayana brings to the Psychedelic community.

**Batuhan Bintas and Christian Duka**

*Saturday 1st, 09:30 - 11:00, Cyberdelics (Reception)*

### **Cyber Mushrooms.**

Cyber Mushroom explores creating non-ordinary state of consciousness by combining mixed reality technologies, visual beauty and the power of sound. The journey is set deep into a wonderland created by Batuhan Bintas. The experience context engineers the traditional way of reading a book; instead of reading the story, the audience is invited to go through the rabbit hole by using the Cyber Mushroom, allowing access directly into the characters realm of experience and imagination. The visual experience is enhanced by a binaural music composition designed by Christian Duka. The sound journey uses music and specific tones that entraining the mind's brainwaves induce meditative states of consciousness. The experience aims to use technology to make the audience question the possibility of being surrounded by parallel dimensions accessible through non-ordinary states of consciousness.

**Ben Christie**

*Sunday 2nd, 14:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **A Path Well Trod? Comparable Journeys Of Traditional Healing Systems To Self-Regulation and Societal Acceptance.**

This talk explores what lessons are to be learnt from other traditional holistic healing systems that have already taken the journey to acceptance by occidental society and government legislators, such as Chinese medicine, Ayurveda and homeopathy. Does the Shipibo plant medicine system constitute a traditional healing modality in the same way say as Chinese medicine? What ways of presenting these systems have led to their being left largely to self-regulate? What benefits and challenges does self-regulation present, and could it be a workable and nuanced way for other teacher plant practices to integrate and be valued in occidental society?

**Ben Sessa**

*Sunday 2nd, 11:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **MDMA Therapy: A Child Psychiatrist's Perspective**

As a clinical child psychiatrist I take a developmental perspective to adult mental disorder and addictions. My work with abused children, seeing them grow into damaged and addicted adults, has brought me to the door of MDMA Therapy as psychiatry's best opportunity for a therapeutic breakthrough. I will illustrate my talk with two on-going MDMA studies that I am leading in the UK.

**Benjamin Mudge**

*Friday 30th, 10:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **The Therapeutic Potential Of Ayahuasca For People With Bipolar Disorder**

Given the evidence indicating ayahuasca's efficacy for treating Depression, I question whether ayahuasca is safe and effective for treating Bipolar Disorder? There is concern that ayahuasca would trigger mania in people with Bipolar Disorder, but my research indicates that particular conditions of ceremony - involving ayahuasca teas made with particular brewing techniques - can facilitate a mood-stabilizing medicinal benefit for people with Bipolar Disorder, without side-effects. There are cases of manic/depressive symptoms worsening with ayahuasca, so I analyse the circumstances influencing these results. In addition to set and setting, brewing technique strongly influences the outcomes: there are dangers for people with Bipolar Disorder drinking ayahuasca brewed with too much MAOI content, fermented Ayahuasca, or ayahuasca combined with other psychoactive substances. The many positive anecdotes, together with lessons learned from bad experiences and laboratory research, will inform a specific protocol for people with Bipolar Disorder to drink Ayahuasca safely and with medicinal benefit.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Bernhard Kelly-Patterson**

*Friday 30th, 17:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **The Challenge Of Psychedelics To The Problem Of Illusion.**

A large part of Western philosophy is concerned with the setting out the limitations of human understanding of the world. Different philosophers differ as to just how limited we are. The Eastern, as well as mystical traditions, tend to agree that we exist in a state of illusion, but encourage us to, by various means, to break free from these limitations, so that we might 'see reality correctly'. Advocates of the psychedelic experience would say that psychedelics are just such a tool for challenging the supposed limitations to experience. Starting with a classical Kantian understanding of the mind's limitations, I will then attempt to show what Lacanian concepts, with particular reference to his 'stage of the mirror', 'the imaginary', and 'the other', add to our understanding. I will propose that it is a misunderstanding of ourselves that lies at the heart of our misunderstanding of the world.

**Bill Richards**

*Saturday 1st, 16:00, Sabina Stage*

### **Sacred Knowledge: Just Because You're Mortal Is No Reason To Be Depressed.**

This presentation will focus on the positive correlation between insightful personal, visionary and mystical forms of consciousness facilitated by psilocybin and significant and enduring reductions in depression and anxiety, coupled with reported increases in quality of life. The probable application of this intervention in palliative and hospice care settings in the near future will be discussed, including the need for training persons to implement it safely and effectively. Attention will be paid to the importance of set and setting, the definition of visionary and mystical states, and reflections on why the memory of such psychedelic experiences may be so therapeutically effective.

**Bruce Parry**

*Friday 30th, 15:30. Sabina Stage*

### **Egalitarianism and the age before the shaman.**

**Bruce Rimell**

*Saturday 1st, 15:00, The Sand Pit*

### **They Shimmer Within: A Cognitive-Evolutionary Approach To Visionary Beings.**

Contemporary approaches to visionary beings – apparently discarnate entities seen in DMT, salvia divinorum, 2-CI and other strong psychedelic visions – tend towards literal, archetypal or dismissive interpretations. However, the cognitive science of religion and evolutionary psychology both suggest profound, innate but non-imagistic mental foundations for these phenomena emerging from easily-triggered evolutionary functions during emotive periods of high cognitive demand. Such functions include 'agent detection', dedicated social intelligence faculties and symbolic thought. Salient points from these technicalities are navigated, encapsulating several years of research. The cognitive underpinnings behind folk-beliefs in 'wild spirits' who dwell in domains of the unknown and the 'beyond' are narrated, before it is suggested that similar implicit recognitions of unknown spaces within our own minds 'readies' us to expect visionary beings during psychedelic voyages as a special, internalised case of such 'wild spirits', dwelling in an unreal-but-meaningful, agent-led and symbolically-driven experience of 'Mind-as-Cosmos'.

**Carl H. Smith**

*Friday 30th, 10:30, Sabina Stage*

### **What Are The Boundaries And Application Areas Of Perceptual Technologies To Create Non-Drug Altered States Of Consciousness (ACs)?**

We are chained to a limited range of perceptions and as a result we are subscribing to a specific version of reality (or an 'UMWELT'). To hack and explore our UMWELT we must shape our tools with the knowledge that thereafter those tools will shape us. Ultimately however, to properly explore our perceptual experience we must understand the rules that govern our minds and bodies.

According to Gebser humanity is undergoing a transformation from the mental, perspectival structure of consciousness to the integral, aperspectival structure - from mind to supermind. McLuhan recognized that changing perceptual technologies plays a significant role in transforming our comprehension.

Combining the best affordances of analogue technologies such as Holotropic breath work with the most transformative elements of the new Mixed Reality technologies we can now adopt radically different visual or auditory systems, spend time out of body, in the 3rd person, or focused in peripheral vision. We can also body swap or gender swap. This pursuit of new states of perception and forms of experience is leading to cognitive and creative insights about the nature of reality.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Carl H Smith & Batuhan Bintas**

*Sunday 2nd, 11:30 - 13:00, Wasson Workshops*

### **Contextology Of Perceptual Hacking.**

We are trapped by the limitations of our species. Our senses define our experience and so each organism experiences a different contextual reality (Umwelt). There is much more to the world than what we can perceive through our senses. We are prisoners of our own perception. We are trapped in our identities and our linear perception of time and as a result, each individual is already living in a sort of virtual reality. To properly explore the nature of our Umwelt (our perceptual experience) we must first understand the rules that govern our minds and bodies. Now, with the explosion of hybrid and perceptual technologies such as VR, AR and MR (Mixed Reality) in combination with analogue technologies such as Holotropic breath work we have the tools to not only test our understanding of our own perceptual systems but also extend them to experience other possible realities (types of reality). The ability to alter our senses and develop entirely new ones provides us with the possibility of creating new forms of experience. During the workshop we will explore a range of Sensory Augmentation and Perceptual Adaptation techniques that enable Altered States of Consciousness (ASCs).

**Celia Morgan**

*Sunday 2nd, 14:30, Sabina Stage*

### **Ketamine As A Treatment For Alcohol Use Disorder.**

Ketamine is an anaesthetic that has emerged as an impressive and fast-acting treatment for treatment-refractory depression. Data from Russia in 1980's and 1990s also suggests that psychotherapy combined with three weekly doses of ketamine in recently detoxified alcoholics may reduce 12 month relapse rates in alcohol-dependence from 76% to 34% (Krupitsky & Grinenko, 1996). We will discuss our trial currently underway that is looking at ketamine combined with CBT and mindfulness. I shall then discuss possible mechanisms for ketamine's effects in alcoholism, such as its antidepressant effects, increases in synaptogenesis and psychospiritual and existential properties of the experience.

**Charlie Boyd**

*Sunday 1st, 09:30 - 11:00, Wasson Workshops*

### **Ecstatic Dance.**

Our shamanic and aboriginal ancestors have been using dance to go into trance like states since before the dawn of civilisation. Through movement, breath, rhythm and awareness we can go beyond our busy minds, which then enables us to drop down into our bodies. Once we lose attachment and fear, that is often held with strong or stagnant emotions, we can experience true healing and transformation. We'll warm up the body, then take part in a kundalini shake to release held and blocked emotions in the body. We will then dance for 45 mins. This is your time to express yourselves and move however you need to move, listening to your body and dancing for yourself and nobody else. After dancing, we'll lie down & experience some stillness in a sound bath, allowing the vibration of singing bowls & grounded meditation.

**Charlotte Walsh**

*Sunday 2nd, 09:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **Psychedelics, Self-Creation, And Article 8 Of The European Convention On Human Rights.**

Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights provides a right to respect for privacy, encompassing the idea that people should have the freedom to develop their own unique identity. The central claim here is that the criminalisation of (in particular, psychedelic) drugs, interferes with this right to self-creation. The limitations of the human rights approach are engaged with; however, ultimately it is argued that the dream of a shift in the legal paradigm ought not to be abandoned. The paper ends on an optimistic note, considering the successful deployment of human rights protections to challenge cannabis prohibition in Mexico and South Africa. This is not about our right to drugs - the importance of which people may agree or disagree on - but rather the seminal issue of our freedom.

**Chris Letheby**

*Friday 30th, 10:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **The Epistemic Innocence Of Psychedelic States.**

One recent development in epistemology, the philosophical study of knowledge, is the notion of 'epistemic innocence' introduced by Bortolotti and colleagues. This concept expresses the idea that certain suboptimal cognitive processes may nonetheless have epistemic (knowledge-related) benefits. The idea that delusion or confabulation may have psychological benefits is familiar enough. What is novel and interesting is the idea that such conditions may also yield significant and otherwise unavailable epistemic benefits. I apply the notion of epistemic innocence to research on the transformative potential of psychedelic drugs. The popular epithet 'hallucinogen' exemplifies a view of these substances as fundamentally epistemically detrimental. I argue that the picture is more complicated and that some psychedelic states can be epistemically innocent. This conclusion is highly relevant to policy debates about psychedelic therapy. Moreover, analysing the case of psychedelics can shed further light on the concept of epistemic innocence itself.



## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Chris Timmermann**

*Saturday 1st, 10:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **Dynamic Transitions Of Consciousness: An Eeg Study Using DMT**

Studies using LSD, psilocybin and Ayahuasca have shown that the effects of psychedelics on blood perfusion, functional connectivity, spectral and BOLD activity are reliably captured in a safe manner in brain imaging environments. However, the slow onset and long duration these drugs have, render the study of transitions between the normal waking to the psychedelic state a difficult challenge. In this study a potent and short-acting psychedelic drug, N, N, Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) was used to capture these dynamic transitions, while EEG was recorded and subjective responses were collected during the onset, offset and peak effects of the drug by administering three different doses of DMT fumarate (7mg, 14mg and 20mg) and placebo intravenously (IV) to healthy participants. The results from the neural and subjective effects will be discussed as well as assessing the safety of IV administration of DMT in imaging environments.

**Christa McKinnon**

*Saturday 1st, 15:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **Encounter With The Jaguar – Processing And Integrating The Aftermath.**

For most people plant ceremonies provide beneficial experiences. As perception alters, consciousness expands and world-views change, they heal and grow. Even fear or terror states, brought about by 'shadow encounters', usually process themselves to adaptive conclusions. For some people though, the aftermath of 'shadow encounters' can be profoundly disturbing, especially when dissociated traumatic material is activated, but not processed, as they experience debilitating symptoms similar to PTSD and feelings of confusion, helplessness and overall tension. This talk will focus on 'how to move forwards' after 'encountering the jaguar'. It will address unprocessed traumatic states, created earlier in life but brought to the fore by the use of psychedelics. It will look at the difference of dealing with such 'dark times of transformation' in indigenous cultures and our own and into therapeutic integrative approaches, based on the premise that the aftermath can, with appropriate help, be a time of development and transformation.

**Clare S. Wilkins**

*Saturday 1st, 12:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **A Novel Approach To Detoxification From Methadone With Ibogaine.**

The African psychoactive alkaloid Ibogaine, Schedule 1 in the USA, researched for substance use since the 1950's, has demonstrated effectiveness in reversing tolerance & craving for opioids, stimulants & alcohol. Risks & fatalities are involved, due to the demographic, screening, inducing bradycardia, prolonging the QT interval & blocking the Potassium hERG channel, further complicated by opioid maintenance medications & psychiatric drugs. Almost all ibogaine centers, rapidly increasing in number, administer a single "flood" dose, with supplemental amounts over 5-7 days. PAWS is not remediated by this accelerated approach, as abstinence symptoms persist for months. I will present a case of a 17 year methadone dependency, using cumulative doses of ibogaine & decreased doses of methadone over 6 weeks. She has remained opiate-free for over 1 year. Supported with data from ECGs & standard measures, this case demonstrates that it may be safer & efficacious to administer ibogaine incrementally over time.

**Dana Beal**

*Saturday 1st, 12:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **Mechanism Of Nerve Growth Factor GDNF Elucidates Ibogaine's Persistence And Immune Modulatory Effects.**

Ibogaine shares receptor effects with both Salvia divinorum (k-opiate down-regulation of tolerance via beta-arrestin) and with ketamine (NMDA antagonism, curbing narcotic withdrawal and super-sensitization to stimulants). Additionally, ibogaine induces the nerve growth factor GDNF (Glia-Derived Neurotrophic Factor), re-sprouting chronically desensitized dopamine receptors and replacing the neural deficit experienced as craving. Moreover, the 10-fold GDNF spike engendered by ibogaine back-signals to cell nuclei to make more GDNF, setting up a benign auto-regulatory loop accounting for ibogaine's persistent effect. This is supported by recent cases in which as little as 4 mgs of ibogaine twice a day for 28 days significantly reversed Parkinson's degeneration. Alper proposed that ibogaine is a true oneiric, experienced as "a dream body in a dream landscape." This was elaborated in Carl Anderson's prescient MAPS paper on ibogaine and fetal REM. Not only may fetal REM orchestrate neonatal growth, ibogaine REM-mimesis may be "resetting" adult immune systems--as seen in amelioration of auto-immune disorders such as MS and Crohn's disease, and some complications of AIDS.

**Daniel Perkins**

*Friday 30th, 12:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **Exploring Ayahuasca Practices And Participant Reported Effects: Data From A Global Survey Of Ayahuasca Drinking.**

There is increasing evidence that ayahuasca may have therapeutic effects for people with mood, anxiety and substance use disorders, with most studies also indicating that ongoing consumption does not lead to adverse physical or mental health effects. However, to date most research has been undertaken in the ayahuasca churches and it is not clear to what degree benefits and risks may vary across settings. This presentation draws on early data from a global survey of ayahuasca drinking being undertaken to explore practices and reported outcomes and risks in a range of settings. Significant variation is evident in practices associated with ayahuasca drinking across contexts and while the majority of drinkers report a wide range of benefits to their health and wellbeing, adverse effects are not uncommon. Results across these areas are outlined, and approaches being used by ayahuasca groups to support positive outcomes and safe practice discussed.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Daniel Pinchbeck**

*Saturday 1st, 11:30, Sabina Stage*

### **Envisioning A Psychedelic Future.**

As most of us know, when psychedelics were first discovered by Western science in the 1950s, they were seen as powerful tools for exploring the human mind. A new wave of research has reconfirmed this. The main focus of recent studies is on healing psychological issues and learning how these chemicals impact the brain. However, the implications of psychedelics for the future of our society are much deeper than that. They call into question our current paradigm on many levels. For instance, psychedelics seem to amplify psychic abilities and increase synchronicity. They also deprogram users from their belief in the norms of contemporary society, suggesting we could radically redesign our social and technical systems in ways that would be beneficial for the individual as well as the ecosystems that support us. In his new book *How Soon Is Now?*, Daniel Pinchbeck applies psychedelic insight to the need for a comprehensive redesign of our social and technical systems.

**Danny Nemu**

*Sunday 2nd, 10:00, Sabina Stage*

### **Getting High With The Most High: Drugs In The Bible.**

"Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard, spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices" – Song of Songs 4.

Nearly all of the plants listed here in the Song of Songs contain known psychoactive compounds, and the combination of some of them into the holy massage oil described in Exodus reveals that the ancient Hebrews were adept at working with synergies and enzyme-inhibition to trigger powerful psychedelic experiences. There are several other mind-bending preparations, including temple incense containing opioid-receptor and GABA-receptor agonists, dopamine boosters and other interesting chemicals; and then there is the enigma of manna and the collective synaesthetic vision at Mount Sinai.

**Darren Springer**

*Saturday 1st, 14:30, Hofmann Hall*

### **Racial-Delic.**

In this presentation Darren will explore the subject of race and psychedelics through the eyes of a British born African-Caribbean male in the UK. In the last few years the subject of race and how to respectfully address it, and whether racism can really exist in the psychedelic community has been highlighted as a topic yet to be fully acknowledged. What can be done to make the psychedelic community as equally accessible and inclusive to non-white communities? Why are the descendants of the indigenous peoples so disconnected from the medicine lineages of their ancestors? What role can psychedelics play in the current racial climate? What can be done to defend against the co-optation of sacred indigenous traditions by Westerners in search of novel "experiences," and who exploit these traditions for financial gain? These questions and discussions are healthy, but what will be the outcome of these discussions, how will these ideas be manifested?

**David Luke**

*Sunday 2nd, 10:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **Ecodelia: Towards A Transpersonal Ecopsychology Through Psychedelics.**

Exploring interspecies interactions arising from the use of psychedelic plants this talk considers what can be learned from animism and shamanism in informing both psychology and ecology. Fusing research from parapsychology, transpersonal psychology, ecopsychology, ethnobotany and the investigation of psychedelics a perspective of transpersonal ecopsychology views plant-human interactions as meaningful, potentially transformative and sorely needed given the current rate of manmade species extinction on Earth. Results of recent online survey of 150 psychedelic users (mostly from Breaking Convention 2015) and their experiences of eco-consciousness and resulting behavioural change are also explored.

*Sunday 2nd, 12:00, Osmond Auditorium*

### **Psychedelomancy: Controlled Experiments In Psychedelic Precognition.**

There is ample data available to indicate that psychedelic ESP (telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition) experiences are quite prevalent. Surveys consistently indicate those reporting ESP experiences are significantly more likely to have used psychedelic substances, with more frequent use associated with a greater likelihood of an experience. With regard to controlled research on the efficacy of psychedelics to induce ESP, there have been only 17 separately published experimental projects that have been conducted, mostly in the 1950-70s. Overall, few firm conclusions can be drawn concerning the induction of genuine ESP with psychedelics from those studies because of the lack of systematically controlled experiments, although, at best, the results suggest a promising line of enquiry. After a long hiatus research is now resuming with better methodology and this paper reports on 4 recent experiments by the author/speaker exploring precognition in controlled experiments following the ingestion of a psychedelic agent, specifically ayahuasca (N=20), 2 x San Pedro cactus (N=1: N= 14) and LSD (N=13).

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**David Nichols**

*Sunday 2nd, 11:30, Hofmann Hall*

**DMT And The Pineal Gland: Facts vs Fantasy.**

The pineal gland has a romantic history, from pharaonic Egypt, where it was equated with the eye of Horus, through various religious traditions, where it was considered the seat of the soul, the third eye, etc. Recent incarnations of these notions have suggested that DMT is secreted by the pineal at birth, during dreaming, and at near death to produce out of body experiences. Scientific evidence, however, is not consistent with these ideas. The adult pineal gland weighs less than 0.2 grams, and its principal function is to produce 30 micrograms per day of melatonin, a hormone that regulates circadian rhythm through very high affinity interactions with melatonin receptors. Very minute concentrations of DMT have been detected in brain, but they are not sufficient to produce psychoactive effects. Alternative explanations will be presented to explain how stress and near death can produce altered states of consciousness without invoking DMT.

**Davor Kosanic**

*Sunday 2nd, 17:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Deep Cognitive Tools For Transformational Healthcare.**

While the burden in mental health care is soaring to epidemic levels worldwide, today's mainstream clinical management of mood disorders offers a suboptimal palette of antidepressant drugs. This crisis in mental health care points towards a large and urgent clinical need to investigate novel transformation-based approaches to psychotherapy. Stress-related mood disorders, such as the burnout syndrome, can be placed in a bigger picture of currently observed structural disconnections in modern societies: individual disconnection from oneself (mood disorders), social disconnection from others and ecological disconnection from our natural environment. "Reconnect" social enterprise is inspired by the vision to develop and promote plant-medicine supported transformational healthcare. By creating a legal medical context for such transformational healthcare, we anticipate a catalytic potential for transformation of society towards addressing all three structural disconnections.

**Dennis McKenna**

*Saturday 1st, 10:30, Sabina Stage*

**The Experiment At La Chorrera: Psychotic Dissociation, Shamanic Initiation, Or Alien Abduction?**

"We are part of a symbiotic relationship with something which disguises itself as an alien invasion, so as not to alarm us." - Terence McKenna.

Most people in the psychedelic community are aware of the Experiment at La Chorrera, a shorthand signature for an encounter with high weirdness that overtook my brother Terence and me while seeking an exotic hallucinogen in the Colombian Amazon in the spring of 1971. These events have been chronicled in our books, *True Hallucinations* (1993), and *The Brotherhood of the Screaming Abyss* (2011). The story has taken on an almost mythopoeic quality. But what was really going on? It has many elements in common with classic alien abduction episodes, but with a psychedelic twist. In this talk I will examine E@LC from this perspective. Still trying to sort it out after all these years.

**Sunday 2nd, 12:00, Hofmann Hall**

**Is DMT A Neurotransmitter For The Gaian Brain?**

The possible functions of endogenous DMT as a neurotransmitter or regulatory neurohormone in mammalian physiology are incompletely understood, and a matter of controversy. Its ubiquity in nature, however, suggests it may function at the biospheric level as a messenger molecule. The planetary ecosystem – sometimes romantically likened to Gaia, the feminine Mother of all life in Greek mythology – is a complex homeostatic system that is regulated and stabilized by complex feedback loops and symbiosis. These processes operate via signal transduction, the exchange of information mediated by molecular messengers. Neurotransmitters are one of many kinds of signal-transducing molecules in the body, but in ecosystems, photosynthetic plants produce a vast array of secondary products that mediate their interactions with virtually all organisms in the environment, including humans. In this talk I will suggest that DMT and the 'family' of related tryptamines – may specifically target the big-brained primates to trigger cognitive evolution.

**Devin B. Terhune**

*Friday 30th, 11:30, Hofmann Hall*

**The Impact Of Lsd On Synaesthesia And Time Perception.**

This presentation will describe two independent placebo-controlled studies that sought to investigate whether LSD induces synaesthesia and produces temporal dilation. In the first study, we observed that LSD seems to induce subjective synaesthesia-like states, relative to placebo. However, under LSD, participants did not exhibit markers of genuine synaesthesia on established behavioural tasks. Although preliminary, these results suggest that synaesthesia-like experiences under LSD may be qualitatively distinct from congenital synaesthesia. In the second study, we observed that participants who were administered LSD overestimated time, as indexed by a temporal reproduction task, relative to those who were administered a placebo. This effect was specific to suprasecond intervals and expands upon a range of studies implicating dopamine in the perception of time. Together these results provide further insights into the perceptual effects of LSD and have implications for contemporary models of synaesthesia and interval timing.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Dick Khan**

*Saturday 1st, 17:00, The Sand Pit*

**Investigation Of Occult Realities Using The Spirit Molecule.**

A three year long independent research programme was conducted between 2013 – 2016 employing DMT in the vaporous state with the intention of forming a rational understanding of the causal nature behind the oftentimes bizarre DMT experiences. Working with a mindset long influenced by western esoteric philosophies, I will argue the case for the reality of spiritual agencies and for a progressively initiatory aspect to such research. I will outline my main findings and further argue that traditional science cannot ignore this field of research if it wishes to be true to its roots.

**Don Lattin**

*Saturday 1st, 18:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**Telling Psychedelic Stories.**

Author/journalist Don Lattin has been telling psychedelic stories since 1977, when as a 23-year-old reporter he published a front-page story in the Sunday San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner, detailing the horrors of secret U.S. Army drug tests that employed LSD as a chemical weapon to psychologically torture and interrogate prisoners. Over the next forty years, Lattin wrote dozens of articles and four books that chronicled more socially and spiritually beneficial uses of psychedelic drugs and sacred plant medicines. His new book, *Changing Our Minds*, is an engaging, highly informative look at the prospects of using MDMA, psilocybin and ayahuasca to treat mood disorders and cultivate religious insight. Join Don in this conversation about his recent experiences as a psychedelic journalist and participant/observer in a dizzying array of therapeutic treatments and shamanic circles – a journey that took him from a high-tech research lab in Switzerland to a mind-blowing encounter with the dried venom of a Sonoran desert toad.

**Drugs & Me**

*Sunday 2nd, 18:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**How We Massively Messed Up Whilst Trying To Talk To Universities About Student Drug Use...**

We've noticed that many universities seem to be in public denial about student drug use. Our latest survey revealed that 80.5% of students feel they have not been provided with any drug information at all and 90% say that they have not been provided with drug harm reduction information. We'll discuss how we proved the need for drug education at schools and universities with surveys, interviews in collaboration with VICE and research on the current ways these institutions deal with this problem. Reaching people who aren't already receptive to our message is a question of framing. We'd like to end by sharing some valuable lessons we've learnt whilst trying (and failing!) to bypass the prohibitionists, and have tips for anyone trying to deliver harm reduction advice about drugs on a large scale.

**Ede Frecska**

*Sunday 2nd, 10:30, Hofmann Hall*

**Toward The Physiology Of Dimethyltryptamine: Its Role In Ischemia-Reperfusion.**

N,N-dimethyltryptamine (DMT) is classified as a naturally occurring serotonergic hallucinogen of plant origin. The vast majority of research on DMT has targeted its psychotropic properties with less focus on its effects beyond the nervous system. The recent discovery that DMT is an endogenous ligand of the sigma-1 receptor may shed light on yet undiscovered physiological mechanisms of DMT activity and reveal some of its putative biological functions. Since sigma-1 receptors mitigate endoplasmic reticulum stress, promote cell survival against oxidative stress, and regulate immune processes, one may attribute the same role to DMT. In the presentation, we will overview the literature on the effects of sigma-1 receptor ligands on cellular bioenergetics in focus of ischemic-hypoxic injury. Ischemia-reperfusion is a complex phenomenon with mechanisms underlying stroke, infarct, and organ transplantation. We conclude that the function of DMT may extend central nervous activity and involve a more universal role in cellular protective mechanisms.

**Einat Ran**

*Friday 30th, 09:30 - 11:00, Wasson Workshops*

**Conscious Movement.**

A self exploration journey through conscious movement. Combining aspects of Yoga (postures and stillness of the mind) with free, guided dance. This unique combination enables us to focus our body and mind into the flow and align with the present moment. Creating unity within and with everything around.

**Eli Lee & Nina Lyon**

*Friday 30th, 15:30, Osmond Auditorium*

**The Johns Hopkins Psilocybin Research Project: Mystical Experiences, Challenging Experiences, And Risks.**

The American psychedelic Summer of Love happened in synchronicity with a French explosion of post-structuralist thinking. The rapid cultural, political and intellectual shifts that followed on both sides of the Atlantic can tempt an attribution of causality: did acid cause postmodernism? Tracking the breakdown of linear narratives in a literary trip report, this paper will look at the common ground between postmodern literature, philosophy and the psychedelic experience. Although the roots of literary and philosophical antirealism are far older than the 1960s, the influence of psychedelic thinking in the educated west may have opened a perceptual window that allowed a philosophical corollary to the body of Anglo-American postmodern literature to take hold in the public imagination. If acid didn't cause postmodernism, it certainly helped it make sense.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Elizabeth Joyce**

*Saturday 1st, 10:00, Hofmann Hall*

### **Power, Exploitation And Submission In A South American Psychedelic Cult.**

In recent years, parts of South America have become associated with the growing phenomenon of ayahuasca tourism. This is something Evgenia Fotiou links with 'the historical context of the relationship of the West with the exotic and spiritual 'other', a history that has gone hand in hand with colonialism and exploitative relationships.' Drawing on the case study of Leah, a white British woman who travelled to Colombia to join a religious plant medicine movement, the story reveals her experiences of domination and subjugation under the guidance of a charismatic Western patriarchal leader. In his book, Feet of Clay, Anthony Storr describes gurus as 'dictators on a small scale. Although their message is ostensibly religious rather than political, they behave like dictators, thrive on adulation, have no true friends, attempt to exercise absolute power, and are afflicted by the same kind of paranoid suspicions.'

**Emily Sinclair**

*Friday 30th, 11:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **Ayahuasca Tourism: Behind The Headlines.**

Ayahuasca tourism entered mainstream consciousness in the U.K through reports in the press about the death of 19 year- old British backpacker Henry Miller in 2014. The 'hub' of ayahuasca tourism is the Iquitos region of Peru where my research is based, and where I have been conducting preliminary fieldwork based in an ayahuasca tourism centre since the summer of 2014. I will discuss contradictions between the portrayal of ayahuasca tourism and related fatalities in the British media and how they were perceived by actors in the field, based on fieldwork evidence. I will also address wider perceptions of ayahuasca tourism focusing on the commercialisation of 'sacred' practice. My discussion will portray an insider perspective, highlighting misconceptions as well as issues for concern.

**Emma Watkinson**

*Saturday 1st, 14:30, The Sand Pit*

### **An Exploration Into Art, Mysticism And Altered States.**

Art has always played a role in traversing altered states, as a divination, invocation or documentary tool. This presentation explores the lineages of the " Visionary " art movement, from Indigenous Ayahuascero Art, to the Egyptian & Kabbalistic iconography of Western Occultism. From Tibetan Buddhism to the psychedelic art of 60's culture. In the Art world ; Surrealism, the unconscious, dreams, & Freuds psychoanalysis. Fantastic Realism, started by 5 artists in Vienna , including Ernst Fuchs , a natural mystic who drew on Kabbalistic & Christian iconography. Greenwich University itself, home to the conference, is a work of great esoteric architecture. Designed by mason Christopher Wren ,it was declared the prime meridian of time in 1884, but there is evidence suggesting a geomagnetic energy line far more ancient. This is art, architecture & geomancy combined, & perhaps something we can activate intentionally to alter consciousness with Breaking Convention?

**Eric Maddern**

*Saturday 1st, 10:00, Sabina Stage*

### **High Speech.**

Poetry, prophecy and prayer... Invocation, preaching and chant... Telling a story... Such ways of speaking can cast a spell over a listener; take him or her on a journey in imagination; transmit power, excitement, belief and hope; inspire with a vision of what may be. 'High speech' can, in short, induce a transcendent state of consciousness. In this talk Eric will explore kinds and qualities of 'high speech' and illustrate it by quoting inspirational pieces from creation myth, wondertale and Celtic story. Merlin's prophecy, Taliesin's poetry, Shakespeare's plays and ancient prayers will also be in the heady brew.

*Friday 30th, 17:00 - 18:00, Wasson Workshops*

### **High Speech= Poetry, Prophecy And Prayer.**

What does it take to find and deliver heightened speech? After tuning up body, voice and imagination we will create short poems, prayers or invocations and experiment with ways to make them sing with power.

**Erik Davis**

*Saturday 1st, 12:00, Sabina Stage*

### **The Weirdness Of Being.**

To understand psychoanalysis, you have to understand the uncanny. But to understand psychedelics, you have to understand the weird. The weird is more than the uncanny's low-brow country cousin. Nor is it simply a domain or style of cultural production. The weird is a mode and category of being. We may enjoy weird tales, but the world is telling us one all the time—and we can respond in kind. There are many reasons to heed Alan Watts' advice to "follow your own weird." In this talk we will try to add some ontological heft to this peculiar but persistent term, which is widely used in a casual way but rarely analyzed, historicized, and granted its own singular if sometimes disturbing substance. Tracing the etymology and use of the word through literature, pop culture, anthropology, and physics, we will find that the weird forms a Möbius strip between the spookiness of fate and necessity, and the eccentric, aberrant twist of deviance. Weirdness is the cause and costume of anomaly. It thus provides a naturalistic—if sometimes esoteric—way of understanding and talking about "supernatural" phenomena, as well as the fringes of our own experience.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Filip Tyls**

*Saturday 1st, 11:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **The Antidepressant Effect Of Psychedelics And The Role Of Neuroplasticity.**

We can distinguish psychological and biological mechanisms of antidepressant action. The neurobiological mechanisms are not yet entirely clear, with the possibilities including quick downregulation or desensitization of serotonergic 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptors and glutamatergic AMPA receptors, effects on secondary intracellular signalling mechanisms, transcription modification, and changes in neuroplasticity. Other approaches emphasize changes in brain entropy and connectivity. Neuroplasticity-related changes probably take place after the acute effects have worn off, in the course of the so-called "afterglow". We suppose that the patients would be more responsive to psychotherapeutic interventions during this period. The presentation will provide an overview of the effect of serotonergic psychedelics on neuroplasticity and propose further options for the study of neuroplasticity. The safety data and motivation of healthy volunteers from pilot clinical trial with psilocybin in will be shown. Finally, a clinical trial of in patients with depression planned to be conducted in the Czech Republic will be presented.

**Friederike Meckel-Fischer**

*Saturday 1st, 15:00, Sabina Stage*

### **Is Psychotherapy An Essential Component Of Psychedelic/Psycholytic Therapy?**

This talk will consider the trauma-related phenomena showing up during substance-supported sessions, pointing out the necessity of professional assistance. Her credo is "everyday spirituality".

**Gemma Farrell**

*Saturday 1st, 16:00, The Sand Pit*

### **What Is Psychedelic Music?**

Can music itself be psychedelic or is psychedelic music simply the music of psychedelic cultures? Participants in my research study on psytrance gave answers ranging from "If you are on drugs, any music is psychedelic!" to some quite specific musical characteristics. Talks and discussions at my symposium on psychedelic music last year produced a similarly diverse set of responses, including specific recording and audio techniques, family relationships between musical genres and the lyrical content of psychedelic songs. My talk will take listeners through some of the common themes, characteristics and research questions that arose from my research and the symposium.

**George Erving**

*Saturday 1st, 17:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **Opposition Is True Friendship': Blake's Transcendent Consciousness And The 'Doctrine Of Contraries.**

In his attempt to represent transcendent states of consciousness, Blake's works consistently rejected the materialist worldview that had gained widespread currency in late eighteenth century Europe, especially the pervasive influence of John Locke's empirical psychology, which had a decisive influence upon eighteenth-century assumptions regarding the nature of the self. This presentation explores what Blake saw as the behavioral ramifications of Locke's ideas. I will argue first, that for Blake, Locke's materialist model of the mind necessitated the belief in an ontological dualism by which the self is fundamentally alienated from others and from the world in which it lives, and secondly that this dualism fuels a psychology of envy and violent rivalry that fundamentally characterizes human affairs. I will further argue that Blake's belief in a non-dualistic, undifferentiated consciousness depended upon his "doctrine of contraries," which in ways that perhaps anticipate contemporary efforts in psychedelic psychotherapy sought to validate all elements of the human psyche by bringing them into a productive tension.

**Giorgia Gaia**

*Friday 30th, 09:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **Changa's Alchemy.**

Parallels between the idea of a mythical alchemical transmutation, with its spiritual subtext, and the profound transformation of human consciousness that can be catalysed through the use of psychedelic substances are intriguing. Recently, a DMT concoction named 'changa' has become particularly popular within the worldwide psychedelic milieu. Changa is an entheogenic substance and, foremost, a cultural phenomenon. Although often difficult to articulate, changa experiences recurrently provoke deep personal reflections and a reevaluation of the user's epistemological paradigm. The lecture specifically explores how users perceived that smoking changa has transformed them on personal, social and spiritual levels, focusing particularly on re-interpretations of what is commonly understood as the 'supernatural', on significant communications with other dimensional beings and intrusions into alternate realities.



## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Giulio Sica**

*Sunday 2nd, 15:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Reclaiming The Political Spirit Of Psychedelics.**

Doctors and researchers have gained traction and limited licence within the present political system by deliberately distancing themselves from more radical views of the psychedelic counterculture, which sought to effect personal and social change from the 1960s onwards. But the depoliticised medical model now gaining popularity with policymakers and the pharmaceutical industry is beginning to undermine the case for cognitive freedom. This is because it fails to tackle the systemic problem of inequality, treating mental health as an individual concern, rather than seeing human beings situated within social hierarchies, some of which are oppressive, and seeking to address these issues. What is needed is a political framework that articulates the social and spiritual aspects of the psychedelic experience, giving voice to marginalised communities and embracing countercultural narratives.

**Graham St John**

*Sunday 2nd, 09:30, Hofmann Hall*

**The Pineal Enigma: The Dazzling Life And Times Of The "DMT Gland"**

While even Dr Gonzo wouldn't touch "extract of pineal," the same could not be said for Dr Strassman. This presentation explores the enigmatic career of the pineal gland subsequent to clinical psychiatrist Rick Strassman's trials with DMT conducted at the University of New Mexico in the early 1990s. While the burden of proof hangs over speculation that DMT is produced in the pineal gland, knowledge claims have left the clinic for independent careers in popular culture. As this presentation illustrates, animated in film and literature, the "spirit gland" mythos of Strassman's best seller DMT: The Spirit Molecule has enlivened polar perspectives on the human condition: from the cosmic re-evolutionism of Modern Theosophy to the gothic hopelessness of H. P. Lovecraft.

**Guy Jones**

*Sunday 2nd, 16:00, Hofmann Hall*

**Drug Testing & Harm Reduction.**

The introduction of the UK's first walk-in drug checking service appeared to come out of nowhere to the media, but in reality it came off the back of years of negotiations and non-public testing, building trust with authorities and learning about the challenges that might be faced. As non-profit "The Loop" enters its second year, new technology and increasing attention bring new challenges, helping the public to stay safe when they choose to use drugs. Guy will discuss the chemistry used by the Loop to enable 30 minute test results, some of the scientific and legal challenges, and the surprising factor that initially seemed like a regulatory hindrance but ended up being one of the service's most valuable assets.

**Heather Hargraves**

*Friday 30th, 10:00, Sabina Stage*

**Therapeutic Induction Of Altered States Of Consciousness: Investigation Of 1-20Hz De-Synchronization Neuro-feedback.**

Positive outcomes connected to experiences of altered states of consciousness (ASC) have been linked to various brain wave patterns. Innovative neurofeedback (NFB) technologies, which serve to alter brain wave patterns, are being developed in an attempt to create adjunctive therapeutic treatments for psychotherapy. The current study investigated a reduction in 1-20 Hz NFB training of the default mode network, a protocol based on Muthukumaraswamy et al., (2013) MEG findings with psilocybin. The goal of this study was to induce ASC via neurofeedback and examine associations between NFB, ASC, mood changes, and trait predictors. This presentation will outline the findings of this study, while also highlighting the potential for neurofeedback to support psychedelic therapies.

**Helen Donlon**

*Friday 30th, 14:30, Osmond Auditorium*

**Psychedelic Culture In Ibiza Since The 1960S.**

Based on research for my book *Shadows Across the Moon: Outlaws, Freaks, Shamans and the Making of Ibiza Clubland* this short talk will trace the unbroken continuum that runs from 1960s Ibiza to today in terms of the wide-ranging investigations into psychedelic consciousness that have been of consistent interest to the island's international community. 1960s Ibiza saw psychonauts pioneer the importance of 'set and setting' and popularise entheogens, meditation, macrobiotics, yoga consciousness, Eastern influenced neopagan trance culture and even trepanation. Later, when the Osho community helped disseminate MDMA on open-air island nightclub terraces the Second Summer of Love was born and exported. Now entheogens such as ayahuasca, DMT and psychoactive toad extracts are also of wide interest within this unusually open-minded community. The continued interest in various forms of advanced consciousness and lifestyle is as ever a key aspect of the character of Ibiza's international resident demographic.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Helle Kaasik**

*Sunday 2nd, 09:30, Osmond Auditorium*

**Psychedelics, Other Worlds And Quantum Physics.**

Experiencers of altered states of consciousness often find themselves in "other worlds". These are dreamlike perceptual spaces of varying lucidity where contents of the consciousness differ from the habitual. Experiencers identify and describe these spaces according to their vocabulary, worldview and culture. Development of space exploration and quantum physics may have contributed to appearance of other planets and parallel worlds among the experienced destinations besides more traditional spirit worlds, heaven and hell, past and future lives etc. Content analysis was applied to "other world" experiences described by 30 ayahuasca users. Findings were related to the current state of the scientific knowledge. The current state of the scientific knowledge was not in a good agreement with descriptions of "other world" experiences and no science-based explanations of described experiences were found. To conclude, contemporary physics appeared not suitable for explaining the perceptual phenomena encountered in "other worlds" visited with the help of psychedelics.

**Henrik Jungaberle**

*Friday 30th, 12:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**"Are You Experienced?" - Developing Ethics And Personal Integrity In Drug Use?**

This presentation makes use of empirical data and the philosophy of ethics. The latter have been defined as "a set of concepts and principles that guide us in determining what behavior helps or harms sentient creatures" (R.W. Paul and L. Elder). In the last century the use of psychoactives has often been portrayed as pathological, dangerous, or simply as a vice. First, I will draw conclusions from a 10-year-longitudinal study of drug use patterns that was conducted at the University of Heidelberg, interpreting the data using Nussbaum's capability approach. Secondly, I will analyse the public reaction to myself tripping a journalist who took LSD on German TV in 2016. Finally, I will draw conclusions from analysing a journal about psychedelic experiments that I have conducted since my first LSD experience at the age of 27. How did my own feelings and thinking about drug use evolve?

**Henry Fisher**

*Sunday 2nd, 15:00, Hofmann Hall*

**Pragmatism & Innovation: Our Most Important Tools For Drug Policy Progress.**

Drug policy in the UK has calcified, having remained largely unchanged in both letter and principle for decades. While proponents of drug policy reform would happily tear down the current system and rebuild an ideologically consistent, evidence based system of drug regulation, the reality is that such a change, currently, is far too extreme to be realistic or credible with government and the wider public, and so incremental gains remain our only option for improving on our current situation. Enacting pragmatic changes within the law, such as drug consumption rooms and drug testing facilities, and innovative legal challenges and policy proposals, are our best hope at changing hearts and minds, and ultimately pushing forward progress in drug policy, from both the bottom up and the top down.

**Ian Kenway**

*Friday 30th, 18:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**A Psychedelic Take On Work And Identity In An Age Of Big Data And Smart Algorithms.**

According to Yuval Noah Harari in *Homo Deus*, "the most important question in twenty-first century economics may well be what to do with all the superfluous people. What will conscious humans do, once we have non-conscious algorithms that can do almost everything better?" One of the cardinal characteristics of the psychedelic experience is the temporary collapse of any overriding sense of purpose, in short the teleological suspension of ambitious, goal-directed narratives of selfhood and personal destiny. More specifically, the presentation will consider the relationship between the arresting qualia associated with psychedelics and their broader political implications from a variety of perspectives including Joseph Pieper's *Leisure: The Basis of Culture*, Jürgen Moltmann's *Mensch und Die Ersten Freigelassenen der Schöpfung* and, more recently, Andrew Smart's advocacy of a 'Turing-Acid Test' in *Beyond Zero and One - Machines, Psychedelics and Consciousness*.

**Iker Puente**

*Saturday 1st, 17:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Effects Of Holotropic Breathwork In Levels Of Distress, Meaning Of Life, Death Anxiety And Personal Orientation: A Pilot Study.**

The purpose of the present study was to explore the effects of Holotropic Breathwork (HB), on levels of distress, meaning of life, death anxiety and personal orientation in a young adult sample. The tests used were the Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI), the Purpose in Life Test (PIL), the Death Anxiety Scale (DAS), the Personal Orientation Inventory (POI), the States of Consciousness Questionnaire (SCQ) and the Brief Persisting Effects Questionnaire (BPEQ). Measures were taken before, during and after the workshop. No significant differences were found one month after the workshop. Significant increases of Temporal Competency scale, and in 5 subscales of the PEQ were found six months after the weeklong workshop. HB also occasioned mystical-type or peak experiences in 6 participants. At 12 months, volunteers rated the HB experience as having substantial personal meaning and spiritual significance, and attributed to the experience an increase of personal wellbeing and life satisfaction.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Janis Phelps**

*Saturday 1st, 18:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Innovations And Lessons Learned At CIIS: Pioneering The First Accredited Program In Psychedelic Therapy.**

Observations will be presented from the creation and implementation of first academically accredited training program in psychedelic-assisted therapy and research, conducted at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS). This post-graduate program in San Francisco, California is focused on the growing need for more trained psychotherapists, medical professionals and clergy in FDA-approved clinical trials for psychedelic research. In the 2016 inaugural year, 41 medical and mental health professionals graduated from the certificate training program and 48 professionals and clergy are currently in the 2017 program. The CIIS certificate program was founded by Dr. Janis Phelps in 2015 ([www.ciis.edu/psychedeliccenter](http://www.ciis.edu/psychedeliccenter)). Innovations such as the 12 areas of study in the ideal training curriculum, individual mentoring, and volunteer work will be discussed in this presentation. Future prospects for training research clinicians within academic settings will be addressed in light of the dynamic between the robust empirical findings in the field and the current political climate in the U.S. and Europe.

**Jennifer Dumpert**

*Friday 30th, 12:00, Sabina Stage*

**Dream Tripping: Exploring Consciousness Through Dreams.**

Humans have an inherent drive to play with our experience of the world. Yet in our explorations of consciousness we frequently ignore the potential of the original altered state: the dream. The Oneironauticum was founded in January, 2008, by a group of dreamers dedicated to consciousness experimentation through the use of oneirogens: any herb, root, sound, scent, technology, practice, or food that promotes vivid dreaming. During each Oneironauticum event, an in-person group gathers to sleep in the same place and try an oneirogen. On that same night, people around the globe use the same oneirogen. Nine years of experimentation has generated a catalogue of oneirogens and effects, searchable on the Oneironauticum site. Lucid dreaming can become a Buddhist practice, hypnagogic dreams can harness creativity, while hypnapompic sleep paralysis allows others to work with fear. The talk will outline the informal research conducted via the Oneironauticum on oneirogens and dream as tool of consciousness exploration.

**Jeronimo M. M.**

*Saturday 1st, 17:00, Hofmann Hall*

**We Have The Right Not To Change Things": Ayahuasca Traditions And Modernity.**

The expansion of ayahuasca has put Amazonian traditions under considerable pressure to change and adapt. In the midst of this some people, lets call them traditionalists, have complained that these innovations come from a superficial understanding of the traditions and are disrespectful, dangerous. Other people, lets call them the innovators, have complained that the traditions were unnecessarily restrictive, impractical in the modern world. What to do? If cultures are dynamic and in constant transformation, does this mean that other people's spiritual practices can be borrowed, or modified and adapted to our own needs? What are the limits for this? We'll hear the many sides of the debate, ponder the implications, and try to cast a hopeful glance towards the future.

**Jim Fadiman (Skype)**

*Saturday 1st, 17:00, Sabina Stage*

**Entheogens And The Emerging Internet Of Everything.**

Just as the US was shutting down psychedelic research and bullying the rest of the world to follow suit, we were developing and deploying a successful protocol for small group guided sessions, using about 100 micrograms of LSD, that enabled senior scientists in disparate fields to successfully solve their previously unsolvable problems. While officially quashed, some portion of the success of Silicon Valley and some aspects of the extreme creativity of the art at Burning Man are among the cultural follow-ons from that project. More recently, my co-researcher and I have helped to jumpstart the safe and effective use of microdoses by cultural creatives to improve and maintain "flow," expand their pattern recognition capacity and improve their mental and physical health. Now we are following the rapid proliferation of microdosing in companies and universities worldwide. Learn more about the research by checking in at [www.microdosingpsychedelics.com](http://www.microdosingpsychedelics.com)

**Jimo Borjigin (with Jon Dean)**

*Sunday 2nd, 10:00, Hofmann Hall*

**Endogenous Synthesis Of Dimethyltryptamine In Mammalian Brain.**

N,N,-dimethyltryptamine (DMT) is a powerful psychedelic compound that, when administered exogenously, elicits a highly altered state of consciousness characterized by altered mood and perceptual -- especially visual -- effects in humans. While DMT has been identified in multiple peripheral tissues, its synthesis and secretion have not been reported in mammalian brain. In this study, we examined the possibility of brain expression of DMT synthetic enzymes in both rats and humans. We found abundant expression of the DMT-synthesizing enzyme indolethylamine-N-methyltransferase (INMT) in cortical neurons and in pinealocytes of rats where it colocalizes with aromatic-L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC), the other enzyme essential for DMT synthesis. We also confirmed INMT mRNA expression in cortical neurons and pinealocytes in human brain tissues. Our study demonstrates for the first time that human and rodent brains are capable of producing DMT, a compound with profound psychedelic properties.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Johann Hari**

*Sunday 2nd, 14:30, Hofmann Hall*

**Chasing The Scream.**

Johann will talk about the effects of the current War On Drugs, taken from his book Chasing the Scream. It is now 100 years since drugs were first banned in the United States. On the eve of this centenary, journalist Johann Hari set off on an epic three-year, thirty-thousand-mile journey into the war on drugs. What he found is that more and more people all over the world are beginning to recognize three startling truths: Drugs are not what we think they are. Addiction is not what we think it is. And the drug war has very different motives to the ones we have seen on our TV screens for so long.

**John "Crow" Constable**

*Friday 30th, 16:00, Sabina Stage*

**The Southwark Mysteries: A Psychedelic Magical Praxis.**

At Breaking Convention 2015, John Constable initiated us into The Southwark Mysteries, his seminal work inspired by The Goose, the spirit of a medieval sex worker who'd operated under church protection inside The Liberty of the Clink. Her secret history and hermetic teachings were revealed to his shamanic persona, John Crow, in a series of lysergic-acid-fuelled visionary verses. These in turn have guided his work to reclaim the Cross Bones burial ground as a shrine and a garden of remembrance for outcasts. This year, he takes us deeper into his magical praxis, informed by his vision of The Goose at Liberty as the true state of the unconditioned mind. This talk is illuminated with the performance of selected verses from The Southwark Mysteries. Constable's poetic vision opens pathways to explore psychedelics as tools for transformation.

**Jonathan Nash**

*Sunday 2nd, 10:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Navigating Psychedelic Medicines Through National And International Regulation.**

Clinical trials using psychedelic substances such as MDMA, marijuana, ketamine and psilocybin to combat mental and physical illnesses can only commence after years of regulatory and ethical hurdle-leaping and face many more before those medicines may be licensed. The impact of the classification of psychedelic substances as having no accepted medical use on the regulatory systems governing clinical research and licensing in the US, Europe and the UK will be considered and possible solutions to the current legal impasse will be offered.

**Jonathan Newman**

*Sunday 2nd, 16:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**'They're Making My Drugs All Scientific': How The Law, Markets And Science Shape The Cannabis Experience And Alter The Rights Of Drug Users.**

Cannabis is neither a medicine nor a drug. It becomes these things only because we attribute those qualities to it. Cannabis users often orientate themselves towards one of these forms of consumption or the other; sometimes they straddle both forms. But when looked at more closely the consumption of cannabis is a multi-levelled experience that fits with other parts of a consumer's lifestyle and outlooks. The evidence base that scientific inquiry produces for the scientific community and policy makers also contributes to the development of new products within legal and illegal drug markets. Innovation of knowledge is synchronous with market innovation. The law, markets and science overlap, shaped by political and economic interests. This paper considers how these political and economic interests encounter consumers. As policy seeks to modify people through changing existing controls on modifying substances, who are the current winners and losers?

**Josie Malinowski**

*Friday 30th, 11:30, Sabina Stage*

**To Sleep, Perchance To Trip: Is Dreaming A Psychedelic Experience?**

There are interesting crossovers between dreaming and psychedelic experiences: both can involve complex visual hallucinations, intense emotions, can be profound and spiritual, can distort the feeling of time, and so forth. Furthermore, it may be the case that both dreams and psychedelic experiences lead to similar after-effects: they may provide us with new insights into ourselves and the nature of reality; they may help us to process our emotions, and thus have therapeutic benefits; and they may help us to become more open and creative. Historically humans have paid close attention to their dreams and seen the use of psychedelics as capable of producing positive spiritual experiences and profound growth, yet in today's Western world we ignore dreams and ban psychedelics. The presentation will thus discuss current academic research investigating dreaming, and compare it with research investigating psychedelics, drawing conclusions about their similarities and differences, and what we can learn from these.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**José Domingo Schievenini Stefanoni**  
*Sunday 2nd, 12:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **The Origins Of The Criminalization Of Marijuana Use In México.**

This paper will explore how the Mexican government's approach to marijuana through the criminal justice system was not based on evidence linking social or public health problems to the cultivation, consumption, or sale of the plant. The first section encompasses a general exploration of the history of marijuana in Mexico, with this we will outline the variables that shaped the stigmatization of this plant in the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. The second part focuses on the first legal prohibitions and on how the Mexican government sought to justify the exercise of its punitive power by criminalizing marijuana users. This paper is based on my doctoral thesis, which includes research gleaned from official Mexican archives, understood within the international context of the era. This thesis forms part of a historiography which critiques how drug legislation in Mexico and in several other Latin American countries was formulated under ambiguous criteria based on a biased analysis of medical and legal evidence.

**Jose Montemayor**  
*Saturday 1st, 11:30 - 13:00, Cyberdelics (Reception)*

### **Virtual Awakening.**

Virtual Awakening is an emerging platform that aims to combine thought-provoking art with futuristic technology, providing immersive, therapeutic, mind expanding experiences that ultimately empower people to expand their boundaries, unleash their true potential and lead them to an enlightened perception of life. Their first Virtual Reality experience "Death is Only the Beginning" is based on a conceptual representation of a Near Death Experience (NDE). Through 360° photography it takes the viewer through various stages of a NDE, subjecting the viewer to visions of an afterlife realm, and a confronting life review of key global issues facing us today.

**Jules Marshall**  
*Sunday 2nd, 10:00, Osmond Auditorium*

### **High Cuisine - The Psycho-Gastronomy Of Exotic Herbs.**

Two Michelin kitchen-trained chefs have been combining synergistically dishes containing psychoactive herbs including Syrian rue, kanna, hashish, herbal cannabis and psychedelic truffles. They are half of the Amsterdam-based High Cuisine team, the other participants being a director/photographer and writer/researcher (me). They aim to visit the cultures that have traditionally used these overlooked psychoactive herbs and investigate the indigenous cosmological/cultural context, then combine with Western culinary science for the enlightenment of both parties and the education of viewers. What have we learned so far over the course of 4 dinners serving 100+ experimental diners, and launching (disastrously) to the Dutch media? What taboos and shibboleths have been confronted? Lessons learned about dosage, combination, set & setting?

**Julian Palmer**  
*Friday 30th, 10:00, Osmond Auditorium*  
**Changa As A Tool.**

Julian is the inventor of Changa, a smoking mixture containing DMT and other herbs such as ayahwasca vine; perhaps best known as circulating within the Goa Trance scene and psychedelic party scene globally. But Changa can also be used as a tool, with methods of utilisation, and human results that can usually be expected. As a form of administering DMT, Changa suits certain situations that may not suit for example Ayahuasca or Intravenous DMT for example, and it can also be used in a group context as well as one on one. What is the recreational element of changa? and how does the profundity and brilliance of the visions translate into some meaningful result for the end user? What are the perceived biological and physical effects and benefits of smoking DMT with Banisteriopsis Caapi vine and the downsides to working with Changa rather than other forms of administering DMT.

**Julian Vayne**  
*Friday 30th, 14:30, Sabina Stage*  
**Psychedelic Ceremony: A User's Guide.**

Human beings have developed many strategies to contain and direct the psychedelic experience. While cultural conditions and symbol sets vary, core techniques can be identified in modern as well as traditional settings. From the important choice of music playing while the acid chemist conducts their synthesis, to the night long vigils developed from the encounter between American shamanism and European occulture – the world of drugs is laced with magic.

**Julie Holland (with Ben Sessa)**  
*Sunday 2nd, 16:00, Sabina Stage*  
**Psychedelic Psychiatrists Discuss Their Work.**

Ben and Julie share similar paths in a similar field. Both doctors, writers and psychedelic researchers. In this informal discussion, they will examine the pitfalls and pleasures of psychedelic research, debunk some of the myths and fears surrounding the public's misconception of psychedelics and (hopefully!) inspire young people to choose this most rewarding – and challenging – of careers!

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Júlio Delmonte**  
*Friday 30th, 15:00, Osmond Auditorium*

### **Drugs And Counterculture In Brazil In The 1960S And 1970S: The Beginning Of The Repression Of LSD.**

This paper is part of a PhD research in Social History about drugs and counterculture in Brazil in the 1960s and 1970s, when the military dictatorship that ruled the country between 1964 and 1985 was in force. After presenting an overview of the importance of illicit drug use and reflections on altered consciousness for people considered to be part of the Brazilian counterculture, the paper will specifically discuss the beginning of the repression of LSD in Brazil. Based on documentary research in books and press material of the time, interviews that were carried out on the Oral History approach, and archival research at the São Paulo's Court of Justice, where there is the first legal process of LSD repression in the country, started in January 1970, the work will present when and how the military government became interested in LSD, a substance that began to gain projection in Brazil from the 1960s.

**Julyan Levy**  
*Sunday 2nd, 15:00, Osmond Auditorium*  
**Cannabis As Companion Species.**

I am proposing a presentation based on my recent masters dissertation titled Crossing the Great Divide: Cannabis as Companion Species. My discussion is framed by the work of multispecies anthropologist Anna Tsing who affirms "human nature is an interspecies relationship" and Professor of the history of consciousness studies Donna Haraway. Haraway introduced the concept of companion species in her 2003 manifesto; I now add cannabis, a "species in obligatory, constitutive, historical, protean relationship with human beings". The human-cannabis relationship (HCR) is ubiquitous - a natureculture ambassador. It manifests in the interaction between chemical compounds, found in the female cannabis flowers, and an array of mammalian physiological and psychological processes. It can also be found in co-operative, post-capitalist modes of production aimed at ameliorating current and future socio-economic crises.

**KT The Arch Degree**  
*Saturday 1st, 09:30, The Sand Pit*  
**Hyperdimensional Biochemistry.**

Plants are an intimate interface that enables us to fold into parallel realities. The infinite probabilities of existence allow synchronisation of different realms. This is experienced in the form of psychedelics. Entheogenes communicate by the way of the 5HT2A receptors in the cell membrane. The presentation will explore the intricate process of a "trip", as well as an in depth journey through the endocannabinoid system.

**Karen Lawton & Fiona Heckles**  
*Friday 30th, 15:00, Sabina Stage*  
**The Witches' Garden.**

The Seed SistAs will be talking about our Native Power Plants, their folklore, magic and medicine. A whistle stop tour through the Witches' garden, the shadowy flower beds of Datura, Henbane, Mandragora... into the woodlands with toadstools... down to the water's edge with the naturalised Calamus. Steeped in political history, the mysterious past of our native power plants calls to us somewhere deep within.

**Karin Silenzi de Stagni**  
*Sunday 2nd, 18:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*  
**Caring For Psycho-Spiritual Crises: A Vision For A Holistic Center For Psychedelic Emergence.**

After 9 years providing festival psychedelic welfare services Kosmicaid has seen great need for longer term support to allow people to follow through on experiences which may be so intense as to challenge their conceptual reality to the core. The current mainstream model curtails the healing, potentially shamanic process and leaves people broken and dependent. The diagnosis of substance induced psychosis is treated with coercive pharmacological intervention. Can't we do better than this? This is a call for the varied talents of our psychedelic community to create something better; a more permanent safe space for wounded psychonauts. A rural refuge based on a multidisciplinary approach, peer support and psychiatric supervision. A space for new being.

**Keke Maddy**  
*Saturday 1st, 16:00, Hofmann Hall*  
**The Decolonisation Of Psychedelics.**

Keke has a passion for psychedelics and the effects it has on our consciousness collectively. She has been exploring psychedelics for seven years, however she feels misrepresented in the psychedelic community as a black woman. She will be discussing her perception of the psychedelic community and the cultural history of psychedelics and how it may have shaped the communities she is a part of.



## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Ken Tupper**

*Saturday 1st, 10:30, Hofmann Hall*

**Numbers And Knowledge: Science, Psychedelics, & The Limits Of Quantitative Research.**

The scientific study of the psychedelic experience is leading to new understandings of the human mind, novel treatments for a range of mental illnesses, and critical reflections on drug policy. However, the contemporary path to knowledge about psychedelics—in particular the drive to advance quantitative research—may be revealing gaps in the epistemic foundations of modern science itself, and the limits of this mode of knowledge production, both in general and for psychedelic research in particular. While the scientific method is an invaluable way of understanding our world, it is important to consider how its origins, evolution and status may obscure other ways of knowing, which are equally or more important. I will explore how the early modern scientific revolution, characterized by a new approach to measuring, quantifying and calculating empirical phenomena, contributed to dominant modes of knowledge definition and generation that constrain our recognition of what may be most important to learn from the psychedelic experience.

**Kerry Rowberry**

*Saturday 1st, 11:30, Hofmann Hall*

**Using Qualitative Methods To Investigate Amazonian Shamanism In Britain.**

The focus of this talk is to demonstrate the value of using qualitative research methods in investigating this nascent 'sub-culture'. You will see how she employed a variety of ethnographic techniques to develop a comprehensive understanding of why British people are adopting Amazonian shamanic rituals and treatments, and what this involves. Her research provides details about the religious/spiritual beliefs of her participants for comparison to Native Amazonian shamanism; it considers the impact on social and familiar relationships; it asks about any perceived benefits and pitfalls of involvement as well as considering participants relationship to British states such as the NHS and government.

**Kilindi Iyi**

*Saturday 1st, 15:00, Hofmann Hall*

**The Lack Of Diversity In The Psychedelic Community.**

The lack of diversity in the psychedelic community only reflects what is the prevailing wind of the greater society. The good ol' boy network prevails even in the ultra hip, ultra chic psychedelic community which is not immune to a fundamental lack of adequate access to the club of the PhD. A basic racial divide is evident even to the most non-observant peruser. Many times at psychedelic conferences, organisers utilise women, people of colour and indigenous persons to lend an air of legitimacy to an otherwise monolithic system. The hierarchy is set! Kiliindi will explore the lack of diversity in the psychedelic community and how it affects the minority players in the psychedelic world. Minority players who are not doctors, those legitimate experts who don't have PhDs, the marginalised, non-middle-aged-white-guy-rest-of-us.

*Saturday 1st, 10:30, The Sand Pit*

**The Search For Infra Particle Intelligence.**

This talk will explore S.I.P.I The Search for Infra Particle Intelligence, accessing the micro universes through high dose entheogens for the answers to the burning questions of what are we, where do we come from and where do we go from here. Utilizing psilocybin to examine the Quantum world where man's present day technology comes up short to adequately traverse these kingdoms. Utilizing mushrooms as the software to breach the Planck length. Planck length is the scale at which classical ideas about gravity and space time cease to be valid and quantum effects dominate. The weird scale where magic dominates. Kilindi will share his sojourn into these dark realms and his encounters with the super civilizations in the domains of the very, very small.

**Kim Kuypers**

*Friday 30th, 12:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**Ayahuasca And Creative Thinking.**

Ayahuasca is a South American psychotropic plant tea traditionally used in Amazonian shamanism. Recently it was shown that ayahuasca reduces judgmental processing and inner reactivity, classic goals of mindfulness psychotherapy. Related to this, we investigated the effects of ayahuasca on divergent thinking, since this mode of thinking can enhance and strengthen psychological flexibility by generating new emotional and cognitive strategies. Findings showed that ayahuasca enhances creative divergent thinking, suggesting that ayahuasca can increase psychological flexibility, which may facilitate psychotherapeutic interventions and support clinical trial initiatives. Next to the acute effects, we are currently investigating whether these positive effects on divergent thinking are longer lasting.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Leor Roseman**

*Saturday 1st, 10:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**Increased Amygdala Reactivity And Symptom Improvement After Psilocybin Treatment For Depression.**

In this open-label study, 19 subjects, diagnosed with treatment resistant depression, underwent psilocybin-assisted therapy with psychological support. Subjects underwent fMRI scans before the first session and one day after second session. Neutral, fearful and happy faces were presented during the fMRI session and changes were measured in the amygdala. Right amygdala showed increased response to fearful and happy faces. The increased response for fearful compared to neutral faces was related to the improved therapeutic outcome 1-week after therapy. While treatment-response was robust, the effect on right amygdala responsivity was in the opposite direction to effects of SSRI in the literature. Long-term antidepressant treatment leads to blunting of amygdala responses in the same emotional recognition task, where our psilocybin-assisted therapy enhanced amygdala responsivity. This difference might be related to the difference in the approach of both treatments: while the former attempts to ease negative emotions, the later attempts to confront and work through them.

**Lindsay Jordan**

*Friday 30th, 15:30, Hofmann Hall*

**'Unprofessional'...'Irrelevant'...'Fascinating': A Story Of Academia And Psychedelic Pride.**

Within a few days of my first psychedelic experience, aged 34, I was accepted onto the Doctorate in Education programme at Oxford Brookes University. Three years in, being required to submit an autoethnography of my doctoral journey, I chose to reflect on how psychedelic experience had influenced my educational and personal development – and vice versa. I was delighted to win the Breaking Convention student essay competition and to have been invited to present my work at the conference. Rather than merely regurgitating the contents of the original paper (which you can read online), I would like to share with you my experience of writing about psychedelics in this context; my motivations and reservations, the negotiations with my tutors, the conditions I had to work with, and the reactions of those who assessed my work. I will also talk about what I learned from researching and writing the paper, and how it affected my life in the months that followed.

**Link Swanson**

*Friday 30th, 10:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Theoretical Models Of Psychedelic Drug Effects.**

Theoretical models of psychedelic effects are always embedded within more general assumptions about how neural systems produce perception, emotion, cognition, and consciousness. Furthermore, attempts to arrive at causal explanations of psychedelic phenomena have historically spurred important advances in the scientific understanding of neural systems in general. In this review I survey existing theoretical models of psychedelic drug effects. First, I briefly present some influential models from the early days of psychedelic science, situating them in the historical context of the dominant theories of mind and perception of their time. Next, I focus on three major—and closely interrelated—explanatory frameworks currently on offer at the beginning of the 21st century: (1) entropic brain theory, (2) integrated information theory, and (3) probabilistic (Bayesian) predictive processing frameworks. I evaluate and contrast each of these models, again paying special attention to their ability to provide explanations that are consistent across the phenomenological, neurobiological, and therapeutic spectrum of psychedelic drug effects.

**Lucianna Hail**

*Friday 30th, 09:30, Sabina Stage*

**Revelations By Flicker, Dreamachines And Electroencephalographic Signals In Art: How Did Ordinary Tools In The Neurophysiology Department Become Means For Spiritual Enlightenment?**

The combination of brainwave (EEG) monitoring by the early adopters with stroboscopes induced side-effects in many of the clinical experimentees in neurophysiological research, hallucinations that were named 'Flicker'. Patient's experiences described increasingly bright, complex patterns of colour behind their closed eyelids. Soon Cyberneticians, psychologists and artists were spontaneously informing this interdisciplinary exchange, during a time of pioneering chemistry, new artistic styles and by their implementation of new tools for experiencing Art. I will describe how artists' work, including my own, is harnessing the EEG signal, bridging various methods and arousing questions in art and human experience. Inducing hallucinations by Flickering light emerged long before the scientific era. In 1564 Nostradamus conducted Flicker experiments (at the bequest of Catherine de'Medici), he was inspired by the legends of Lucrezia Borgia and the subtle magic of 'photic-entrainment by flames she employed to access visionary divinations, and predict future events.

**Luke Dodson**

*Saturday 1st, 16:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**Music At Night: Drugs, Death, And The Dimensions Of Time In Aldous Huxley And J.b. Priestley.**

This paper offers a comparative study of Huxley and Priestley, exploring how they received and disseminated ideas relating to utopianism, political radicalism, psychotropics, mysticism, and the nature of time and death. The paper argues that the two writers form part of a transitional nexus from the period of late modernism, providing a conduit for the burgeoning interest in psychedelics, Eastern religion, and political reform that manifested as the counterculture of the 1950s and 60s.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Luke Walker**

*Saturday 1st, 17:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**Ginsberg, Blake And Wordsworth: Romantic Poetry And Psychedelic Consciousness.**

In the summer of 1948, as a young student at Columbia University, Allen Ginsberg had a visionary experience in which the English Romantic poet and artist William Blake spoke to him from beyond the grave. As I will argue, Ginsberg's 'auditory hallucination' (as he called it), and the profound altered state of consciousness which accompanied it, had a number of short- and long-term consequences, not only for Ginsberg and his own poetry, but also for the emergent Beat movement and for the subsequent political and psychedelic revolutions of the 1960s. Ginsberg's initial 'Blake vision' was non-drug induced, but the experience directly led to a fifteen-year psychedelic and spiritual quest, during which Ginsberg used peyote, psilocybin and LSD to try to reproduce and understand both his 1948 vision and Blake's own poetry. In the process, Ginsberg helped to create Sixties counterculture. Ginsberg's 1948 'Blake vision' can therefore be seen as an origin point for the Sixties and a milestone in the modern history of psychedelic consciousness.

**Marakame Don Pancho Lopez**

*Sunday 2nd, 16:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**Saving The Peyote: The Vision Of The Wixaritari (Huichol) People.**

The Wixarika Nation (Huicholes) have been recreating in a yearly pilgrimage, the journey their ancestors walked thousands of years ago to Wirikuta, where the Peyote (Deer Spirit) lives. Nowadays the Hikuri (peyote), flora and fauna of Wirikuta is in danger of disappearance caused by mining companies, plantations, irresponsible tourism, hippies and neo-shamanism. The representants of the Huichol community of Tateikie, are concerned and want to share the actual situation and solutions they have for guarding their sacred spirit plant in order to keep their millennia-old tradition alive.

**Maria Papaspyrou**

*Saturday 1st, 15:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Entheogenic Integration And The Transcendent Function.**

Entheogenic experiences are often referred to as 'journeys' for they can journey one to great inner and outer depths. However, the end of an altered state is often when the journey really begins. This is the journey of integration, of assimilating into consciousness the insights and openings one has encountered in their experience, in a form that can enrich their everyday lives, relationships, and sense of self. The myths and symbols we bring back from these deep soul journeys are part of our psychic life, imbued with vital meaning. During integration our task is in translating the archaic speech of vision into a meaningful narrative, if we are to harness the powerful directional energies of the unconscious towards greater health and wholeness.

**Mark Agacan**

*Saturday 1st, 17:30, The Sand Pit*

**Extended-Contact-With-N-N-Dimethyltryptamine-Induced-Hyperspatial-Entities.**

We report for the first time that extended, replicable contact has been made with so-called DMT-induced entities. In 2014 a programme of research began in which our specially trained volunteers made a series of hyperdimensional expeditions using carefully administered quantities of genuine-hallucinogen N,N-DMT. During the course of this work, we were able to make repeated contact with specific entities, several of whom shared hitherto unknown information of a highly specific mathematical nature. From the information that was shared, we have been able to develop a solid, working, reliable theory and protocol for controlled hyperdimensional traversal, which we have named SOMA-PDR (Somatic Orientation in Multidimensional Arena's using Planck Distance Resonance).

**Mark Broughton & Sophia Satchell Baeza**

*Friday 30th, 18:30, Osmond Auditorium*

**Dilating Designs: Time And Space In Late 1960S Psychedelic Cinema.**

Production design was integral to the aesthetics of late 1960s British and American psychedelic cinema. It offered filmmakers a means to quote from, transfigure and engage with psychedelic culture to evoke the characters' worlds: the clothes they wear, the music they listen to and the spaces they occupy. At the same time, design was deployed to materialise the subjectivity of one or more characters, as well as more generally to externalise the altered state of consciousness that a psychedelic drug might produce. Production design in such films thus brings external and internal worlds, or 'set and setting', into dialogue. Debates about psychedelic substances often touch on the way they can carry a user beyond thresholds and into liminal states or spaces, so it is worth asking how cinema's production design has depicted and commented on this effect.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Mark Juhan Schunemann**

*Friday 30th, 11:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Can The World-Spirit Weep? Ecclesial Warnings To A Tearful Zeitgeist.**

I ask one sociological and one theological question: 1) How are Christicisms of the democratized mystical community misplaced? The Grand Ayatollah of Iran recently ruled psychedelics "halal" – so Shi'a Muslims are uncondemned: but can they be "kosha", "sattvic", or Christian? For members of established religious communities to use psychedelics in clear conscience (and therefore mind-set), we must understand the reservations that come from these communities in their own terms. The Ekklesia has centuries of experience in community-building; entheogenic communities offer raw apperception of the divine: thus, the learning ought to be duo-directional and symbiotic. 2) Religious institutions are increasingly divorced from experienced through flirtation with a perilous scripturalism. Can psychedelics provide a way of holding natural and revealed theology together? Can the world-spirit weep? As a lens, I will consider scriptural attempts to rope YHWH into the psychedelic family, syncretic Christianity, Alan Watts' relationship to Jesus and Frank Lake's use of LSD with parishioners.

**Martin A. Lee**

*Saturday 1st, 15:30, Sabina Stage*

**What The CIA Can Teach Us About LSD.**

Before LSD became illegal in the mid-1960s, several groups, representing disparate segments of society (scientists, therapists, artists, military officers, cloak-and-dagger operatives) were keenly interested in the drug. They had conflicting ideas about LSD and how it could be used to advance their specific agendas. The Central Intelligence Agency secretly embraced LSD as a truth serum and a weapon of "unconventional warfare." Many CIA personnel experimented on themselves during the Cold War. What impact did LSD have on the CIA as a spy organization? What light does the CIA's extensive dalliance with hallucinogenic drugs shed on how we understand LSD and its potential?

**Matthew Clark**

*Friday 30th, 17:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**Soma, Haoma And Ayahuasca (Part 3).**

The ancient Asian ritual drink known as 'soma' to the brahmins of India and as 'haoma' to Zoroastrians is central to the religious rites of these people. Over the last 250 years there have been dozens of theories about what this drink was made from. Currently, the only theories that have some degree of academic support are that soma/haoma was either ephedra, Syrian rue or fly-agaric mushrooms. In my recently-published book on this topic ('The Tawny One: Soma, Haoma and Ayahuasca', Muswell Hill Press, 2017) I suggest that none of these theories are properly supported by the textual evidence, and that soma/haoma was most probably an analogue of ayahuasca, made from a variety of plants, some of which I believe I have identified.

**Matthew Watkins**

*Saturday 1st, 11:30 - 13:00, Wasson*

**Maths For Psychonauts.**

Matthew is a mathematician best known in the psychedelic research community for his critique of Terence McKenna's "Timewave" theory (what he dubbed the "Watkins Objection"). That was shortly after he finished a PhD in pure maths at the University of Kent in 1994. This "Maths for Psychonauts" session is part freestyle performance maths lecture, part open-ended Q&A discussion.

**Melissa Bone**

*Sunday 2nd, 10:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Human Rights, Politics And Power: The Case Of The UK's Cannabis Social Club Movement.**

Cannabis Social Clubs (CSCs) are small non-profit collectives where cannabis is produced and distributed among a closed circuit of adult cannabis consumers. Originating in Spain, CSCs now operate in many jurisdictions across the world, in different socio-political contexts and under different legal regimes. Unlike Spain, Uruguay and Belgium, the UK currently offers no legal space for the operation of CSCs, yet the UKCSC movement is becoming increasingly active. This article will consider how informal (de facto) CSC models can embed, and whether a political view of human rights could transform the law to facilitate more formalised (de jure) CSCs. Human rights are deeply political in nature and concern the power relations between a State and its citizenry. The article will demonstrate how this view of human rights could be used to illuminate the power dynamics in British drugs policy. It will show that an awareness of existing power structures could help the UKCSC to actively challenge, from the grassroots, the dominant political powers in drug policy design.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Mendel Kaelen**

*Saturday 1st, 17:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **The Functions Of Music In Psychedelic Therapy.**

Psychedelic drugs and music have a profound capacity to alter consciousness, and have been used by humans for thousands of years and across various cultures. In recent years, increasing numbers of studies have assessed the psychotherapeutic potential of psychedelic drugs, commonly referred to as "psychedelic therapy". Within this approach, music is considered to be an important therapeutic component. This talk will discuss most recent findings from neuroscience and clinical research, that shed light on how psychedelics and music work together to facilitate therapeutic change. A particular focus will be placed on the different therapeutic functions that music can serve during psychedelic therapy sessions, including how music may best be used. The talk will highlight the unique opportunities for collaborating with artists and technologists in shaping the future of mental health care, and will provide a peek into new projects that work to realise this.

**Michael Bogenschutz**

*Friday 30th, 15:30, Hofmann Hall*

### **Psilocybin-Assisted Treatment For Alcohol Dependence: A Proof-Of-Concept Study.**

My talk will provide an overview and update on psychedelic-assisted treatment of addiction, with a focus on recent work with psilocybin in alcohol use disorder. Alcoholism was the most-studied indication for psychedelic therapy in the 1950s and 1960s. Although the controlled trials of that era had limitations, LSD was shown to lead to clinically significant benefit when the results of these studies were pooled in a meta-analysis many years later. Psilocybin-assisted treatment has recently been shown result in significant improvement in uncontrolled proof-of-concept studies addressing alcohol and nicotine dependence. We are currently conducting a full-scale double-blind randomized controlled trial of psilocybin-assisted treatment of alcohol use disorder. I will discuss the design of this study, experience with study participants, and current hypotheses concerning the possible mechanisms of action of psilocybin-assisted treatment.

**Sunday 2nd, 15:30, Osmond Auditorium**

### **Assessment Of Substance Use And Dependence Among Religious Drinkers Of Ayahuasca.**

The aims of this study were to assess the impact of years of regular ayahuasca ritual attendance on substance use and dependence among UDV followers and to compare dependence prevalence between UDV and Brazilian norms for alcohol and tobacco. A total of 1,946 members of UDV 18+ years old were evaluated in terms of years of affiliation to UDV and ceremonial attendance during the previous twelve months. There were no differences between UDV and Brazilian norms on lifetime use of alcohol and tobacco. However, current dependence on alcohol and tobacco was significantly lower in the UDV sample than Brazilian norms. Regressions analyses revealed a significant impact of years of ayahuasca ritual attendance on the reduction of alcohol and tobacco use and dependence.

**Michael Montagne**

*Friday 30th, 18:00, Osmond Auditorium*

### **The Joint Show: When Psychedelic Art Was Experienced.**

This is the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love. Many things led to that momentous year. The Beats had been enconced in North Beach since the early 1950s, but their time had passed. The year began with the Human Be-In in Golden Gate Park in January, followed by the Monterey Pops Festival in June, which was promoted using McKenzie's song. A nascent rock music scene, to become the San Francisco sound, was burgeoning in the city from 1965. To promote these concert hall dance events, posters were created to announce the acts. Psychedelic art, fashion, and drugs inter-mingled with the music. Poster art for the concerts was instilled with a burst of imagination and creativity. At the peak of the 1960s psychedelic movement, an art exhibit exalted psychedelic poster art to fine art status, The Joint Show, held July 17, 1967 at the Moore Gallery on Sutter St. in San Francisco.

**Mike Jay**

*Sunday 2nd, 11:30, Sabina Stage*

### **From Peyote To Mescaline: The Birth Of Psychedelic Science.**

In 1891 the peyote cactus was ritually consumed for the first time by a white man, the Smithsonian ethnographer James Mooney. In 1894 it was introduced to medical science in a series of trials on human subjects. By 1897 it had been sampled by America's most famous neurologist, her leading psychologist and London's literary and artistic avant-garde. In 1898 its active chemical was successfully isolated and named mescaline. Western science's first engagement with a major psychedelic was in many respects bolder and more far-reaching than that of today. It was driven by self-experiment and subjective reportage; it ranged across a broad spectrum of disciplines from medicine to ethnography, biochemistry to aesthetics, psychology to mysticism; and it combined clinical perspectives with those of writers, artists and indigenous peoples.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Milan Scheidegger**

*Saturday 1st, 09:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **Psilocybin Enhances Mindfulness-Related Capabilities In A Meditation Retreat Setting.**

Under supportive conditions, psychedelics induce transformational experiences that resemble states reached in deep meditation. Likewise, improvements in mindfulness-related capabilities may not only be enhanced by meditation but also through distinctive features of the psychedelic experience. Here we present findings from an fMRI study with psilocybin in experienced meditators in a meditation retreat setting. We found that psilocybin-assisted meditation increased both self-reported meditation depth and post-retreat levels of mindfulness. Notably, psilocybin also changed functional brain connectivity in self-referential information processing networks that subserve the process of meditation. We conclude that psilocybin has the potential to facilitate transformational experiences within a meditation retreat framework, which underscores the importance of set and setting to facilitate beneficial outcomes of psychedelic experiences. Through enhancing neuroplasticity, mindfulness-related capabilities and well-being, psilocybin may have promising therapeutic impact for transformational healthcare.

**Monika Wieliczko**

*Saturday 1st, 09:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **Can MDMA Facilitate Treatment Of Borderline Personality Disorder?**

In this talk I will argue that MDMA is an essential tool for treatment of people with complex personality structures such as borderline personality disorder. MDMA should be seen as a gateway which allows the patient to connect with their vulnerabilities in order to embark on a psychotherapy journey to recovery. I will provide a theoretical basis for the mechanisms underlying borderline personality disorder and how MDMA can be used with current treatment models such as mentalization-based treatment (MBT) or transference-focused therapy (TFT). I will also propose how the use of MDMA in the National Health Service (NHS) can transform the way we think and treat our patients, giving a chance for both clinicians and our patients to benefit from MDMA-induced psychotherapy.

**Moudou Baqui**

*Saturday 1st, 10:00, The Sand Pit*

### **To Walk The Walk: The Path Of Initiatory Practice.**

The thesis of this presentation suggest that all human cultures have been severed from authentic cultural expression replaced by homogenized trends based what is termed pop culture. How can we introduce initiatory practices to a modern lifestyle and reconnect people of dispossessed culture back to healing, self-recognition and ancient initiatory practices to heal modern maladies often overlooked in the therapeutic use of psychedelics. This paper suggests several approaches to dealing with issues such as alcoholism, group/self-hate, taboos handed down from oppressive eras, apathy, and others.

**Nadia Erlam**

*Friday 30th, 15:00, Hofmann Hall*

### **Cognitive Dispossession: Entheogens, Ecofeminism & Neuroqueering Drug Policy.**

In this presentation, I am going to highlight the core findings of my MSc dissertation as well as insights since then, and show the need for feminism in the psychedelic community both practically, in the theoretical analysis of mainstream drug and mental health policies, and in the analysis of entheogenic experiences themselves. This will be by exposing the links between ecofeminism and psychedelic philosophy, revealing the utility of these disciplines and their crossovers as analytical tools. If such analysis is applied to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 for example, what becomes exposed are the racist, and androcentric assumptions implied in the Act as well as its tendency to demonize certain mental landscapes – patterns which are attached to liberal configurations of 'the human'.

*Saturday 1st, 15:30, Hofmann Hall*

### **Intersectional Feminism In Psychedelia.**

My talk will propose that Intersectional Feminism needs to be at the absolute center of the psychedelic community. Feminist analysis and consciousness must become much more present in personal reflexivity, as well as in psychedelic academia and literature, in the analysis of relevant policies and in psychedelic experiences themselves. This is because one gains important, fruitful and transformative insights from such analysis including the perception of usually invisible power dynamics. In my talk I will be showing the many crossovers between psychedelic philosophy and feminism, what this means and then reviewing the issue of diversity (or lack of thereof) in psychedelic communities, considering the current situation in terms of multiple oppressions and power relationships in these communities. I will also argue that we have a responsibility as a (privileged) community to encourage feminist pedagogy and consciousness, especially as our communities attract extremely vulnerable people because of the now world-famous healing status of psychedelics.



## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Nese Devenot**

*Friday 30th, 14:30, Hofmann Hall*

**Psychedelics & Language In Qualitative Research.**

Within the field of Psychedelic Studies, qualitative research is a transdisciplinary method of inquiry that seeks to understand how individuals ascribe significance to their psychedelic experiences. In so doing, it complements traditional quantitative methods by A) providing insight into the psychological processes underlying therapeutic outcomes, and B) identifying new, testable hypotheses for future research. With limited funding, new qualitative research projects can branch off of existing clinical trials by analyzing participant journals and/or interviews, as the NYU Psilocybin Cancer Anxiety Study successfully demonstrated. In analyzing these verbal reports of psychedelic experiences, qualitative research necessarily depends on both science and poetics, since the communication of unprecedented experiences and non-ordinary states of consciousness relies on metaphor and other creative uses of language. For this reason, I argue that linguistic theory and poetic interpretation are as crucial as chemical analysis for analyzing data within psychedelic science, highlighting the importance of scholarly collaboration across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

*Saturday 1st, 09:30, Hofmann Hall*

**Aldous Huxley's New Romanticisms: Reading Blake And Wordsworth After Mescaline.**

This presentation demonstrates the transformative impact of mescaline on Aldous Huxley's interpretations of Romantic poetry. Huxley published the results of his self-experiments with the psychoactive chemical mescaline in *The Doors of Perception* (1954), which took its title from Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (1790) and contributed to Blake's popularization in the twentieth century. But rather than associating mescaline with a preexisting interest in Romanticism, I argue that Huxley's mescaline experiences directly resulted in his subsequent appreciation for the poetry of Blake and William Wordsworth. As Huxley's 1959 lecture series at UC Santa Barbara illustrates, mescaline provided Huxley with a vision of nature and humankind as inherently "interlinked," which supplanted his prior views of nature as fundamentally alien. This transformed view of nature led Huxley to reverse decades of outspoken hostility towards Romantic poetry, shifting Huxley's characterizations of Blake and Wordsworth from accusations of naive escapism to effusive praise for their ecological visions for the potentials of human culture.

**Nikki Wyrd**

*Saturday 1st, 09:30, Sabina Stage*

**Wyrd Times: Do Psychedelic Substances Help Us Scry For A Better Tomorrow?**

Futurecasting has great value to society, and at a time of considerable step changes in all aspects of 'how we live', the enhancement of the imagination's connections provided by psychedelic usage improves our chances of spotting advantageous combinations between and within multifarious strands of life. In this talk, Nikki Wyrd explores the mycelial networks giving rise to phenomena such as maker spaces, co-housing, shared resource pools, and ways that the boundaryless psychedelic state amplifies the strong, yet informal, social connectivity so vital to their success. She also describes some of the personal visions she has been offered by various medicines, and considers the incredible power of literally seeing into the futures which these alchemical substances provide.

**Niklas Serning**

*Friday 30th, 15:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Priests And Shamans: What Psychotherapy Can Learn From Nietzsche And Psychedelics.**

In the Genealogy of Morality, Nietzsche describes a priesthood whose excessive focus on distress weaponizes it into resentment, a state of reflexive anger about one's position in the world that only adds to suffering rather than resolving it. All too often, therapists are complicit in this process, reflecting back and growing the distress of their clients. An obsession with individualized distress positions the client as a discrete and disempowered entity in the world. Psychotherapy, at its best, follows the client shamanically into their lifeworld. Psychotherapists need to learn to be shamans rather than priests, following the phenomenology of their client and intervening in that domain rather than imposing their own "meanings" onto the client's experience. The psychedelic experience teaches us that the self is contiguous with the rest of the world. Psychotherapy should emphasize the existence of the self as part of an interconnected, networked community.

**Oli Genn-Bash**

*Friday 30th, 17:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Are You Having A Laugh?: Humour And The Psychedelic Experience.**

Many have experienced comical moments during psychedelic experiences, and yet, in discussions on the nature of the psychedelic state, humour tends to be pushed aside by a focus on spirituality, philosophy and medicine. Psychedelics, we are told, are more than just fun. However, I would argue that humour serves a very serious function: it reminds us that we must not take life too seriously. Much like the Zen Buddhists who utilise Koans to shake out ordinary thought patterns, humour can be utilised as a grounding mechanism. Comedians such as George Carlin and Bill Hicks have utilised their own personal psychedelic experiences in this way, allowing them more room to explore uncomfortable situations in a jovial manner. Various mystical traditions such as the Sufis and Native Americans have also used humour to function as a grounding mechanism, and I believe this is an essential facet of the psychedelic experience which should be explored in further detail.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Omolewa**

*Saturday 1st, 11:30, The Sand Pit*

**Women & Entheogenic Healing**

My mission is to restore the culture of birth through ancient wisdom and entheogenic practices. Psilocybin can play a vital role in the processes of conscious procreation and mothering in the 21st century, from fertility and preconception to birth and breastfeeding. Working in my community and with families of different backgrounds and ethnicities I encounter many births, placentas and the various cycles of the woman. This talk will discuss Women & Entheogenic healing along with menstrual blood, the sacred art of menstruating, mycelium, Midwifery and the wisdom of the Placenta.

**Patrick Everitt**

*Sunday 2nd, 09:30, Sabina Stage*

**The Psychedelic Magick of Aleister Crowley.**

In 1900, the English poet and occultist Aleister Crowley (1875 – 1947) became one of the first non-natives to experience the psychedelic effects of peyote, the 'Divine Cactus' of Mexico. For almost twenty years, Crowley privately experimented with peyote in his magical ceremonies and introduced the mescaline-containing cactus to many of the students who joined his secret society. During his life, Crowley developed an intricate system of experimental occultism called Magick. At the centre of Crowley's system of Magick is a broad curriculum of philosophical texts and physiological practices intended to aid the spiritual evolution of the individual. Two primary goals of Crowley's Magick are the production of beneficial transformations of consciousness and the attainment of conscious communication with beyond-human intelligences. This presentation will outline Aleister Crowley's system of Magick and illustrate the central role that peyote played in its development.

**Paul Austin**

*Sunday 2nd, 12:30, Osmond Auditorium*

**Microdosing as a Tool for Psychedelic Normalization.**

Due to its perception as a 'low-risk' way to consume psychedelics, microdosing has brought a wide swath of previously psychedelic-naïve people into the conversation about legitimacy of psychedelic substances. What will the growing trend of microdosing mean for the legitimization of psychedelic substances in the next 5-10 years? My presentation will focus on two areas: 1. Microdosing from a mental health perspective: Drawing on social psychology, I will discuss how microdosing will play a role in introducing psychedelics as medicine to more individuals. I will focus on the familiarity principle and the principle of 'Commitment and Consistency' as detailed in Cialdini's book 'Influence'. 2. Microdosing as a tool for creativity: In the next 10 years, millions of jobs will be lost due to automation and technology. Many of the individuals and teams who are building the new systems we will live in as a society use psychedelics, most notably microdosing. What are the implications of this for the legitimization of psychedelic substances?

**Peter B. Lloyd**

*Friday 30th, 12:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**From Vedanta to Subjective Idealism: The Philosophy of Consciousness as Fundamental Reality.**

The notion that reality is ultimately grounded in consciousness rather than in a physical substratum occurs often as a mentation in altered states of consciousness, psychedelic or otherwise. This, however, is diametrically opposed to the conventional doctrine of the physical sciences, which maintains that the physical universe is the only, or at least the fundamental, form of reality. Does this mean that physical science requires us to dismiss the notion that everything is ultimately consciousness? Is this mentation a delusory artefact of altered states? No. This paper argues for a cogent and rational philosophy that defends mental monism - the principle that fundamental reality is of the nature of a conscious mind - without violating anything in science itself. This is a philosophy advocated by Adi Shankara in the Advaita Vedanta school of Hinduism, and by Bishop George Berkeley's Subjective Idealism.

**Rafael Lancelotta**

*Saturday 1st, 10:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Characterization Of Mystical Experiences Occasioned By 5-MeO-DMT-Containing Toad Bufotoxin And Comparison With Prior Psilocybin Studies.**

A presentation of the first quantitative clinical study completed with 5-MeO-DMT-Containing toad bufotoxin in human subjects conducted at an ibogaine treatment center in Mexico. This study compares scores on the Mystical Experiences Questionnaire (MEQ) from 5-MeO-DMT-Containing toad bufotoxin experiences to the scores from the Johns Hopkins study done with psilocybin and smoking cessation. In the Johns Hopkins study, those individuals who reported having mystical experiences were also among the group who had greatest success with smoking cessation. As such, this study suggests that 5-MeO-DMT holds potential for treating addiction disorders as it similarly produces mystical experiences as psilocybin. The presentation will include some of the most notable results from the study and considerations for future investigation.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Reanne Crane**

*Saturday 1st, 15:30, Osmond Auditorium*

**(Verbing The Nouns And Nouning The Vedantics): Aldous Huxley's Psychedelic Semantics.**

"God is Love." What manifest nonsense! And yet it happens to be true (Island, 1962).

Aldous Huxley set the precedent for describing altered states and remains fundamental to the psychedelic transcendental; his illuminations laid the foundations for how we frame our hallucinations. However, his countercultural legacy has left him misconstrued and often misrepresented. So who was the man beyond the mescaline? What were the roots of his philosophical fruits? How did these hone his literary tone? This talk will visit some crucial moments in his intellectual biography and explore how we might eff the ineffable. Effing may be inadequate, but Huxley shows us that it isn't all equally so. A closer peek at his technique may shed some light on our own semantic plight.

**Rebecca Askew**

*Sunday 2nd, 11:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**From Apathy To Activism: Understanding Drug Takers Perspectives On The Law And Policy.**

The paper uses interview data with 60 current drug takers. Motivation for use ranged from performance enhancement, microdosing, spirituality and the self-medicalisation of mental and physical health issues. Interviewees were asked about their views on current policy and the law, as well as, what advice and information they would give to others about illicit drugs. The results were wide ranging, some participants projected a sense of apathy and ambivalence about current policy and possibilities for reform. However, other interviewees highlighted distain about prohibition and argued policy should prioritise welfare and human rights based approaches. The advice and information offered by the participants was linked to moderation via individual experimentation and trusted networks for advice. The paper discusses the effect of neoliberalism on the narrative accounts, paying particular attention to the relationship between citizen and state in the governance of behaviour.

**Regina U. Hess**

*Friday 30th, 12:30, Sabina Stage*

**The Ancient Practice Of Dark Retreat Meditation: An Endogenous Psychedelic And Divine Feminine Encounter. Implications From Transpersonal Theory, Research, And Practice.**

An overview of the ancient high-level practice of dark retreat meditation will be described across spiritual and indigenous traditions. The goals of dark retreat practice include the enhancement of self-realization towards enlightenment through entering altered states of consciousness and the awakening of all senses. This chapter is rooted in an earth-based integrative philosophical perspective of transpersonal psychology. The neurobiological impact of prolonged darkness and the bodily release of endogenous empathogenic and psychoactive substances (Melatonin, Pinoline, 5-MeO-DMT, and DMT) will be outlined. The relevance and universal occurrence of the mythological-archetypal dimension related to darkness will be illustrated including examples such as the creation myths, the archetypes of the trickster and the Great Mother. To provide some texture, a brief personal account of a dark retreat experience related to a prior near-death-encounter will be shared.

**Richard L. Miller**

*Saturday 1st, 18:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Psychedelic Medicine In The Usa.**

This will be a review of the research in my upcoming book, Psychedelic Medicine, published by InnerTraditions/Bear & Co. 2017. The presentation features work from Stan Grof, Jim Fadiman, Rick Doblin, Dennis McKenna, Roland Griffiths, Michael Mithoefer, Phil Wolfson, Julie Holland and Charlie Grob.

**Rick Doblin**

*Sunday 2nd, 17:00, Sabina Stage*

**Latest Developments In Psychedelic Science From MAPS.**

A discussion of the latest developments in MAPS' effort to conduct research will focus on the aim to develop MDMA-assisted psychotherapy into EMA and FDA approved prescription treatment. Also covered in this talk: MAPS' marijuana study for chronic, treatment resistant PTSD, an observational study involving US Veterans with PTSD receiving Ayahuasca in Peru, and our Psychedelic Harm Reduction work. The big picture is the overall importance of psychedelic research and cultural evolution.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Rita Kocarova**

*Friday 30th, 16:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**Psychedelics And Deliriants In 60'S: The Case Of Czechoslovakia And Implications For Future.**

The former Czechoslovakia (CSSR) had lenient restrictions for researchers of psychoactive substances. The period of the legal LSD research was "a golden era" of psychedelic research and by exploring what was already done, much can be learnt. Hence for the first time all human studies with psychedelics and deliriants on patients published in the former Czechoslovakia between 1952 and 1974 were systematically analyzed. A total of 183 papers were found by manual search, 50 of which were studies with patients where therapeutic or psychological effect was studied. According to the available studies, psychedelics proved effective for disorders on the neurotic spectrum, and also psychotic and personality disorders. Besides therapeutic indications interesting insights can be found in terms of the treatment protocol, like group therapy or "weekend psycholytic clinics"; use of doses of deliriants causing coma in the treatment of schizophrenia; combinations of different substances or with sleep deprivation; modelling psychosis, corsakov's syndrome, and delirium tremens; and many more.

**Rob Bennett**

*Sunday 2nd, 17:00 - Wasson Workshops*

**Trance Dance.**

The aim of this workshop is to discuss and experience Trance and how to go more deeply into it. There are many ways of inducing trance states but, for me, dancing is not only one of the most pleasant ways but also one of the easiest. The methods I use are derived from many sources: African shamans, contact improvisation, Sufi teachings, yoga, hypnosis and my own extensive experience of dancing. Many people who go dancing regularly use some of these techniques - so they may not be totally new but it helps to become more aware of them and to develop and practice them consciously. The workshop will be mainly practical, experiencing the effects of the techniques. There will also be some time to discuss our understanding of trance, what it is good for and other ways of attaining states of trance.

**Rob Dickens**

*Saturday 1st, 15:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**The Spider: Harry Fainlight's Psychedelic Poesy.**

Harry Fainlight (1935-1982) was an Anglo-American poet, who bridged the poetic gap between establishment and counter-culture sensibilities, and also the worlds of the North American Beat and London Underground. Having only published one short collection during his lifetime, Fainlight is perhaps best remembered now for his ill-fated rendition of The Spider at the International Poetry Incarnation (1965) at the Royal Albert Hall. It was not without good reason, however, that Allen Ginsberg described him as 'the most gifted English poet of his generation.' This talk, while focusing on his drug and poetic experimentation of the mid-1960s, also seeks to recapture the story of this extraordinary poet.

**Robin Carhart-Harris**

*Friday 30th, 17:00, Hofmann Hall*

**Psychedelic Mechanisms: The Central Importance Of Psychological And Neurobiological Connectedness.**

Leaning on previous and on-going studies imaging the human brain on psilocybin, LSD, MDMA and DMT with different brain imaging modalities, this talk will attempt to summarise our current thinking on how psychedelic drugs work in the brain to produce their acute and longer-term effects. These insights may help us explain the subjective experience of the psychedelic trip and its aftermath, including its after-glow and enduring impact on personality and outlook. In summary, it's all about connection (man).

*Sunday 2nd, 15:30, Sabina Stage*

**Neural Correlates Of The LSD Experience Revealed By Multimodal Neuroimaging.**

What stimuli, experiences and interactions culminate in creating a single identity? Do single identities even exist? Ubuntu suggests we are who we are because of who we all are; a collective element which connects us all. Are we aware of our becoming? The path we walk, both as people and people's, and what is the purpose of knowing, being and awareness. What are those crucial elements which allow us to perceive the world as we do? And what to do with elevated consciousness.

**Roland Leonard Gibson**

*Friday 30th, 18:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

**Psychedelics And Philosophy.**

Recent developments in psychedelic research suggest a foreseeable end to the generalized prohibition of psychedelic substances. William James gave modern philosophy a ground-breaking account that demonstrated the exceptional means psychedelic substances offer for experiential ontological investigation. The relaxation of psychedelic prohibition will allow a new round of metaphysical investigation. Plato's inspiration by the Eleusinian Mysteries is an ancient antecedent. Over time philosophy has forsaken the ecstatic experience that such ritual evoked and focused instead on the sort of rational, intellectual endeavour that is only one fruit of the intense mental focus fostered by direct ecstatic experience. Psychedelics offer such experience as inspired Plato but in a way that fits modern time and opportunity. They can facilitate radical exploration of metaphysical topics such as the nature of mind, the self, epistemology of perception, consciousness, the status of ideas as potentials and archetypes, the origins of value, and the fundamentals of cosmology.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Rosalind Watts**

*Saturday 1st, 10:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **Patient Reports Of Increased 'Connection' After Psilocybin For Treatment-Resistant Depression.**

Objective: To identify patients' perceptions of the value of psilocybin as a treatment for depression. Method: Twenty patients enrolled in an open-label trial of psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression participated in a semi-structured interview at 6-month follow-up. Thematic analysis was used to identify patients' experiences of the treatment and how it compared with previous treatments. Results: The main change process concerned change from disconnection (from self, others and world) to connection/connectedness. Patients also compared psilocybin and conventional treatments. Patients reported that medications and some short-term talking therapies tended to reinforce their sense of disconnection, whereas treatment with psilocybin encouraged connection. Conclusions: These results suggest that psilocybin treatment for depression may work via paradigmatically novel means, antithetical to antidepressant medications and some short-term talking therapies.

**Rupert Sheldrake**

*Friday 30th, 17:00, Sabina Stage*

### **Psychedelic Experience And Morphic Resonance.**

When people take psychedelic drugs, these drugs have a variety of effects on their brain activity. These effects are similar to those in people who have taken the same drugs in the past. According to the hypothesis of morphic resonance, similar patterns of activity in the past resonate with similar patterns in the present. This opens up the possibility that psychedelic experience includes a resonance from people in the past who have taken the same drugs. This may set up a kind of collective memory for each kind of psychedelic experience. Present experiences may tap into this collective memory and in turn contribute to it. This hypothesis is experimentally testable.

**Sam Gandy**

*Friday 30th, 09:30, Hofmann Hall*

### **Dying To Live.**

Can transcendent experiences help us die better deaths? And can the wisdom gained through transformational experiences help us live better lives? A talk on how experiences through psychedelics can alleviate death anxiety and help us prepare for the inevitable. Experiences through psychedelics, near-death experiences (NDE's) and out of body experiences (OBE's) can transform human personality and deeply affect the way we view life and death. Can these experiences provide us with a link to a core unitive human transcendent experience, or are there many petals on the lotus flower? The insight and wisdom gained through these experiences may have much to teach us about how we can die better deaths and live better lives.

**Samuel J. Ross**

*Saturday 1st, 14:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **The Feeling & The Field: Psychedelic Analogic & The Poetics Of Experience.**

In which the literary metaphor undergoes metamorphosis into something of its own antithesis: a form of psychedelic straight-talk. Through the analysis of two classic psychedelic poems: Michael McClure's Peyote Poem & Allen Ginsberg's Wales Visitation - we explore the peculiar case of the psychedelic metaphor, which subverts standard literary definitions as well as more modern cognitive ones, framing itself perhaps primarily with recourse to phenomenology. There is a particular emphasis on the primordial interplay of space and body, as a field of feeling in which language comes to sense, and which seems to disclose what we might term a psychedelic analogic, which is something of the essence of existence as poetry. (A.k.a. meta phor the many!)

**Seani Love**

*Saturday 1st, 14:30 - 16:30, Wasson Workshops*

### **Conscious Kink.**

Techniques required to go on a consciousness shifting journey using only our bodies, erotic impulses and the careful and conscious infliction of pain. Using these techniques we can go on trance, release emotions, awaken Eros and journey inwards really getting to know ourselves better. This workshop involves a short talk and then a number of group exercises. Being about kink, it can become sexual and consciousness shifting at the same time (hence likening it to sex magick). There is a kink element which can equate to causing conscious amounts of welcomed pain to other workshop attendees. All boundaries are respected and nurtured at all times. This is a hands-on workshop with possible erotic content and possible loud noise.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Simon Jones**

*Sunday 2nd, 12:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### **Medical Marijuana In Jamaica.**

Medical marijuana is now legal in several countries including Jamaica, Canada, Israel, the Netherlands and the majority of states in the US with other countries including Argentina, Germany and Ireland in the process of establishing schemes. Jamaica is often referred to as the country with the highest consumption of marijuana, but in contrast to Europe and North America where use is primarily recreational, studies on Jamaica have shown the cultural integration of marijuana and its religious and medicinal as well as recreational functions. The presentation will examine the medical marijuana scheme being introduced in Jamaica, report on published work examining the views and production practices of farmers and also the interim regulations and business practices underlying the new scheme. Additionally the presentation will report on work in progress academic papers on the views of medical practitioners and their role as gatekeepers to the scheme and laboratory work underway in Kingston on the preparation of marijuana tea, oil and rum.

**Simon Tyszk**

*Saturday 1st, 18:30, Osmond Auditorium*

### **On The Rose Of Paracelsus.**

This presentation will document my correspondence with William Leonard Pickard, a 70 year old Buddhist, Harvard Academic, and writer who is presently serving two life sentences without any chance of parole in the US gulag system, for allegedly being one of the world's most prolific LSD manufacturers, arrested with a portable in 2000 whilst transporting an LSD lab capable of producing 2.8 billion hits of at a time. As well as the story of his horrific predicament, Leonard is a charming and fascinating man, and has recently published a book 'The Rose Of Paracelsus: On Secrets & Sacraments', hand written from his jail cell detailing his research into and interviews with, a mysterious cabal of psychedelic chemists whose stated aim is to bring about an evolution in mankind through the widespread production and distribution of psychedelics. I will be presenting a specially recorded message from Leonard, directed to everyone at Breaking Convention from his high security prison in Arizona.

**Sky G**

*Friday 30th, 14:30 - 16:30, Wasson Workshops*

### **Psyqi – Eight Circuit Qi Meditation.**

PSYQI: An Eight-Circuit Meditation- encapsulates a gentle foray into foundational Qi energy work, involving exercises that reveal the keys to manifesting, accessing and harnessing bio-energetic feedback rhythms. Using a selection of 8 tools and techniques that are rooted in Zen and Buddhist traditions, I will lead the participants through a series of heart-centering exercises that facilitate a deepening of awareness through body-sensing, guided visualisation and breathwork, with an emphasis on mindful awareness.

**Spirit Traveller**

*Saturday 1st, 12:00, The Sand Pit*

### **Exploring With Your Children.**

Spirit Travelers presentation will explore conscious, subconscious and purposeful parenting with your children through the utilization of psilocybin mushrooms. Connecting and restoring relationships with your children multidimensionally during life's many unique transitions and challenges. Spirit Traveler as the mother of ten living children puts her in a unique position in today's modern society as an advocate for women and entheogens and psychedelic parenting. Even the beauty and benefits for families with special needs children.

**Stuart Verity**

*Saturday 1st, 17:00 - 18:00, Wasson Workshops*

### **Meditation & Qi Gong.**

A workshop on how to practically incorporate meditation and Qi Gong as a supporting practice for people on the psychedelic/entheogenic journey, helping transform the insights from altered states into permanent traits. Stuart has taught Meditation and Qi Gong to participants of the yearly Santo Daime summer camp/retreats and also participated in many Santo Daime Meditation/Concentration Works.

**Suzanne Sharkey**

*Sunday 2nd, 15:30, Hofmann Hall*

### **It Was Never About The Drugs.**

As a serving police officer enforcing drug laws, did I make a difference? As a person in long term recovery does it matter? The drug laws were supposed to eliminate the supply and demand, creating a safer drug free world. How has the police force adapted in the past 50 years, what has actually happened and what can we do about it?



## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Tharcila Chaves**

*Friday 30th, 10:00, Hofmann Hall*

**Ketamine For Chronic Pain: A Holistic Study.**

There are no universally accepted treatment guidelines for treating pain. This underlines the high burden that chronic pain places on society, and also the importance of developing individualised analgesic therapies. The biopsychosocial approach to pain is widely accepted as essential for the management of chronic pain. Ketamine has shown to effectively alleviate pain itself, pain-related behaviour and symptoms of some psychiatric disorders. The off-label use of ketamine as analgesic treatment is increasingly popular and currently available at several pain centres. The aim of this presentation is to share the preliminary results of a study with patients with chronic pain referred to ketamine treatment at a hospital in the Netherlands. Sensitivity to physical pain and anxiety caused by persistent pain are assessed before and after ketamine infusion, giving a holistic frame of the pain experienced by each patient and also giving insight into the effects of ketamine on mood and pain.

**Thomas Hatsis**

*Friday 30th, 17:30, Osmond Auditorium*

**Demonizing The Psychedelic Sacred.**

During medieval times a certain kind of spiritual rite was practiced among village shamans in Western Europe. This practice involved using what we today would call “entheogens” and involved falling into a deep trance, meeting with fertility goddesses, and dispensing wisdom from beyond the veil back to the community. We today popularly call the entheogens used to achieve this form of worship a “witches’ ointment” or “flying ointment.” Around the early 1400s, Church authorities saw a problem with this kind of spirituality and demonized the experience as a trip to the Devil. In my talk, I unravel the journey these entheogenic ointments took to become the legendary “witches’ ointment” of popular imagination.

**Thomas Ray**

*Saturday 1st, 12:30, Osmond Auditorium*

**Mental Organs And The Breadth And Depth Of Consciousness.**

Synthesis of molecular affinity with subjective experience data for twenty-two psychedelic drugs suggests: Selective serotonin agonists are not psychedelic in any conventional sense. Modulatory receptors define “mental organs” (populations of neurons expressing a specific receptor). Various specific psychedelic subjective effects emerge from various mental organs. The psychedelic mechanism of 5-HT<sub>2</sub> is that it holds other mental organs in consciousness. The conscious space is provided by 5-HT<sub>7</sub>. 5-HT<sub>2</sub> gives shape to consciousness, in part by holding content mental organs in consciousness. The ego is lost when 5-HT<sub>2</sub> lacks the strength to shape 5-HT<sub>7</sub>. Consciousness expands in breadth when 5-HT<sub>2</sub> brings more mental organs into consciousness; and in depth (resolution, subtlety, nuance, complexity, tangibility, vividness, and capacity; to render thought, feelings, and sensory input) when 5-HT<sub>7</sub> is increasingly activated. Increase of depth is responsible for the most dramatic effects of psychedelic drugs: open-eyed creative visuals, ego-loss, and loss of contact with reality.

**Tim Hardwick**

*Friday 30th, 14:30, Eisner’s Entrance Hall*

**Plato’s Scar: Essentialist Tendencies In Psychedelic Studies.**

The aim of this talk is to give a broad overview of a range of essentialist or ‘platonizing’ tendencies exhibited across the full breadth of psychedelic disciplines, including not only new age/spiritual, theological and philosophical interpretations, but also clinical approaches. The assumptions and potential problems implicit in such essentialist tendencies can be borne out by exposing: the logical impossibility of relating binary oppositions (mind/world, intelligible/sensible, etc); the fallacy of ‘objective’ knowledge; the illusion of causal powers; and the illusion of absolute agency. Solutions to overcoming platonism include: exposing the contingent nature of substance-property categories; rejecting Cartesianism and other dualist approaches (including the Kantian distinction between noumena and phenomena); examining the way in which the embodied aspects of language, and in particular speech acts, tend to be either attenuated or rendered absolute in subjective reports of psychedelic experiences; and considering neutral monist approaches to the problem of consciousness.

**Tim Read**

*Saturday 1st, 16:00, Eisner’s Entrance Hall*

**Bringing Home The Golden Goose.**

Integration is crucial to maximise psycho-spiritual progress when we intentionally enter expanded states of consciousness. Our ego structures can become profoundly altered and enriched, but the extraordinary power of the experience can also be disintegrative if this process does not go well. I will outline the development of integrative practices developed by Grof firstly in LSD psychotherapy and secondly in holotropic breathwork. I will describe in detail the structure, shape and content of the integrative practices in holotropic breathwork retreats, where the setting is designed towards optimal integration. There are some complex mental states arising out of the psychedelic experience that are particularly difficult to manage. I will discuss some strategies with reference to peak experiences, the dark night of the soul, ego death and visits behind the veil.

## PRESENTER ABSTRACTS

**Timo Torsten Schmidt**

*Saturday 1st, 12:00, Osmond Auditorium*

**Phenomenoconnectomics: The Study Of Brain Connectivity In Relation To The Phenomenology Of Altered States Of Consciousness.**

‘Phenomenoconnectomics’ is a meta-analytic approach to relate subjective experiences of altered states of consciousness (ASC) to modulations of brain connectivity. It builds on the assumption that similar experiences rely on similar neuronal processes. The joint study of diversely induced ASCs in recent resting-state fMRI studies requires, however, common standards in the assessment of ASC experiences. Besides pharmacological studies numerous other induction methods for ASCs are under investigation (e.g. sensory deprivation- or breathing-techniques). Phenomenoconnectomics aims to derive statements such as: “When a person experience X, the brain network Y exhibits the connectivity pattern Z, independent of how X was induced.” Here, I present tools to empirically quantify ASC experiences and introduce the Altered States Database ([www.asdb.info](http://www.asdb.info)) which comprises the currently available psychometric data on diversely induced ASC experiences.

**Tom Roberts**

*Saturday 1st, 14:30, Sabina Stage*

**Mindapps — Neuro-Based Artificial Intelligence And Mind Design.**

Just as we can write apps for digital devices, we can invent mindapps for our mind-brain complex. Installing them (both psychedelic and nonpsychedelic) increases our repertoire of mental abilities, thus increasing intelligence. As an “ideagen,” mindapps produces Multistate Theory, which (1) identifies the singlestate fallacy, (2) replaces “state of consciousness” with “mindbody state,” (3) blows the roof off the social sciences and humanities by asking the Central Multistate Question, “How does/do \_\_\_\_\_ vary from mindbody state to mindbody state?” We will highlight samples from science, the humanities, social sciences, philosophy, and cognitive enhancement. Can mindapps be combined into new recipes that invent previously unknown mindbody states — ones that have never existed before? Might they contain rare and/or previously undiscovered human abilities that reside in those states? Multistate Theory provides the greatest intellectual opportunities of our time and seeds a new kind of artificial intelligence — Neuro AI.

**Torsten Passie**

*Sunday 2nd, 15:00, Sabina Stage*

**The Psychedelic Effects Of Ketamine: Critical Perspectives On Their Nature, Merits And Spiritual Potential.**

The author’s experience with ketamine spans more than 20 years. He has conducted double-blind clinical studies and studied the available literature on its psychological and therapeutic effects. Based on this, the lecture will provide an overview on the subjective effects of ketamine and different ways of using it. This includes side- and after-effects as well as advice for an “optimal” use. The lecture will provide perspectives on the following questions:

- What are the features of ketamine’s subjective effects?
- What is the incidence of psychedelic experiences with ketamine?
- What are the specifics of ketamine-induced psychedelic experiences?
- Are there “dysfunctional” aspects of psychedelic experiences with ketamine?
- Is there any spiritual value of ketamine psychedelic experiences?
- What are the experiential similarities and differences to other psychedelics?
- Are there similarities to the near death experience?
- What can be viewed as ketamine’s therapeutic potential?

**Trevor Wren**

*Saturday 1st, 12:00, Hofmann Hall*

**Community Learning & Research: A Holistic Participatory Approach.**

This presentation will report on a project to identify and research the interests, experiences and wishes of the psychedelic community itself. The project considers the BC community as a dispersed collective, with members having shared interests, values, understanding, views, directions and aims, with expertise, experience and influence in psychedelic consciousness that can be tapped and shared. Researchers and the wider community will suggest topics and questions of personal interest that are answerable by the wider community itself. These interests will then be categorised into sub-themes, topics and questions for wider engagement in an overview mixed survey. The community then surveys itself, to ask itself these questions, which then generates a collective view with levels of support to then identify collective priorities.

## Trevor Wren

*Sunday 2nd, 15:30, Wasson Workshops*

### Community Learning And Altered States: Two Group Consultations.

I am presenting and launching the new Breaking Convention project 'Community Learning and Participatory Research' (within Qualitative Analysis, Sat 12.00-12.30). The launch (Saturday talk) will give an overview of our project and the pilot findings, whereas this consultation (Sunday workshop) will focus upon your views and interests, and the next pilot study to engage our community in shared learning beyond the conference. The Consultation is structured in two sections (come to either or both as you wish):

- Community Learning and Participatory Research in general (15.30-16.00)
- Altered State Experience and Understanding in particular (16.00-16.30)

Your interest, ideas and involvement would be greatly appreciated.

Some of my professional and academic methods work informing this project can be found on:

- (1) Professional: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/trevorwren>
- (2) Academic: <https://independent.academia.edu/trevorwren>

## Wendy Kline

*Sunday 2nd, 12:00, Sabina Stage*

### Making The Invisible Visible: The Unexpected Entanglements Of Psychiatry, Midwifery And Psychedelics.

On November 13, 1956, Czech psychiatrist Stan Grof swallowed 150 micrograms of LSD as a research volunteer. Within a few hours, his entire conception about the human psyche and the role of psychoanalysis was turned upside down. Over the next fifteen years, Grof established himself as the world's foremost researcher of psychedelics, conducting over 2000 psychedelic sessions first at the Maryland Psychiatric Research Institute and then at the Esalen Institute in CA. Grof observed "astounding parallels" between psychedelic experiences and the clinical stages of delivery, believing that the common denominator between the two was the trauma of birth. He proposed a "new cartography of the human psyche" grounded in this observation, calling it the Basic Perinatal Matrices (BPM.) Despite the fact that Psychologist Abraham Maslow declared Grof's framework "the most important contribution to personality theory in several decades," its influence has been largely ignored by medical historians.

## William Rowlandson

*Friday 30th, 15:00, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

### Image, Imagination And The Imaginal.

The word Imaginal was coined by Frederic Myers in the late 19th century to designate the interplay of matter and mind in the psychic phenomena he investigated. The term took on new meaning with Henry Corbin's exploration of Swedenborg and Sufi mysticism to illustrate the intermediary world of visionary landscapes and spiritual encounters. Corbin was keen to distinguish the imaginal from the imaginary and from the imagination. A more recent scholar, Jeffrey Kripal, has stated simply 'The imaginal is the imagination on steroids.' In this presentation and with reference to Myers, Jung, Corbin, James Hillman, Borges and Kripal, I consider the distinction between imagination and imaginal, suggesting that the old debates about the reality of the visionary realm, the autonomy of entities encountered and their ontological status may be approached through the intermediary nature of the imaginal: both real and not-real, intrinsic and extrinsic, dreamer and dreamed, fact and fiction.

*Saturday 1st, 09:30 - 11:00, Wasson Workshops*

### Shamanic Journeying.

William briefly covers the ancient story of the drum and its role in altered states of consciousness. There are no prerequisites, though a cushion or piece of clothing to rest the head whilst lying down is recommended, as is a set of eyeshades to enhance the inner vision. The workshop will feature two journeying sessions, with discussion and reflexion.

## Yuki and Laura

*Saturday 1st, 14:30 - 16:30 & 17:00 - 18:00, Cyberdelics (Reception)*

### Infinite Experiences.

Intertwining theatre, technology and play; Infinite Experience take you on an intimate journey down the rabbit hole to explore the depths of your internal world. Through the exploration of the identity illusion, we collectively seek out the radical shift in understanding about our connection to the rest of the universe. Each participant enters the space alone, creating their own unique journey with the artists.

## PSYCHEDELICS IN GENERAL MEDICINE

Chair: Dave King

09:30	<b>Dying To Live</b> Sam Gandy
10:00	<b>Ketamine For Chronic Pain: A Holistic Study</b> Tharcila Chaves
10:30	<b>Mainstreaming Psychedelics: LSD For Intensive Care Doctors?</b> Andrea Zeuch
11:00	BREAK

## COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Chair: Dave King

11:30	<b>The Impact Of LSD On Synaesthesia And Time Perception</b> Devin B. Terhune
12:00	<b>Mdma Administration Produces Context-Specific Alterations To Social Decision-Making</b> Anthony Gabay
12:30	<b>The Comparison Of Reversal Learning Under The Influence Of Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD), Methylphenidate (MPH) And Mindfulness</b> Ahnjili ZhuParris
13:00	LUNCH

## PRIZE WINNERS: SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

Chair: Cameron Adams

14:30	<b>Aldous Huxley's New Romanticisms: Reading Blake And Wordsworth After Mescaline</b> Nese Devenot
15:00	<b>Cognitive Dispossession: Entheogens, Ecofeminism &amp; Neuroqueering Drug Policy</b> Nadia Erlam
15:30	<b>'Unprofessional'...'Irrelevant'...'Fascinating': A Story Of Academia And Psychedelic Pride</b> Lindsay Jordan
16:00	<b>Psilocybin-Assisted Treatment For Alcohol Dependence: A Proof-Of-Concept Study</b> Michael Bogenschutz
16:30	BREAK

## PRIZE WINNERS: SCIENCE

Chair: Cameron Adams

17:00	<b>Neural Correlates Of The LSD Experience Revealed By Multimodal Neuroimaging</b> Robin Carhart-Harris
17:30	PANEL SESSION

Chair: Ben Sessa & Don Lattin

18:15	<b>Book Launch</b> Ben Sessa & Don Lattin
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## NON DRUG STATES: MIND &amp; MACHINE

Chair: Carl H. Smith

09:30	<b>Revelations By Flicker, Dreamachines And Electroencephalographic Signals In Art: How Did Ordinary Tools In The Neurophysiology Department Become Means For Spiritual Enlightenment?</b> Lucianna Haill
10:00	<b>Therapeutic Induction of Altered States of Consciousness: Investigation of 1-20Hz De-Synchronization Neurofeedback</b> Heather Hargraves
10:30	<b>What Are The Boundaries And Application Areas Of Perceptual Technologies To Create Non-Drug Altered States Of Consciousness (ASCs)?</b> Carl H. Smith
11:00	BREAK

## NON DRUG STATES: DREAMS &amp; DARKNESS

Chair: William Rowlandson

11:30	<b>To Sleep, Perchance To Trip: Is Dreaming A Psychedelic Experience?</b> Josie Malinowski
12:00	<b>Dream Tripping: exploring consciousness through dreams</b> Jennifer Dumpert
12:30	<b>The Ancient Practice Of Dark Retreat Meditation: An Endogenous Psychedelic And Divine Feminine Encounter. Implications From Transpersonal Theory, Research, And Practice</b> Regina U. Hess
13:00	LUNCH

## KEEPING IT WEIRD

Chair: David Luke

14:30	<b>Psychedelic Ceremony: A User's Guide</b> Julian Vayne
15:00	<b>The Witches' Garden</b> Karen Lawton & Fiona Heckles
15:30	<b>Egalitarianism And The Age Before The Shaman</b> Bruce Parry
16:00	<b>The Southwark Mysteries: A Psychedelic Magical Praxis</b> John "Crow" Constable
16:30	BREAK
17:00	<b>Psychedelic Experience And Morphic Resonance</b> Rupert Sheldrake
17:30	PANEL SESSION

## PSYCHEDELIC STORIES

Chair: Mike Margolies

18:00	Open Mic Session With Psymposia
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## PLANT MEDICINES

Chair: Danny Nemu

09:30	<b>Changa's Alchemy</b> Giorgia Gaia
10:00	<b>Changa As A Tool</b> Julian Palmer
10:30	<b>The Therapeutic Potential Of Ayahuasca For People With Bipolar Disorder</b> Benjamin Mudge
11:00	BREAK
Chair: Darren Springer	
11:30	<b>Ayahuasca Tourism: Behind The Headlines</b> Emily Sinclair
12:00	<b>Ayahuasca And Creative Thinking</b> Kim Kuypers
12:30	<b>Exploring Ayahuasca Practices And Participant Reported Effects</b> Daniel Perkins
13:00	LUNCH

## HISTORY OF DRUGS

Chair: Mike Jay

14:30	<b>Psychedelic Culture In Ibiza Since The 1960S</b> Helen Donlon
15:00	<b>Drugs And Counterculture In Brazil In The 1960S And 1970S</b> Julio Delmonte
15:30	<b>How Acid Caused Postmodernism (Or Didn't)</b> Eli Lee & Nina Lyon
16:00	<b>Psychedelics And Delirants In 60'S Czechoslovakia</b> Rita Kocarova
16:30	BREAK
Chair: Rob Dickens	
17:00	<b>Soma, Haoma And Ayahuasca (Part 3)</b> Matthew Clark
17:30	<b>Demonizing The Psychedelic Sacred</b> Thomas Hatsis
18:00	<b>The Joint Show: When Psychedelic Art Was Experienced</b> Michael Montagne
18:30	<b>Dilating Designs: Time And Space In Late 1960S Psychedelic Cinema</b> Mark Broughton & Sophia Satchell Baeza
19:00	<b>PERFORMANCE: 8 Gates (&amp; 9 Worlds)</b> Orryelle Defenestrade-Bascule



## PHILOSOPHY &amp; MYSTICISM

Chair: Peter Sjostedt-Hughes

09:30	<b>Breaking Down Consciousness: Hints For A Conceptual Clarification Of The Notion Of "Altered States" From Psychedelics Studies</b> Alessio Bucci
10:00	<b>Theoretical Models Of Psychedelic Drug Effects</b> Link Swanson
10:30	<b>The Epistemic Innocence Of Psychedelic States</b> Chris Letheby
11:00	<b>BREAK</b>
11:30	<b>Can The World-Spirit Weep? Ecclesial Warnings To A Tearful Zeitgeist</b> Mark Juhan Schunemann
12:00	<b>From Vedanta To Subjective Idealism: The Philosophy Of Consciousness As Fundamental Reality</b> Peter B. Lloyd
12:30	<b>"Are You Experienced?" - Developing Ethics And Personal Integrity In Drug Use</b> Henrik Jungaberle
13:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
Chair: Will Rowlandson	
15:00	<b>Image, Imagination And The Imaginal</b> William Rowlandson
14:30	<b>Plato's Scar: Essentialist Tendencies In Psychedelic Studies</b> Tim Hardwick
15:30	<b>Priests And Shamans: What Psychotherapy Can Learn From Nietzsche And Psychedelics</b> Niklas Serning
16:00	<b>'Psychic Spies From Gaia' – Magic Mushrooms, Nature And The New Animism</b> Andy Letcher (Skype)
16:30	<b>Break</b>
17:00	<b>The Challenge Of Psychedelics To The Problem Of Illusion</b> Bernhard Kelly-Patterson
17:30	<b>Are You Having A Laugh?: Humour And The Psychedelic Experience</b> Oli Genn-Bash
17:40	<b>A Psychedelic Take On Work And Identity In An Age Of Big Data And Smart Algorithms</b> Ian Kenway
18:00	<b>Psychedelics And Philosophy</b> Roland Leonard Gibson

## QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Chair: Cameron Adams

09:30	<b>Aldous Huxley's New Romanticisms: Reading Blake And Wordsworth After Mescaline</b> Nese Devenot
10:00	<b>Power, Exploitation And Submission In A South American Psychedelic Cult</b> Elizabeth Joyce
10:30	<b>Numbers And Knowledge: Science, Psychedelics, &amp; The Limits Of Quantitative Research</b> Ken Tupper
11:00	<b>Break</b>
11:30	<b>Using Qualitative Methods To Investigate Amazonian Shamanism In Britain.</b> Kerry Rowberry
12:00	<b>Community Learning &amp; Research: A Holistic Participatory Approach</b> Trevor Wren
12:30	<b>PANEL SESSION</b>
13:00	<b>LUNCH - GROUP PHOTO</b>

## DIVERSITY IN PSYCHEDELIA

Chair: Aimée Tollan

14:30	<b>Racial-Delic</b> Darren Springer
15:00	<b>The Lack Of Diversity In The Psychedelic Community</b> Kilindi Iyi
15:30	<b>Cognitive Dispossession: Entheogens, Ecofeminism &amp; Neuroqueering Drug Policy</b> Nadia-Rei Erlam
16:00	<b>The Decolonisation Of Psychedelics</b> Keke Maddy
16:30	<b>Break</b>
17:00	<b>We Have The Right Not To Change Things": Ayahuasca Traditions And Modernity</b> Jeronimo M. M.
17:30	<b>PANEL SESSION</b>

## BREAKING CONVENTION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chair: Ben Sessa

18:00	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>
18:15	<b>BREAKING CONVENTION MEMBERS</b>

## GETTING WEIRDER

Chair: David Luke

09:30	<b>Wyrd Times: Do Psychedelic Substances Help Us Scry For A Better Tomorrow?</b> Nikki Wyrd
10:00	<b>High Speech</b> Eric Maddern
10:30	<b>The Experiment At La Chorrera: Psychotic Break, Shamanic Initiation, Or Alien Encounter?</b> Dennis Mckenna
11:00	Break
11:30	<b>Envisioning A Psychedelic Future</b> Daniel Pinchbeck
12:00	<b>The Weirdness Of Being</b> Erik Davis
12:30	PANEL SESSION
13:00	LUNCH - GROUP PHOTO

## PSYCHEDELICUS HISTORICUS

Chair: Ben Sessa

14:30	<b>Mindapps — Neuro-Based Artificial Intelligence And Mind Design</b> Tom Roberts
15:00	<b>Is Psychotherapy An Essential Component Of Psychedelic/Psycholytic Therapy?</b> Friederike Meckel-Fischer
15:30	<b>What The CIA Can Teach Us About LSD</b> Martin A. Lee
16:00	<b>Sacred Knowledge: Just Because You're Mortal Is No Reason To Be Depressed</b> Bill Richards
16:30	Break
17:00	<b>Creative Problem-Solving: High Doses Then, Microdoses Now</b> Jim Fadiman (Skype)
17:30	PANEL SESSION

## PSYCHEDELIC STORIES

Chair: Mike Margolies

18:00	Open Mic Session With Pysymposia
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## NEUROSCIENCE

Chair: Robin Carhart-Harris

09:30	<b>Psilocybin Enhances Mindfulness-Related Capabilities In A Meditation Retreat Setting</b> Milan Scheidegger
10:00	<b>Increased Amygdala Reactivity And Symptom Improvement After Psilocybin Treatment For Depression</b> Leor Roseman
10:30	<b>Dynamic Transitions Of Consciousness: An EEG Study Using DMT</b> Chris Timmerman
11:00	Break
Chair: Luke Williams	
11:30	<b>The Antidepressant Effect Of Psychedelics And The Role Of Neuroplasticity</b> Filip Tyls
12:00	<b>Phenomenoconnectomics: The Study Of Brain Connectivity In Relation To The Phenomenology Of Altered States Of Consciousness</b> Timo Torsten Schmidt
12:30	<b>Mental Organs And The Breadth And Depth Of Consciousness</b> Thomas Ray
13:00	LUNCH - GROUP PHOTO

## LITERATURE

Chair: Nese Devenot

14:30	<b>The Feeling &amp; The Field: Psychedelic Analogic &amp; The Poetics Of Experience.</b> Samuel J. Ross
15:00	<b>The Spider: Harry Fainlight's Psychedelic Poesy</b> Rob Dickens
15:30	<b>(Verbing The Nouns And Nouning The Vedantics): Aldous Huxley's Psychedelic Semantics</b> Reanne Crane
16:00	<b>Music At Night: Drugs, Death, And The Dimensions Of Time In Aldous Huxley And J.b. Priestley</b> Luke Dodson
16:30	Break
Chair: Robert Dickens	
17:00	<b>Ginsberg, Blake And Wordsworth: Romantic Poetry And Psychedelic Consciousness</b> Luke Walker
17:30	<b>Opposition Is True Friendship': Blake's Transcendent Consciousness And The 'Doctrine Of Contraries'</b> George Erving
18:00	<b>Telling Psychedelic Stories</b> Don Lattin
18:30	<b>On The Rose Of Paracelsus</b> Simon Tysko

## PSYCHIATRY &amp; CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Chair: James Rucker

09:30	<b>Can MDMA Facilitate Treatment Of Borderline Personality Disorder?</b> Monika Wieliczko
10:00	<b>Patient Reports Of Increased 'Connection' After Psilocybin For Treatment-Resistant Depression</b> Rosalind Watts
10:30	<b>Characterization Of Mystical Experiences Occasioned By 5-MeO-DMT-Containing Toad Bufotoxin And Comparison With Prior Psilocybin Studies</b> Rafael Lancelotta

11:00 BREAK

## IBOGAINE

Chair: James Rucker

11:30	<b>The Role Of Ibogaine In The Treatment Of Substance Abuse</b> Anwar Jeewa
12:00	<b>A Novel Approach To Detoxification From Methadone With Ibogaine</b> Clare S. Wilkins
12:30	<b>Mechanism Of Nerve Growth Factor GDNF Elucidates Ibogaine's Persistence And Immune Modulatory Effects</b> Dana Beal

13:00 LUNCH - GROUP PHOTO

## PSYCHIATRY &amp; CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Chair: David Luke

14:30	<b>PERFORMANCE: KIMATICA</b>
15:00	<b>Entheogenic Integration And The Transcendent Function</b> Maria Papaspyrou
15:30	<b>Encounter With The Jaguar – Processing And Integrating The Aftermath</b> Christa Mckinnon
16:00	<b>Bringing Home The Golden Goose</b> Tim Read
16:30	Break

Chair: Julie Holland

17:00	<b>The Functions Of Music In Psychedelic Therapy</b> Mendel Kaelen
17:30	<b>Effects Of Holotropic Breathwork In Levels Of Distress, Meaning Of Life, Death Anxiety And Personal Orientation: A Pilot Study</b> Iker Puente
18:00	<b>Innovations And Lessons Learned At Ciis: Pioneering The First Accredited Program In Psychedelic Therapy</b> Janis Phelps (Lessons From CIIS)
18:30	<b>Psychedelic Medicine In The USA</b> Richard L. Miller

## THE HYPERDIMENSIONAL VILLAGE: PAN-AFRICAN SESSION

Chair: Darren Springer

09:30	<b>Hyperdimensional Biochemistry</b> Kt The Arch Degree
10:00	<b>To Walk The Walk: The Path Of Initiatory Practice</b> Moudou Baqui
10:30	<b>The Search For Infra Particle Intelligence</b> Kilindi Iyi
11:00	BREAK

## WOMEN &amp; ENTHEOGENS: A PAN-AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

Chair: Darren Springer

11:30	<b>Women &amp; Entheogenic Healing</b> Omolewa
12:00	<b>Exploring With Your Children</b> Spirit Traveler
12:30	<b>Modern Day Witches, Women &amp; Entheogens</b> Ayana Iyi
13:00	LUNCH - GROUP PHOTO

## ART &amp; MUSIC

Chair: Stuart Griggs

14:30	<b>An Exploration Into Art, Mysticism And Altered States.</b> Emma Watkinson
15:00	<b>They Shimmer Within: A Cognitive-Evolutionary Approach To Visionary Beings</b> Bruce Rimell
15:30	<b>Psychedelic Substances And The Composition, Perception And/Or Appreciation Of Music</b> Alain Pire
16:00	<b>What Is Psychedelic Music?</b> Gemma Farrell
16:30	BREAK

## INDEPENDENT DMT RESEARCH

Chair: David Luke

17:00	<b>Investigation Of Occult Realities Using The Spirit Molecule</b> Dick Khan
17:30	<b>Extended-Contact-With-N-N-Dimethyltryptamine-Induced-Hyperspatial-Entities</b> Mark Agacan

## DMT IN THE BRAIN

Chair: Dave King

09:30	<b>The Pineal Enigma: The Dazzling Life And Times Of The “DMT Gland”</b> Graham St John
10:00	<b>Endogenous Synthesis Of Dimethyltryptamine In Mammalian Brain</b> Jimo Borjigin
10:30	<b>Toward The Physiology Of Dimethyltryptamine: Its Role In Ischemia-Reperfusion</b> Ede Frecska
11:00	Break
11:30	<b>DMT And The Pineal Gland: Facts vs Fantasy</b> David Nichols
12:00	<b>Is DMT A Neurotransmitter For The Gaian Brain?</b> Dennis Mckenna
12:30	PANEL SESSION
13:00	LUNCH

## DRUG POLICY DISCUSSION

Chair: Aimee Tollan

14:30	<b>Chasing The Scream</b> Johann Hari
15:00	<b>Pragmatism &amp; Innovation: Our Most Important Tools For Drug Policy Progress</b> Henry Fisher
15:30	<b>It Was Never About The Drugs</b> Suzanne Sharkey
16:00	<b>Drug Testing &amp; Harm Reduction</b> Guy Jones
16:30	BREAK
17:30	PANEL SESSION

Chair: David Luke

18:00	<b>Dave's Book Launch</b> David Luke plus Guests
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## BRIDGING WORLDS: PSYCHOACTIVES IN HISTORY

Chair: Robert Dickins

09:30	<b>The Psychedelic Magick Of Aleister Crowley</b> Patrick Everitt
10:00	<b>Getting High With The Most High: Drugs In The Bible</b> Danny Nemu
10:30	<b>Operation Julie</b> Andy Roberts
11:00	Break
11:30	<b>From Peyote To Mescaline: The Birth Of Psychedelic Science</b> Mike Jay
12:00	<b>Making The Invisible Visible: The Unexpected Entanglements Of Psychiatry, Midwifery And Psychedelics</b> Wendy Kline
12:30	PANEL SESSION
13:00	LUNCH

## CLINICAL RESEARCH &amp; BEYOND

Chair: Ben Sessa

14:30	<b>Ketamine As A Treatment For Alcohol Use Disorder</b> Celia Morgan
15:00	<b>The Psychedelic Effects Of Ketamine: Critical Perspectives On Their Nature, Merits And Spiritual Potential</b> Torsten Passie
15:30	<b>Psychedelic Mechanisms: The Central Importance Of Psychological And Neurobiological Connectedness</b> Robin Carhart-Harris
16:00	<b>Psychedelic Psychiatrists Discuss Their Work.</b> Julie Holland & Ben Sessa
16:30	Break
17:00	<b>Latest Developments In Psychedelic Science From MAPS</b> Rick Doblin
17:30	PANEL SESSION



## PLATES, DEBATES &amp; ALTERED STATES

Chair: Maria Papaspyrou

09:30	<b>Psychedelics, Other Worlds And Quantum Physics</b> Helle Kaasik
10:00	<b>High Cuisine - The Psycho-Gastronomy Of Exotic Herbs</b> Jules Marshall
10:30	<b>Ecodeia: Towards A Transpersonal Ecopsychology Through Psychedelics</b> David Luke
11:00	BREAK

## NEW PARADIGMS

Chair: Monika Wieliczko

11:30	<b>MDMA Therapy: A Child Psychiatrist's Perspective</b> Ben Sessa
12:00	<b>Psychedelomancy: Controlled Experiments In Psychedelic Precognition</b> David Luke
12:30	<b>Microdosing As A Tool For Psychedelic Normalization</b> Paul Austin
13:00	LUNCH

## PLANT MEDICINES 2

Chair: Danny Nemu

14:30	<b>A Path Well Trod ? The Journey Self-Regulation And Societal Acceptance</b> Ben Christie
15:00	<b>Cannabis As Companion Species</b> Julyan Levy
15:30	<b>Psilocybin-Assisted Treatment For Alcohol Dependence: A Proof-Of-Concept Study</b> Michael Bogenschutz
16:00	<b>Saving The Peyote: The Vision Of The Wixaritari (Huichol) People</b> Marakame Don Pancho Lopez
16:30	BREAK

Chair: Matthew Clark

17:00	<b>Matthew's Book Launch</b> Matthew Clark
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## LAW, POLITICS &amp; SOCIETY

Chair: Charlotte Walsh

09:30	<b>Psychedelics, Self-Creation, And Article 8 Of The European Convention On Human Rights</b> Charlotte Walsh
10:00	<b>Human Rights, Politics And Power: The Case Of The Uk's Cannabis Social Club Movement</b> Melissa Bone
10:30	<b>Navigating Psychedelic Medicines Through National And International Regulation</b> Jonathan Nash
11:00	Break
11:30	<b>From Apathy To Activism: Understanding Drug Takers Perspectives On The Law And Policy</b> Rebecca Askew
12:00	<b>The Origins Of The Criminalization Of Marijuana Use In México</b> José Domingo Schievenini Stefanoni
12:30	<b>Medical Marijuana In Jamaica</b> Simon Jones
13:00	Lunch

Chair: Alexander Beiner

14:30	<b>The Role Of Psychedelics In A Post-Truth World</b> Alexander Beiner
15:00	<b>Broadening Our Definitions Of Normalcy And Sanity: Crafting Alliances For Cognitive Liberty, Neurodiversity, And Non-Pathologizing Approaches To Mental Health</b> Adam A. Aronovich
15:30	<b>Reclaiming The Political Spirit Of Psychedelics</b> Giulio Sica
16:00	<b>They're Making My Drugs All Scientific': How The Law, Markets And Science Shape The Cannabis Experience And Alter The Rights Of Drug Users</b> Jonathan Newman
16:30	BREAK

## ACTIVISM &amp; SOCIAL CHANGE

Chair: Karin Silenzi de Stagni

17:00	<b>PERFORMANCE: KIMATICA</b>
17:30	<b>Deep Cognitive Tools For Transformational Healthcare</b> Davor Kosanic
18:00	<b>Caring For Psycho-Spiritual Crises: A Vision For A Holistic Center For Psychedelic Emergence</b> Karin Silenzi De Stagni
18:30	<b>How We Massively Messed Up Whilst Trying To Talk To Universities About Student Drug Use...</b> Drugs & Me

## INSTALLATIONS

### Symbiosis

#### *Art Exhibition (Ground Floor, East Stairwell)*

Symbiosis is an immersive interactive installation that visualises breathing in light. Using pressure sensor technology the participant's breathing is measured and visualised in LED light strips, inside a custom inflatable dome. Merging technology with art, Symbiosis is an organic experience that connects people to each other and themselves, through bringing awareness to the breath. The experience instills beneficial diaphragm breathing, and creates another form of communication, beyond language and inhibitions. Symbiosis is a form of public intervention, it asks people to be present, in being, breathing. Through mutual willingness to connect, the participants create the artwork together, as it grows through symbiotic action. Having the capacity of about 6 people, the LED filled inflatable dome is an immersive magical environment that people can walk into. Every seat is equipped with a pressure sensor cushion in the lower back, while also supporting the posture, it will pick up the skeletal/muscle movement during breathing. The participants are encouraged to use beneficial deep diaphragm breathing. Each participant will see their breath visualised in LED light moving to the top of the dome. When participants synchronise their breathing, the inner walls of the structure breathe as one organism, and the lights sparkle and light up more strongly. A gentle soundscape will guide the breathing to be the rhythm of 4 count inhale 6 count exhale, which is basic pranayama.

### Lucia Hypnagogic Light Machine

#### *Third Floor, East Stairwell (Outside Osmond)*

Neurologist and psychologist Dr. Dirk Proeckl and clinical psychologist and psychotherapist Dr. Engelbert Winkler are the creators of the Lucia N°03 hypnagogic light machine. The Lucia N°03 is a hypnagogic light machine that uses pulsed, colourless LED and halogen lights in adjustable frequencies and intensities to provide a deep nervous system relaxation while simultaneously providing a unique transcendental experience. Unlike traditional meditation, the Lucia N°03 is instantly accessible.

In this workshop they will share their experiences and give an overview of their work over the last eight years, focusing on their current research into Heliotropic Breathwork, an exercise that combines use of the Lucia N°03 in conjunction with specific breathing exercises.

Heliotropic breathwork was developed by Dr. Winkler in a therapeutic context through his research into the correlation between light, breathing and consciousness. It is comprised of a two-phase breathing technique based on alternating deep breathing, alongside phases of holding the breath, while using the Lucia N°03. Proeckl and Winkler have shown that this innovative combination can induce a state of deep relaxation, increased focus and creativity, opening a pathway to a transcendental psychedelic experience.

### Study of the Soul's Molecule IV (By Lady Gonzalez)

#### *The Sand Pit*

My practise draws on the collecting, ordering and the re-contextualisation of found objects and the 'world of things' that surround us. By mixing and incorporating this into my mixed-media art pieces I intend to create new narratives. It is through fable that I aim to extract the transcendent and express the profound relationship between the sacred and the profane. I am fascinated by the human need to tell stories in order to understand the world, to explain and classify our surroundings despite the desire for the world to preserve its mystery. As well as mixed-media pieces I investigate these ideas through performance and video work.

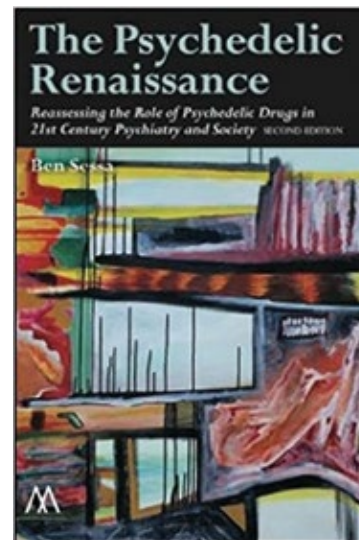
## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Book Launch - The Psychedelic Renaissance, Ben Sessa & Changing Our Minds, Don Lattin

*Friday 30th, 18:00, Hofmann Hall*

In 2012 Dr Ben Sessa, consultant child and adolescent and addictions psychiatrist, published *The Psychedelic Renaissance*. The book, which is the only one of its kind, not only describes the history and cultural aspects of psychedelic drugs, but also, uniquely, described in detail all of the on-going psychedelic studies as part of today's contemporary renaissance in the field. The new, 2nd edition of *The Psychedelic Renaissance* contains loads of new content, with an overview of the myriad of new studies, research groups, international gathering and conferences that have happened since the 2012 edition of the book.

Over the past decade, the San Francisco-based journalist Don Lattin has researched, reported and written three books about the history and current prospects of psychedelic drug research. Meanwhile, English physician Ben Sessa has emerged as a leader in the psychedelic-assisted therapy movement in Britain and written a book on his own journey. Join Don, the author of *The Harvard Psychedelic Club*, *Distilled Spirits* and most recently *Changing Our Minds*, for a conversation with Ben, the author of *The Psychedelic Renaissance*, about the joys and challenges of chronicling the psychedelic experience. How does one put words to the ineffable? How does one decide how much their own story to put in these books? How does one reach outside the "psychedelic sciences" bubble and connect with a larger audience?



### Psychedelic Stories, with Symposia

*Friday 30th, 18:00 and Saturday 1st, 18:00 Sabina Stage*

Conference speakers and attendees share powerful stories of deep personal meaning that changed their lives in big ways. Several storytellers will be pre-arranged from the speaker list, and some open mic spots will be left for people inspired to share.

Symposia is an events group and digital magazine, that focuses on how the big emerging social issues of psychedelic science, drug reform, and harm reduction affect society, law, and medicine. Symposia creates collaborative projects that have positive social impact, network community, and change perceptions of plants, psychedelics, and psychoactives. Symposia organizes networking events, conferences, parties, fundraisers, and live streaming at lofts, universities, and venues across the United States and Europe.

### Breaking Convention Group Photo

*Saturday 1st, 13:00-13:30 (postponed until Sunday 13:00 in the event of bad weather)*

Please join us for the Breaking Convention group photo, just east of King William Court at the top of the stairs. Nearly a thousand attendees meet under the blazing sun (we hope) to hurl hats and gerberas upwards in psychedelic unison.

### Breaking Convention AGM

*Saturday 1st, 18:15, Hofmann Hall*

This year, Breaking Convention announces its new membership scheme, offering attendees and well-wishers a chance to become more actively involved in the development of the organisation. Please join us for our first ceremonial members' AGM, in which we will discuss the future of the charity as a group.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Book Launch – The Tawny One, Matthew Clark Sunday 2nd, 17:00, Osmond Auditorium

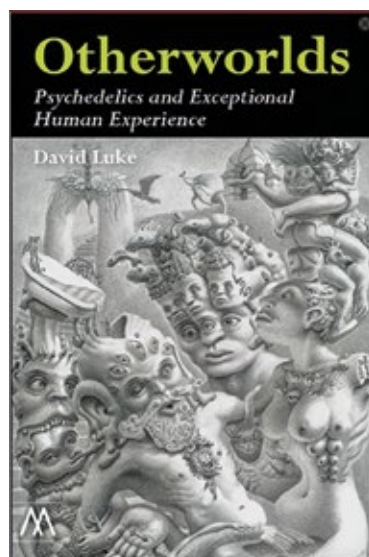
The identity of the plant known as soma in ancient India and as haoma in the Zoroastrian tradition has, for around 250 years, exercised the wits and imagination of scores of scholars. This plant is praised in the highest terms—as a kind of deity—in both Zoroastrian and Vedic texts that date from around 1,700–1,500 BCE. It is said to provide health, power, wisdom, and even immortality. It has been variously identified by researchers as a nonpsychoactive plant, as a medicine, as merely water, as 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. The author suggests that the ritual drink was based on analogues of ayahuasca, using a variety of plants, some of which he identifies in the book.



### Book Launch – Otherworlds: Psychedelics & Exceptional Human Experience, David Luke Sunday 2nd, 18:00, Hofmann Hall

Introduction by Dr Tim Read, Muswell Hill Press, followed by a short talk by Dr David Luke & guests.

A synthesis of scientific research on extraordinary experience occurring under the influence of psychedelics, from the fields of neuroscience, psychology, parapsychology, anthropology and transpersonal studies. A comprehensive exploration of chemically-mediated exceptional human experiences, including synaesthesia, extra-dimensional percepts, out-of-body experiences, near-death experiences, entity encounter experiences, alien abduction experience, sleep paralysis, inter-species communication, lycanthropy, possession, mediumship, clairvoyance, telepathy, and precognition.



### Closing Ceremony

Sunday 2nd, 19:00, on the lawn, in a state of perfect tranquillity despite the rock concert next door.

Closing Ceremony with Don Pancho Lopez and/or Don Juan Carillo, elder shamans of the Wixarika Nation.

## WASSON WORKSHOPS

ALL DAYS

### FRIDAY

09:30 - 11:00	<b>Conscious Movement</b> Einat Ran
11:30 - 13:00	<b>Psychedelic Meditation Based On TTI</b> Alexander Beiner
13:00 - 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 - 16:30	<b>Psyqi= Eight Circuit Qi Meditation</b> Sky G
17:00 - 18:00	<b>High Speech= Poetry, Prophecy and Prayer</b> Eric Maddern

### SATURDAY

09:30 - 11:00	<b>Shamanic Journeying</b> Will Rowlandson
11:30 - 13:00	<b>Maths For Psychonauts</b> Matthew Watkins
13:00 - 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 - 16:30	<b>Conscious Kink</b> Seani Love
17:00 - 18:00	<b>Meditation Qi Gong</b> Stuart Verity

### SUNDAY

09:30 - 11:00	<b>Firm Feet - Ecstatic Awakening Dance</b> Charlie Boyd
11:30 - 13:00	<b>Contextology Of Perceptual Hacking</b> Carl H Smith & Batuhan Bintas
13:00 - 14:30	LUNCH
15:30 - 16:30	<b>Community Learning And Altered States: Two Group Consultations</b> Trevor Wren
17:00 - 18:00	<b>Trance Dance</b> Rob Bennett

**For one day only, on Saturday in the Reception area, we have a technological timetable of VR installations to try:**

Saturday

09:30 - 11:00	<b>Cyber Mushroom</b> Batuhan Bintas and Christian Duka
11:30 - 13:00	<b>Virtual Awakening</b> Jose Montemayor
13:00 - 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 - 16:30	<b>Infinite Experience</b> Yuki and Laura
17:00 - 18:00	<b>Infinite Experience</b> Yuki and Laura

Friday 11.30 - 13.00



### **The Jungle Prescription**

Canada | 2011 | 45 min

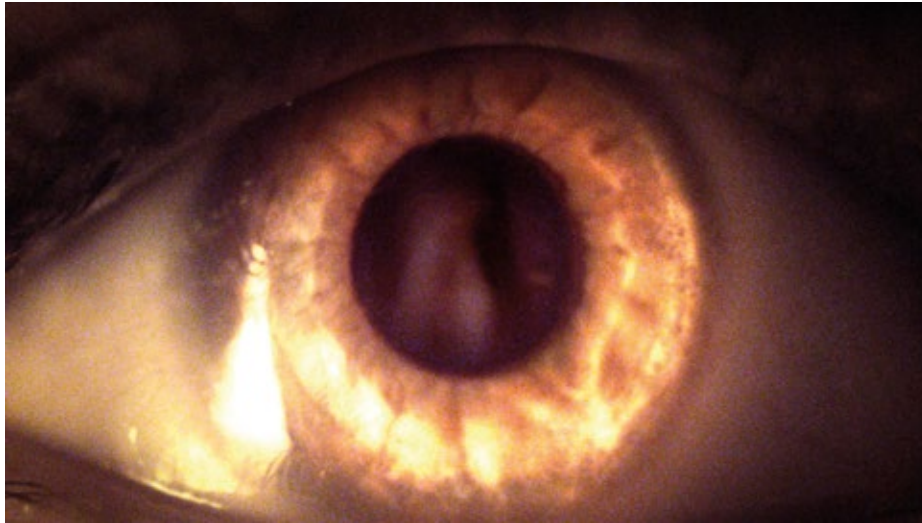
Dr. Gabor Maté's work with lifelong drug abusers has been courageous, but incredibly frustrating. When he hears of an ancient medicine beyond his imaginings: one that could provide his patients with a solution, it's the beginning of a powerful transformative journey. Deep in the Amazon jungle, French doctor Jacques Mabit is using Ayahuasca to treat hard-core addicts. Dr. Mate returns to Canada with a plan to treat patients struggling with various types of addiction using Ayahuasca. But with the law on his back and without a detox centre or support structure for his patients, will it work?

**Q&A with Producer Jeronimo Mazarrasa (TBC)**

**Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/23521647>



Friday 14.30 - 16.30



**The Sunshine Makers**

USA | 2016 | 101 min

The Sunshine Makers reveals the extraordinary story of Nicholas Sand (who's name is given to the room The Sand Pit to honour his recent death) and Tim Scully, the unlikely duo at the heart of the 1960s psychedelic revolution. United in a utopian mission to save the world through the consciousness-raising power of LSD, these underground chemists manufactured industrial quantities of Orange Sunshine - the most famous acid ever made.

**Presented by Hattie Wells, Beckley Foundation**

**Trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsvEIED0-00>

Friday 17.00 - 19.15



**Tawai: A voice from the forest**

UK | 2017 | 101 min

Tawai is the word the indigenous nomadic hunter-gatherers of Borneo use to describe their inner feeling of connection to nature. In this dreamy, philosophical and sociological look at life, explorer Bruce Parry travels the world learning from people living lives very differently from our own. Bruce questions what has happened to humankind since we stopped roaming and began to settle, since we stopped flowing with nature and began to shape it to our own needs. A quest for reconnection, this film provides a powerful voice from the heart of the forest itself.

**Q&A with Presenter Bruce Parry**

Sunday 11.30 - 13.00



**Ayahuasca in the UK**

UK | 2017 | 60 min

This film presents an intimate portrait of an Ayahuasca ceremony held in the UK. The group share their experiences candidly and the healing powers of the medicine lead to intense and revealing personal journeys. This special presentation is a work-in-progress screening for Breaking Convention with the director Paul Bloom.

**Q&A with Director Paul Bloom**

Sunday 14.30 - 16.30



**Yagé is Our Life**

UK | 2017 | 25 min

Indigenous groups living in the Putumayo region of Colombia have been using Yagé for the health, social cohesion and spiritual guidance of their communities for centuries. For them Yagé is sacred, offering access to ancient wisdom and the spirits of nature. In recent years Yagé, or Ayahuasca, has become increasingly well-known in Western society through both scientific studies and spiritual tourism. This film voices the views of indigenous leaders about the importance of Yagé as a living tradition in their communities, the threat of its commercialisation, and the pressures exerted on their homelands by the industrial world.

**Q&A with Directors Neil White & Lesly Vela**



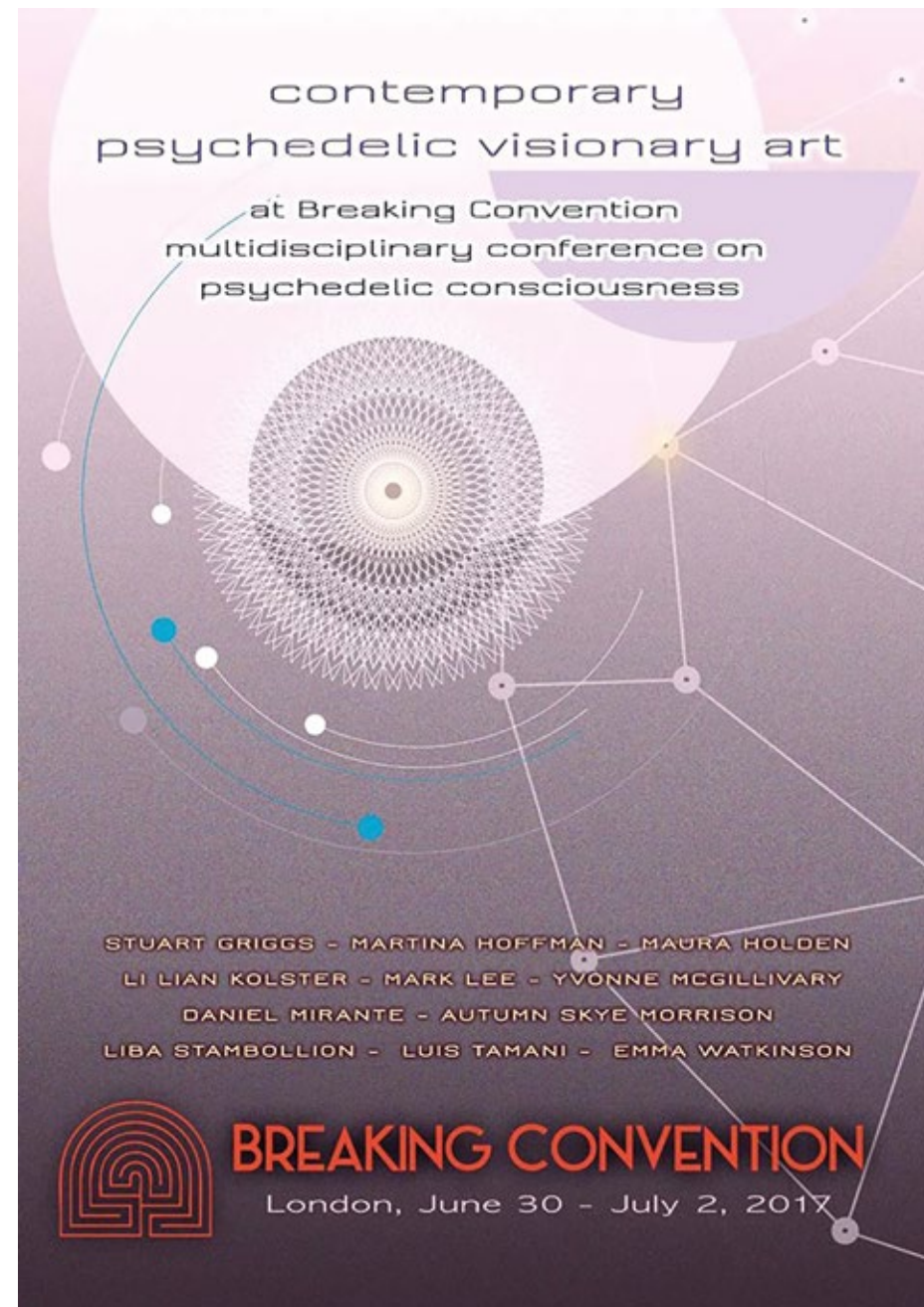
Sunday 17.00 - 18.30



**To Find Our Life: The Peyote Hunt of the Huichols of Mexico**  
USA | 1969 | 65 min

This 1960's ethnographic film documents the journey of the Huichol shaman Ramón Medina Silva as he leads a small band of pilgrims to gather the sacred peyote at Wirikúta, the home of Huichol ancestor deities. The ritual pilgrimage includes the blindfolding of first-time peyote pilgrims and their subsequent passage through a symbolic gateway, ceremonies at desert springs, curing rituals, the actual hunt of the cactus, the communal eating of the peyote, all-night ceremonies and the final ritual dissolving the bond of the peyote hunters. The narration is adapted from a text dictated by the shaman and the film has been widely acclaimed for its verity and sensitive treatment of the sacred pilgrimage.

**Q&A with Huichol Marakame (Shaman) Don Pancho Lopez**





## PERFORMANCES



**Kimatica**  
**Body Mapping 'Contemporary Ritual' Performance**  
*Saturday 1st, 14:30, Eisner's Entrance Hall*

Kimatica are a London based creative studio funded in 2012. Working at the intersection of the human body, performance and interactive technology, we create unique digital experiences that dissolve the boundaries between fantasy and reality. Our artistic practise explores concepts of human consciousness and perception, making those transcendental ideas accessible to a modern audience, to inspire reconnection with the magical thinking.

**Sara Zaltash**  
**Call to Prayer**  
*Time & place to be confirmed: see errata document*

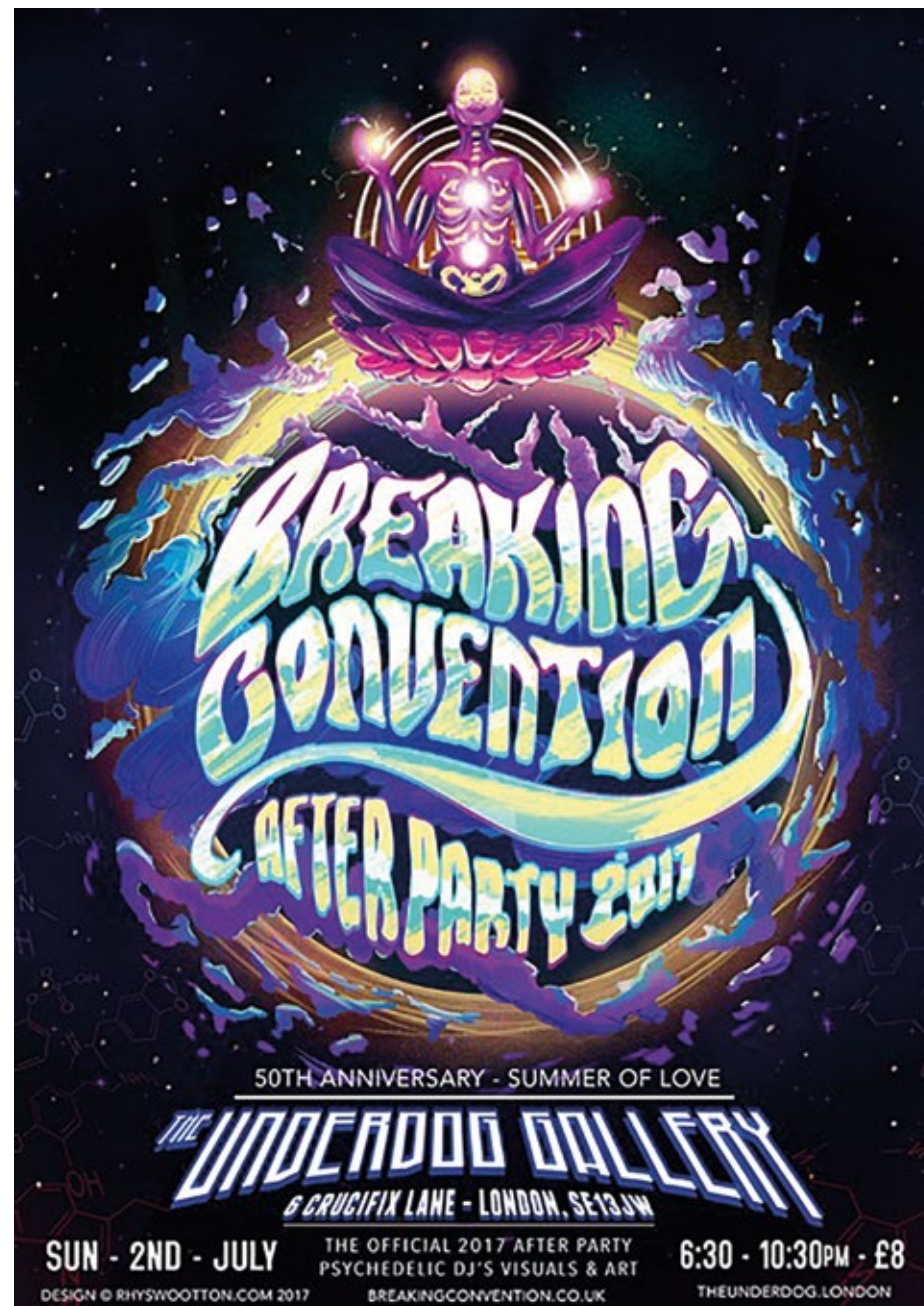
Sara presents the Islamic call-to-prayer within performance, Live Art, festivals and rituals which are extra to normal Muslim contexts. As my sincerely devout Call has grown from an elegiac offering to an interactive singing and Sufi history lesson, I have witnessed its power create reverential communion between cultures. My Call shifts preconceived notions of Islam by offering insights into why and how it is sung in its exceptional style, and translates the Arabic name "Allah" - conceived in Islam as an all-pervasive unifying force - as Oneness:

Oneness is greatest!  
 I testify that there is no god greater than Oneness!  
 Come to sanctuary!  
 Come to worship!  
 Oneness is greatest!  
 There is no god greater than Oneness!

**Orryelle Defenestrade-Basculé**  
**8 Gates (& 9 Worlds)**  
*Friday 30th, 19:00, Osmond Auditorium*

A 40-min (approximately) solo performance which is part ritual dance, part short play, part shamanic underworld journey. It concerns past lives (or collective DNA memories?), mythological interconnectivity, atavistic resurgence, the Dreamtime, mists, ravens and the density of matter. Using hypnotic repetition and hceeps sdawkcab Orryelle begins by taking the audience/initiates into trance and guiding them through a path-working to access different selves.

## EVENING ENTERTAINMENTS



\* FREE FOR BC DELEGATES



## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



### ADAM MALONE

Adam is currently completing an MA in Myth, Cosmology and The Sacred at Canterbury Christchurch University where he has written on tarot divination as well as the meta-myth of David Icke. He has worked in both London and Brighton as a professional tarot card reader for nearly a decade as well as producing film projects on the indigenous shamanic practices of Mexico. He currently runs Club Imaginal in Brighton, and is on the board for Breaking Convention, Europe's leading psychedelic research conference.



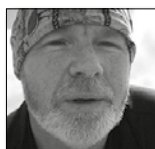
### AIMEE TOLLAN

Aimée is an Anthropology graduate from the University of Kent, the home of the first Breaking Convention. She joined the UKC Psychedelics Society which is where she became initiated into the psychedelic community. She has been involved in Breaking Convention from the start, firstly as a volunteer and then was invited on to the Executive Committee in late 2013. Her main area of interest is drug policy reform which inspired her undergraduate dissertation exploring public attitudes towards drugs. Residing in London, her current thoughts are concerned with the lack of diversity within the psychedelic community.



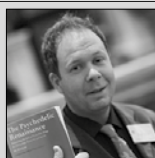
### ALEXANDER BEINER

Alexander Beiner is a writer, psychedelic theorist and co-founder of Open Meditation, a social enterprise that teaching non-religious meditation. He specialises in Integral Theory and how structured, ceremonial psychedelic experiences can be combined with a meditation practice to heighten self-awareness and development. He's the author of 'Beyond the Basin', has written on psychedelics for 'The Guardian', and his essay 'The Psychedelic Shadow' appears in the 2014 Breaking Convention book Neurotransmissions.



### ANDY ROBERTS

Andy is a historian of Britain's LSD psychedelic culture and author of *Albion Dreaming: A Social History of LSD in Britain* (Marshall Cavendish 2008, 2012) and *Acid Drops* (Psychedelic Press, 2016). His other research interests include, listening to music, hill walking, beach combing, reading, landscapes and their mysteries, natural history and paranormal phenomena. Musically, he has been severely influenced and affected by the Grateful Dead and the Incredible String Band among a host of others. He first fell down the rabbit hole in 1972 and has been exploring the labyrinth of passages ever since. His views on the psychedelic experience are (basically) – You take a psychedelic and you get high. What happens after that is largely the result of dosage, set and setting.



### BEN SESSA

Ben trained at UCL, London, graduating in medicine in 1997. He works clinically and academically in Bristol and at Imperial College London University, with an interest in the developmental trajectory from child maltreatment to adult mental health disorders. In the last ten years Ben has been a study doctor and a test subject administering and receiving legal doses of pure LSD, psilocybin, MDMA, DMT and Ketamine. He is currently conducting the world's first clinical study using MDMA to treat addiction. Ben authors peer-reviewed articles in the mainstream medical press and has published several textbooks on psychedelic medicine and a novel. An outspoken critic of the current system by which drugs are prohibited, he believes a more progressive policy of regulation would reduce the harms of drug use, increase access to services and provide more opportunities for psychedelic research. He is a co-founder and director of Breaking Convention.



### BILL RICHARDS

William A. Richards is a psychologist in the Psychiatry Department of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he and his colleagues have been conducting research with psilocybin for the past 17 years, and also a clinician in private practice in Baltimore. His graduate degrees include M.Div. from Yale Divinity School, S.T.M. from Andover-Newton Theological School and Ph.D. from Catholic University, as well as studies with Abraham Maslow at Brandeis University and with Hanscarl Leuner at Georg-August University in Göttingen, Germany, where his involvement with psilocybin research originated in 1963. From 1967 to 1977, he conducted psychotherapy research with LSD, DPT, MDA and psilocybin at the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center. From 1977-1981, he was a member of the psychology faculty of Antioch University in Maryland. His publications began in 1966 with "Implications of LSD and Experimental Mysticism" coauthored with Walter Pahnke. His book, "Sacred Knowledge: Psychedelics and Religious Experiences" recently has been released by Columbia University Press.

## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



### BRUCE PARRY

Bruce Parry is an explorer and a BAFTA award winning documentary presenter, famous for his un-patronising style of investigation into difficult subjects in extremely remote and testing locations. His time living with the Indigenous Peoples of the world has given him a unique insight into the human condition and his time spent visiting places on the environmental frontline has allowed him a broad perspective of our place on the planet. Bruce's documentaries have been acquired by and shown in over 150 countries cementing his place as one of the world's most successful documentarians. Bruce's directorial film debut "TAWAI – A voice from the forest" is due to be released in Autumn 2017.



### CAMERON ADAMS

Cameron Adams is a director and co-organiser of Breaking Convention and was the lead editor of the first Breaking Convention anthology. He is a medical and cognitive anthropologist who has conducted long term ethnographic research with the Highland Maya of Chiapas as well as with online communities of psychedelic users. He was formerly a lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Kent at Canterbury. He also teaches science at an alternative curriculum pupil referral unit, and does learning mentor outreach at mainstream secondary schools.



### CARA LAVAN

After working as a documentary film maker for some years, Cara set up the Know Drugs project with the intention of 'bringing honesty into the conversation about drugs'. She filmed interviews with judges, politicians, recreational drug users, medics, psychologists, drug addicts, prohibitionists and non-drug users for the project and organised a ground-breaking conference on Envisioning a Post Prohibition World in 2011. She is a makes all the films for the Anyone's Child campaign – families who want safer drug controls.



### CELIA MORGAN

Celia is the Director of the Centre for Neuropsychopharmacology and Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Exeter, with a primary interest in the effects of drugs and alcohol on the brain and behaviour. Her research has concentrated on examining both the positive and negative effects of recreational drugs on cognition. Through behavioural and neuroimaging studies, Celia has investigated the chronic effects of relatively new substances such as ketamine, MDMA and mephedrone. Her work also has focused on what makes individuals vulnerable to the harmful effects of certain substances, like cannabis. More recently, she has begun to investigate the potentially therapeutic sides of controlled substances in clinical trials aimed at the treatment of addiction.



### CHRIS LETHEBY

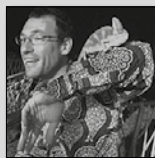
Dr. Chris Letheby is a philosopher working on issues related to the therapeutic and transformative potential of classic psychedelic drugs. His doctoral research, conducted at the University of Adelaide, presented the first systematic analysis of psychedelic experience within the framework of 21st century philosophy of cognitive science. In his thesis Letheby argues that an 'entheogenic conception' of psychedelics as agents of epistemic and spiritual benefit is both consistent with philosophical naturalism and plausible in light of current scientific knowledge. Having been awarded his PhD in early 2017, he is currently teaching philosophy at the University of Adelaide and logic at Eynesbury College, while continuing to conduct research on philosophical issues relating to psychedelics. Chris is also the winner of the 2017 Breaking Convention Humanities Research Award.



### DANIEL PINCHBECK

Daniel Pinchbeck is the bestselling author of *Breaking Open the Head* (Broadway Books, 2002), 2012: *The Return of Quetzalcoatl* (Tarcher/Penguin, 2006), and *Notes from the Edge Times* (Tarcher/Penguin, 2010). He co-founded the web magazine, Reality Sandwich, and Evolver.net, and edited the publishing imprint, Evolver Editions, with North Atlantic Books. He was featured in the 2010 documentary, 2012: Time for Change, directed by Joao Amorim and produced by Mangusta Films. Daniel hosted the talk show Mindshift, on GaiaTV. He is the founder of the think tank, Center for Planetary Culture, which produced the Regenerative Society Wiki. His essays and articles have appeared in a vast range of publications, including The New York Times, Esquire, Rolling Stone, and ArtForum, and he has been a columnist for Dazed & Confused. His new book is *How Soon Is Now*.

## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



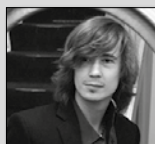
### DANNY NEMU

Danny Nemu is a writer, activist and ayahuasca researcher with an academic background in the history and philosophy of medicine. He first encountered ayahuasca in the form of Daime when living in Japan, and eventually followed the trail back to its source in the Brazilian Amazon, where the bite of a sand fly infected him with leishmaniasis. This highly aggressive protozoal parasite quickly colonised a few inches of his flesh, and had designs on much more; but it proved to be a great teacher, providing ample opportunity to study first-hand the intricacies and potencies of ayahuasca within the Daime world view. His books 'Science Revealed' and 'Neuro-apocalypse' are out on Psychedelic Press UK, and he is a regular contributor to the Psypress journal, as well as Reality Sandwich and Bia Labate's blog.



### DARREN SPRINGER

Darren Springer is a grass-roots researcher and event organiser based in London, the Director of Ancient Future, the Convenor of the Psychedelia Railway Gatherings and curator at Earth Tone Arts. Collectively his work aims to inform and empower individuals from diverse backgrounds to cope with social challenges and contribute to community development as well as self-improvement in an innovative, creative, culturally-aware style. By day Darren teaches organic horticulture and food enterprise to young people in East London and grows edible mushrooms. He has spoken in the UK, Africa, Europe and the US sharing his extensive research on African Entheogenic plants and their various applications on the continent and the diaspora.



### DAVE KING

Dave is a fourth-year graduate medical student at King's College London, and holds a BSc in Medical Anthropology. He is a founding co-director and programme chair of Breaking Convention, a director of the Scientific & Medical Network, the founding President of the King's College Society for Psychedelic Studies, and founding President of the UKC Psychedelics Society. He co-directs a Lecture Programme in Drug Assisted Psychotherapies at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience and has been involved in the organisation of conferences and lecture series at the University of Kent, University of Greenwich, King's College London, National University of Singapore and the House of Lords. He is the co-editor of three books, author of several book chapters, and has been published in the Journal of Immunology, The Times, DrugScope, Kent on Sunday, PsyPress, and various collections of essays and poetry.



### DAVID LUKE

Dr David Luke is Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Greenwich where he teaches an undergraduate course on the Psychology of Exceptional Human Experience. He is a founding director of Breaking Convention. 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 seven books, most recently Otherworlds: Psychedelics and Exceptional Human Experience (2017), and Talking with the Spirits: Ethnographies from Between the Worlds (2014). He has studied techniques of consciousness alteration from South America to India, from the perspective of scientists, shamans and Shivaitees, but increasingly has more questions than answers.



### DAVID NICHOLS

David E. Nichols, PhD, taught in the College of Pharmacy at Purdue University from 1974 until his retirement in 2012. Prior to that, he was the Robert C. and Charlotte P. Anderson Distinguished Chair in Pharmacology and was also a Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry. Currently he is an Adjunct Professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, where he continues research. The focus of his research, beginning in 1969, has been the investigation of the relationship between the chemical structure of a molecule and its action in the body in modifying behavior. He is recognized as one of the foremost experts on the medicinal chemistry of psychedelics. His research was funded by government agencies for nearly three decades. Dr. Nichols was the founding president of the Heffter Research Institute in 1993, a 501(c)3 not for profit organization that has raised in excess of \$7 million to support legitimate medical research on psychedelics.

## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



### DENNIS MCKENNA

Dennis McKenna's research has focused on the interdisciplinary study of Amazonian ethnopharmacology and plant hallucinogens. His doctoral research (University of British Columbia, 1984) focused on the ethnopharmacology of ayahuasca and oo-koo-he, two tryptamine-based hallucinogens used by indigenous peoples in the Northwest Amazon. Dr. McKenna completed post-doctoral research fellowships in neurosciences in the Laboratory of Clinical Pharmacology, National Institute of Mental Health (1986-88), and in the Department of Neurology, Stanford University School of Medicine (1988-90). He is a founding board member of the Heffter Research Institute, and was a senior investigator in the Hoasca Project, the first biomedical investigation of ayahuasca used by the UDV, a Brazilian religious group. He currently teaches in the Center for Spirituality and Healing at the University of Minnesota. He is the younger brother of Terence McKenna. Dr. McKenna is author or co-author of 4 books and over 50 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.



### EDE FRECSKA

Ede Frecska is Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Debrecen, Hungary. He received his medical degree in 1977 from the Semmelweis University in Hungary. He then earned qualifications as certified psychologist from the Department of Psychology at Eötvös Lóránd University in Budapest. Dr. Frecska completed his residency training in Psychiatry both in Hungary (1986) and in the United States (1992). He is a qualified psychopharmacologist (1987) of international merit with 17 years of clinical and research experience in the United States. During his early academic years, Dr. Frecska's studies were devoted to research on schizophrenia and affective illness. He published more than 75 scientific papers and book chapters on these topics. In his recent research he is engaged in studies on psychointegrator plants and techniques. He is particularly interested in the physiological role of endohallucinogen compounds (DMT, 5MeO-DMT, and bufotenin). Dr. Frecska is a member of several professional organizations (APA, ECNP, CINP), and has received grants and awards from a variety of sources (NARSAD, NIAA).



### ERIC MADDERN

Eric is an Australian-born singer, writer and storyteller who, after a ten-year journey around the world, created (with others) the Cae Mabon Eco-Retreat in Snowdonia, North Wales. In the last couple of years he's been asked to represent the spirituality of indigenous Britain at international festivals.



### ERIK DAVIS

Erik Davis ([www.techgnosis.com](http://www.techgnosis.com)) is an author, podcaster, award-winning journalist, and lecturer based in San Francisco. He is the author, most recently, of Nomad Codes: Adventures in Modern Esoterica (Yeti, 2010). He also wrote The Visionary State: A Journey through California's Spiritual Landscape (Chronicle, 2006), Led Zeppelin IV (33 1/3, 2005) and TechGnosis: Myth, Magic, and Mysticism in the Age of Information (Crown, 1998), which has been translated into five languages and recently reissued with a new afterword by North Atlantic Books (2015). Davis has contributed to scores of publications, including The Wire, Arthur, Aeon.com, Bookforum, Wired, the LA Weekly, and the Village Voice. He has been interviewed by CNN, the BBC, public radio, and the New York Times, and explores the "cultures of consciousness" on his long-running weekly podcast Expanding Mind. His essays on music, technoculture, psychedelics, and esoterica have appeared in dozens of books, including Zig Zag Zen (Synergetic, 2015), Rave Culture and Religion (Routledge, 2009), Sound Unbound: Sampling Digital Music and Culture (MIT, 2008), and AfterBurn: Reflections on Burning Man (University of New Mexico Press, 2005). He graduated from Yale University, and recently earned his PhD in Religious Studies from Rice University.



### FRIEDERIKE MECKEL-FISCHER

Friederike Meckel trained as a medical doctor and a medical psychotherapist in Germany. From 1989-1991 she trained as a Holotropic Breathwork® facilitator with Prof. Stanislav Grof in the US. She also trained as a couples therapist, a family therapist and a family-constellation-worker. After receiving her license for psychotherapy in 1997, she worked in her own private (psychotherapeutic) practice providing psychotherapy, Holotropic Breathwork®-groups and systemic-family-constellation work. For nearly ten years she offered substance-supported therapy, working underground. Being retired now she still offers some private psychological counselling in Zürich. Her book, 'Therapy with Substance' was published in 2015. She is an advocate of therapy changing the believe-system and the attitudes. Having occupied herself with trauma related phenomena, she is a reminder of the indivisible unity of body, mind and soul on the way to the healed, healthy authentic personality.

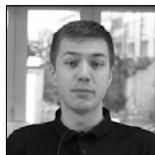


## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



### GRAHAM ST JOHN

Graham St John, PhD, is an Australian cultural anthropologist specialising in event-cultural movements and entheogens. Among his eight books are *Mystery School in Hyperspace: A Cultural History of DMT* (North Atlantic Books 2015), and *Global Tribe: Technology, Spirituality and Psytrance* (Equinox 2012). He is currently Senior Research Fellow in the Dept of Social Science, University of Fribourg, Switzerland, for the SNSF project *Burning Progeny: The European Efflorescence of Burning Man* and Executive Editor of *Dancecult: Journal of Electronic Dance Music Culture*. His website is: [www.edgcentral.net](http://www.edgcentral.net).



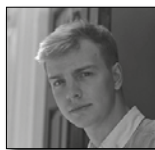
### GUY JONES

Guy Jones has been involved in drug science since 2010 and uses his background in chemistry to support the integration of science and technology with harm reduction. He works with "The Loop" providing the UK's first festival drug checking service and when not coordinating events, enjoys working on new techniques to keep "The Loop" on the cutting edge of field analysis. Guy also runs "Reagent Tests UK", selling home adulterant tests and is a trustee for festival welfare charity "Kosmicaid". Accompanied by his involvement with a number of online projects, these have provided a valuable platform for knowledge sharing, where he particularly focuses on the chemistry and epidemiology of novel substances and which has further supported his drug analysis work.



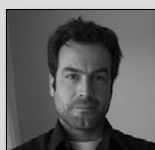
### HATTIE WELLS

Hattie Wells is an ethnobotanist, former ibogaine facilitator and drug policy reform advocate. She spent many years researching the cultural and therapeutic use of psychedelics, before becoming interested in ethnogynaecology and carrying out fieldwork in Namibia with the San Bushmen. Her research in the Kalahari was followed by developing and managing a sustainable livelihood initiative in the region. Since returning to Europe, she has worked with NGOs on human rights issues, conservation and more latterly drug policy reform. She is currently Operations Manager of the Beckley Foundation, a position that unites her psychedelic interest with her commitment to changing global drug policy.



### HENRY FISHER

Dr Henry Fisher is the Policy Director of Volteface, a think tank that explores public policies relating to drugs. He is also a member of the testing team for harm reduction charity The Loop, and has previously worked for The Beckley Foundation. Before working in drug policy he completed a DPhil in pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Oxford. He comments regularly on drug policy in the media.



### JERÓNIMO M. M.

Jerónimo Mazarrasa is a documentary filmmaker, independent researcher, and interaction designer with extensive knowledge of the world of Ayahuasca. He has travelled extensively through South America, researching a broad range of Ayahuasca practices, and has lectured internationally on Ayahuasca tourism and the appropriation of indigenous knowledge. He currently serves in the Executive Office of the ICEERS Foundation as well as the Steering Committee of the Ayahuasca Defence Fund.



### JAMES FADIMAN

James Fadiman PhD, with degrees from Harvard and Stanford Universities did psychedelic research in the 60s until it was no longer possible to do so. He had a career running his own management-consulting firm, helped found a commune in New Mexico, and taught in several universities. He co-authored a textbook, now in its 7th edition, a few professional books, a self-help book and a psychedelic novel. He also had a play produced, had a few photography exhibitions and was the co-founder of The Institute for Transpersonal Psychology, now Sofia University. He has been a pioneer in rediscovering the effectiveness of microdoses and how to use media to encourage research. He is writing a book about healthy multiplicity (selves) in us all, is married to a gifted filmmaker, and lives in Menlo Park, California.

## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



### JIMO BORJIGIN

Jimo Borjigin is an associate professor of Physiology and Neurology at the University of Michigan Medical School. She is interested in understanding the molecular basis of human consciousness. In collaboration with Dr Steven Barker's laboratory, her laboratory reported in 2013 that DMT (dimethyltryptamine) is endogenously secreted from the rat brain. This research was expanded further by Mr. Jon Dean, a Master of Science student in Borjigin laboratory, who investigated mechanisms of DMT synthesis in mammals. Her laboratory (<https://sites.google.com/a/umich.edu/borjiginlab/>) is currently engaged in several areas of neuroscience research. In addition to understanding biological functions of endogenous DMT, her laboratory is actively exploring Neurobiology of the Dying Brain as well as Brain-Heart Connection in both humans as well as in animal models.



### JOHANN HARI

Johann Hari is a British journalist and author of "Chasing the Scream: The First and Last days of the War on Drugs". He has written for many of the world's leading newspapers and magazines, including the New York Times, Le Monde, the Guardian, the Los Angeles Times, the New Republic, the Nation, Slate, El Mundo, and the Sydney Morning Herald. He was a lead op-ed columnist for the Independent, one of Britain's leading newspapers, for nine years.



### JOHN "CROW" CONSTABLE

John Constable is the author of many plays including *The Southwark Mysteries*, received in a vision on 23rd November 1996 and performed in Shakespeare's Globe and Southwark Cathedral. Solo work includes *I Was An Alien Sex God* and *Spare*, inspired by the life and work of Austin Osman Spare. He is widely known as John Crow, the urban shaman who raised the spirit of The Goose at Cross Bones, south London's outcasts' graveyard, where he curates a shrine and has created a garden of remembrance. In his Crow persona, he conducts *The Halloween of Cross Bones* and the monthly *Crossbones Vigils*. His *Shamanic Plays*, *The Southwark Mysteries*, his stage adaptation of Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast*, and *Secret Bankside - Walks In The Outlaw Borough* are all published by Oberon Books. *Spark In The Dark*, a collection of his poems, is published by Thin Man Books. His poetry also features in the *Urban Shamanism* anthology by Outsider Poets. For more information: [www.crossbones.org.uk](http://www.crossbones.org.uk)



### JON DEAN

Jon is a doctoral student in Physiology at the University of Michigan interested in the neurochemical and electrical underpinnings of consciousness. Jon has ongoing projects in coordination with his mentors Drs. George Mashour and Jimo Borjigin within the Center for Consciousness Science at the University of Michigan's Medical School. His work includes molecular and genetic studies on endogenous N,N-dimethyltryptamine (DMT) and the DMT synthetic enzymes in rodents and humans across varying physiologic and mental states. The other area of Jon's research is aimed at quantifying changes in corticocortical information transfer across sleep-wake states as well as before, during, and after anesthetic-induced unconsciousness, and during altered states of consciousness such as those induced by psychedelics.



### JULIAN VAYNE

Julian Vayne is an occultist and the author of numerous books, essays, journals and articles in both the academic and esoteric press. While his name is closely associated with chaos magic Julian is also an initiated Wiccan, member of the Kaula Nath lineage and Master Mason. Over the past 30 plus years he has participated in group ceremony with a variety of druids, shamans and others as well as sharing his own practice through public workshops, retreats and networks of practitioners including The Illuminates of Thanateros. He is a leading contributor to theblogofbaphomet.com and co-director of The Psychedelic Museum: [psychedelicmuseum.net](http://psychedelicmuseum.net).



### JULIE HOLLAND

Dr. Julie Holland, M.D., is a psychiatrist with a private practice in New York City. She has worked at Mount Sinai Medical Center on a research project that treated schizophrenics with a new medication. In 1994, she received the Outstanding Resident Award from the National Institute of Mental Health. For almost ten years she worked at Bellevue Hospital's psychiatric emergency room and subsequently published an autobiography, *Weekends at Bellevue: Nine Years on the Night Shift at the Psych ER*. She is also the author of *Moody Bitches: The Truth About the Drugs You're Taking*, *the Sleep You're Missing*, *the Sex You're Not Having*, and *What's Really Making You Crazy* and is the editor of *Ecstasy: The Complete Guide and The Pot Book*. Holland also provides expert testimony and forensic consultation on a range of drug-related behavior and phenomena, with a focus on PCP and MDMA.

## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



### KAREN LAWTON & FIONA HECKLES (SEED SISTAS)

Karen and Fiona, known as the Seed SistAs, are Hedge-witches who have dedicated their lives to furthering access to knowledge about the healing potential of the plant world. They both hold BSc's in plant medicine and are passionate about the evolution of plant connection through the use of the senses, observations and intuitive guidance. They campaign for freedom of information about herbal medicine through performance art and other creative means. Founders of an education community interest company, Sensory Solutions, and an apprenticeship programme, Sensory Herbalism.



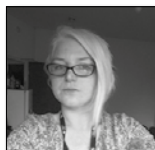
### KEKE MADDY

KeKe Maddy works in health and complex specialist care in the community. She is also a youth well-being trainer for Mind which promotes emotional well-being for the young and encourages meditation and mindfulness. She is a member of The Psychedelic Society UK, and has co-facilitated its first women's only psychedelic experience weekend. She has spoken previously at The Psychedelic Society on the 'Decolonisation of Psychedelics'.



### KEN TUPPER

Kenneth is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia. His research interests include drug education, entheogenic education, psychedelics, and ayahuasca. Kenneth is also the Director of Implementation & Partnerships at the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use, and previously worked for over a decade doing prevention and harm reduction policy development at the British Columbia Ministry of Health. In 2006 and early 2007, Kenneth was a resident of UBC's Green College. He has a Ph.D. in Educational Studies from UBC (2011) and a Masters of Arts degree in Education from Simon Fraser University (2002). He currently a member of the Clinical & Scientific Advisory Board of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies – Canada (MAPS-Canada) and the Advisory Board of the Wasiwaska research centre in Brazil.



### KERRY ROWBERRY

Following on from her work in health and social care Kerry became interested in Amazonian shamanism, especially ayahuasca use, upon hearing about its potential as a treatment for depression and substance misuse. She began her PhD on this topic, with the University of Cumbria, in October 2011 and is currently in the final stages of completing her thesis. Kerry's knowledge of psychedelics spans over 20 years of experience as a psychedelic user, including three years training as an ayahuasquero. In March 2015 she established The Psychedelic Society of Birmingham. The society hosts monthly talks, organises short expeditions, and campaigns against the war on drugs. She currently works with Birmingham City University where she oversees the operations of a faculty based Doctoral Research College.



### KILINDI IYI

Kilindi Iyi is the Head Instructor and Technical Advisor of Tamerrian Martial Art Institute. A world traveler and mycologist, Kilindi has presented on the subject of psilocybin as far north as Norway and as far south as Australia. His exploration and research centres on the high dose psilocybin mushrooms. Kilindi shares information gleaned from many excursions into the hyper-dimensional and inter-dimensional realms through his direct experience with dosages in the 20-40 dried gram range of mushroom ingestion. Kilindi brings decades worth of traveling in novel states of consciousness to share, coupled with the skills of master cultivator of exotic mushrooms lends a power and authenticity to his presentations. Kilindi remains a student teacher and advocate for the hallucinogenic experience.



### LINDSAY JORDAN

Lindsay Jordan is a doctoral student in the School of Education at Oxford Brookes University, where she is researching different ideas about the role of universities. She is also a lecturer at the University of the Arts London, leading a postgraduate course on the philosophy and practice of higher education. Before embarking on the final stage of her thesis, Lindsay was required to write an autoethnographic study of her doctoral journey to date. Feeling uninspired by examples that focused on academic identity and the challenges of combining doctoral study with work and family life, she asked her tutor if she could write about how psychedelic experience had influenced her work. Having described and exemplified autoethnography as a 'transgressive' research method allowing the subversion of social and academic boundaries, he could hardly refuse, and – with a few conditions – she was given the green light. The resulting paper – 'Where were you while we were getting high? An autoethnography of psychedelic experience and doctoral study' – not only enabled Lindsay to progress to the final stage of her doctorate, it also won the 2017 Breaking Convention student essay competition.

## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



### MARIA PAPASPYROU

Maria has worked as an integrative psychotherapist in the fields of mental health and education, alongside her private practice. Her research interests have focused on the interface between entheogenic experiences and psychotherapy, as well as the intersections between the archetypal feminine and altered states of consciousness. She has given talks and published articles in both festival and academic circles on the sacramental and healing properties of entheogens, supporting their re-introduction in psychotherapy. She is the co-founder of Club Imaginal, a lecture series in Brighton, and always in search of creative narratives that can engage our individual and collective potential and restore our connection to the energies of the world soul.



### MARK LEWIS

Mark Lewis is a British IT consultant specialising in the industrial design of globally-distributed cloud infrastructure supporting household financial brands. He also directs the IT for Breaking Convention. He first read microbiology at Kent University and then computer science, specialising in prokaryotic macromolecular 3D graphics, also at Kent. His bioinformatics research at Exeter University in 2004 focused on the calmodulin gene family in the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*, and particularly the novel use of computer graphics to elucidate important 5' upstream regulatory DNA binding elements. His private research interests include the phytotherapy of psychedelics and the potential synergistic benefits of psychedelics in modern immersive 3D audiovisual environments. His self-published book on LSD, *Do Not Exceed the Stated Dose* was favourably received by The Observer in 2001.



### MARTIN A. LEE

Martin A. Lee is the director of Project CBD, an educational service that focuses on cannabis science and therapeutics. He is the bestselling author of several books, including *Acid Dreams: The Complete Social History of LSD – The CIA, the Sixties and Beyond* (Grove Press) and, most recently, *Smoke Signals: A Social History of Marijuana – Medical, Recreational and Social*. *Smoke Signals* is the winner of the American Botanical Council's James A. Duke Award for Excellence in Botanical Literature. Lee is the co-founder of Emerald Pharms, an innovative, solar-power medical cannabis dispensary in Northern California. In 2016, Lee received the Emerald Cup's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also co-founder of the media watch group FAIR (Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting), and his articles have appeared in the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Rolling Stone, Salon, The Nation, Le Monde Diplomatique, the Daily Beast, and many other publications.



### MICHAEL BOGENSCHUTZ

Dr. Bogenschutz is Research Professor of Psychiatry at NYU Langone Medical Center. Prior to joining the faculty of NYU in June 2015, he served as Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology, Vice-Chair and Division Director for Addiction Psychiatry, and Vice Chair for Clinical Research in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. For 10 years he was Principal Investigator of the Southwest Node of the National Institute on Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network. He founded and was formerly director of the addiction psychiatry fellowship program at UNM, and has extensive experience in mentoring junior investigators. Dr. Bogenschutz's research interests focus on development of novel combinations of pharmacologic and psychosocial therapies to improve outcomes in patients with alcohol and other drug addictions, the integration of addictions treatment into medical settings, and the treatment of co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disorders. He is particularly focused on the development of psychedelic medicines for the treatment of addictions and other psychiatric and behavioral conditions. He is currently conducting a phase II randomized double-blind controlled trial of psilocybin-assisted treatment of alcohol use disorder.



### MIKE JAY

Mike Jay is a leading specialist in the study of drugs and medicines across history and cultures. He has curated three of the Wellcome Collection's exhibitions, including *Bedlam: the asylum and beyond* (running until January 15, 2017). His accompanying book, *This Way Madness Lies*, is published by Thames & Hudson. The author of twelve books, including *The Influencing Machine*, *Artificial Paradises*, *Emperors of Dreams*, and *The Atmosphere of Heaven*, his critical writing on drugs has appeared in many publications, including *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, and *The International Journal of Drug Policy*. He sits on the editorial board of the addiction journal *Drugs and Alcohol Today* and on the board of the Transform Drug Policy Foundation. He reviews regularly for the *London Review of Books*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Literary Review*. He has contributed chapters and introductions to recent books including *Literature and Intoxication*, *Oh Excellent Air Bag*, *Bore Hole*, *Art in the Age of...* and *The Neuropsychiatric Complications of Stimulant Abuse*. In 2014 he authored *Mindcraft*, a digital journey through the discovery of the unconscious, for Wellcome Collection and worked with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew on their *Intoxication Season*.



## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



### NADIA ERLAM

Nadia Rei Erlam currently works at the Gender Institute at the London School of Economics, and in 2015 received an MSc from the same department in Gender, Policy and Inequality. They have worked in various gender-focused organisations such as Women in Prison, the Women's Equality Party, Fearless Futures, and mental health organisations such as Mind. They also acted as the Head of Diversity and Inclusion at the Psychedelic Society and were the head of the Psychedelic Society of London for over 2 years curating events which aimed at intersecting psychedelic philosophy and feminism as their academic work implies. These events were on subjects such as: "Decolonising Psychedelics", "Psychedelics, Gender & Sexuality" and "Neuroqueering Mental Health". Going forward, they would like to do more research and work around psychedelic philosophy in relation to the post-human, future technologies, queer theory, trans feminism, gender fluidity, feminist disability studies and neurodivergence.



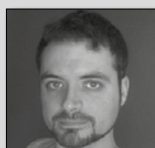
### NESE DEVENOT

Nese Devenot, PhD graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2015 with a doctorate in comparative literature, and she currently serves as Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities at the University of Puget Sound in the United States. She is a founder of the Psychedemia interdisciplinary psychedelics conference and a founding member of the MAPS Graduate Student Association. She was 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, where she participated in the first qualitative study of patient experiences. In 2016, she was awarded Best Humanities Publication in Psychedelic Studies from Breaking Convention and received a Women of the Psychedelic Renaissance grant from Cosmic Sister. Her research explores the function of metaphor and other literary devices in verbal accounts of psychedelic experiences.



### NIKKI WYRD

Nikki was conceived at the end of 1967, making it onto the planet just as things began to get really interesting. After spending several years with her head stuck inside thousands of books, she took a few decades to look around at things and people, including herself. Nowadays she constructively criticizes other people's work, as Editor of Psychedelic Press UK, Director of Breaking Convention, Director of The Psychedelic Museum, and freelance copy editor for a growing list of prestigious clients. She occasionally lectures on occult matters, and has facilitated a number of highly regarded residential retreats. She also runs The Universe Machine, a small publishing house specializing in thought-provoking books. Her best work is yet to come.



### PATRICK EVERITT

Patrick Everitt is an independent researcher of esotericism, philosophy, and psychedelics. He holds an M.A. in Western Esotericism from the University of Amsterdam and a B.A. in Philosophy and Classics from Maynooth University. His research focuses on the work of occultist Aleister Crowley and the field of entheogenic esotericism (i.e. the secretive ceremonial use of psychedelic substances for mystical and magical purposes). He is currently conducting research on the lives and works of Robert Anton Wilson and Terence McKenna, and is adapting for publication his master's thesis on Aleister Crowley's use of peyote.



### RICK DOBLIN

Rick Doblin, Ph.D., is the founder 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 and his Master's thesis on a survey of oncologists about smoked marijuana vs. the oral THC pill in nausea control for cancer patients. His undergraduate thesis at New College of Florida was a 25-year follow-up to the classic Good Friday Experiment. He also conducted a thirty-four year follow-up study to Timothy Leary's Concord Prison Experiment. His professional goal is to help develop legal contexts for the beneficial uses of psychedelics and marijuana and eventually to become a legally licensed psychedelic therapist. He founded MAPS in 1986, and currently resides in Boston with his wife and three children.



### ROBIN CARHART-HARRIS

Robin has a degree in Psychology, MA in Psychoanalysis and PhD in the field of Psychopharmacology. He moved to Imperial College London in 2009, where he has worked for the last 6 years on the brain effects of LSD, psilocybin (magic mushrooms) and MDMA, conducting some of the first brain imaging studies of these drugs. Most recently he has been running a clinical trial looking at the potential of psilocybin to treat depression.

## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



### ROBERT DICKINS

Robert Dickens is a historian and editor. He is the founder of the Psychedelic Press, co-director of the Psychedelic Museum, and is currently undertaking his PhD at Queen Mary, University of London. His research interests focus on the history and literature of psychedelic substances, and the role of writing in spiritual and magical traditions during the 19th century. He is also the author of the novel 'Erin', and has occasionally be known to perform a poem or two.



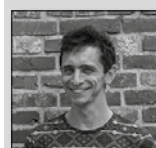
### RUPERT SHELDRAKE

Rupert Sheldrake is a biologist and author of more than 80 scientific papers and ten books. He was among the top 100 Global Thought Leaders for 2013, as ranked by the Duttweiler Institute, Zurich, Switzerland's leading think tank. He studied natural sciences and later biochemistry at Cambridge University, and the philosophy and history of science at Harvard University. As the Rosenheim Research Fellow of the Royal Society (1970-73), he carried out research on the development of plants and the ageing of cells in the Department of Biochemistry at Cambridge University. Since 1981, he has continued research on developmental and cell biology. He has also investigated unexplained aspects of animal behaviour, including how pigeons find their way home, the telepathic abilities of dogs, cats and other animals, and the apparent abilities of animals to anticipate earthquakes and tsunamis. He subsequently studied similar phenomena in people, including the sense of being stared at, telepathy between mothers and babies, telepathy in connection with telephone calls, and premonitions.



### SIMON JONES

Simon's research programme has focused on the challenges of developing medical grade marijuana for use in clinical applications. He has conducted research studies in British Columbia in Canada, Colorado in the US and for the last three years in Jamaica. While administratively based at Writtle University College in the UK, he is working in association with the University of the West Indies and other Jamaican stakeholders to help Jamaican farmers and processors develop the ability to produce standardised medical grade marijuana products.



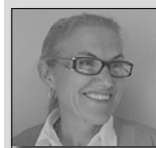
### STEPHEN REID

Stephen Reid is the founder and director of the Psychedelic Society, which was the first national-level Psychedelic Society worldwide, and the press officer for Breaking Convention. Stephen facilitates the Psychedelic Society's Psychedelic Experience Weekends and is a camp lead for La Botica Exótica, a camp at Nowhere and The Borderland. An accomplished full-stack developer with particular expertise in Ruby, Stephen has completed freelance digital work for organisations including the Labour Party, the Green Party, 38 Degrees, the New Economics Foundation and 350.org. Previously, he served on the board of Greenpeace UK, and co-founded the New Economics Foundation's New Economy Organisers Network and direct action movements UK Uncut and The Intruders. Stephen has Masters degrees in Physics from the University of Oxford and Complexity Sciences from the University of Bristol.



### STUART GRIGGS

Stuart is an artist of the imaginal and curator of the Breaking Convention art gallery. He works with interior narrative, symbol and intention as a way to visually portray the numinous. His work is an exploration into the nexus of drawing and digital art, synthesising the two approaches into an idiosyncratic visual language. It is a journey into the creative process that immerses & probes into the psychic pool of collective archetypes. Multidimensional spaces & symbols weave together to explore and manifest the primordial & the transpersonal, resonating with a profound sense of awareness of our unity & interconnection. Themes of sacred divinity, fertility, ritual, flow, transcendence & healing are synergising through the imagery as i allow a tacit sense of the numinous to unfold and transmit.



### SUZANNE SHARKEY

Suzanne is vice-chair and spokesperson for LEAP UK -Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. LEAP is a non-profit organization made up of current and former members of the law enforcement and criminal justice communities who are speaking out about the failures of our existing drug policies and raise awareness to the failed, dangerous and expensive pursuit of a punitive policy. LEAP advocates reform and an evidence based policy with a public health focus including decriminalisation and nuanced regulatory models for all drugs. Suzanne was a Police Officer for 5 years working in specialised crime unit and as an undercover drugs buyer. She is also in long term recovery from problematic substance misuse. Her testimony has been published in the latest Global Commission report on drug policy 2016.

## INVITED SPEAKERS & COMMITTEE BIOS



**TOM ROBERTS**

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## TORSTEN PASSIE

Torsten Passie MD, PhD is Professor of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Hannover Medical School (Germany) and currently Visiting Scientist at Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main (Germany). 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. From 1998 to 2010 he was a scientist and psychiatrist at Hannover Medical School (Germany) where he researched the addictions and the psychophysiology of altered states of consciousness and their healing potential, including clinical research with hallucinogenic drugs (cannabis, ketamine, nitrous oxide, psilocybin). In 2012-2015 he was Visiting Professor at Harvard Medical School (Boston, USA).



## TREVOR WREN

Trevor is a manager and research consultant applying collective learning, evaluation, research and stakeholder consultation methods to inform managers, initiatives, programmes and partnerships, across multidisciplinary sectors and disciplines. His interests include consciousness-mind generally and their varied associated disciplines, phenomena and practices, including psychedelic consciousness in particular. As a former atheistic materialist physicist, turned agnostic-spiritual non-materialist seeker, he is particularly interested in the developing theories of consciousness grounded in experience-evidence, at the ripe (but contentious) intersections between (a) 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person approaches, and (b) Science, Spirituality and Scientism. He hopes to further collaborate on such projects to be more aligned and authentic in such company. He specialises in qualitative, participatory, formative, action-focused and peer/expert methods. For examples of past projects, roles and writing see his LinkedIn and Academia sites (Refs 1 & 2). His professional training includes: an MBA (Managing Impact Evaluations), MPhil (Collective Learning), MA (Social Research and Evaluation), Peer-Peer Methods (IDeA) and a PhD/ BSc (Applied/Theoretical Physics).



## WENDY KLINE

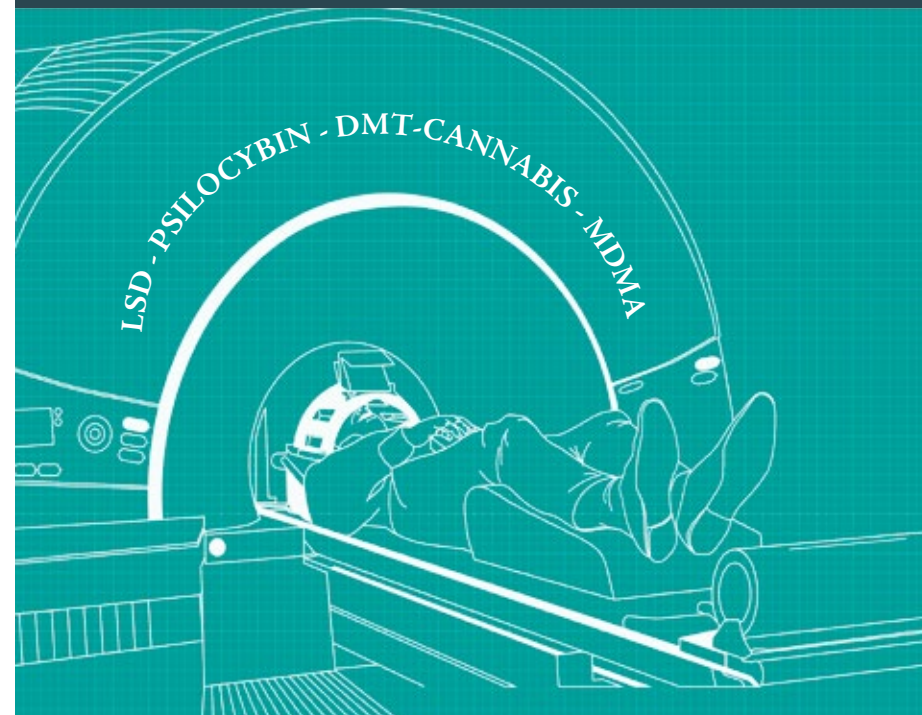
Wendy Kline, PhD, is the Dema G. Seelye Chair in the History of Medicine in the Department of History at Purdue University. Her current research draws on the psychoactive substances research collection in the Purdue university archives which includes the papers of Dr. Stan Grof. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis, in 1998. She is the author of several articles and two books: *Bodies of Knowledge: Sexuality, Reproduction, and Women's Health in the Second Wave* (University of Chicago Press, 2010) and *Building a Better Race: Gender, Sexuality, and Eugenics from the Turn of the Century to the Baby Boom* (University of California Press, 2001). Her third book, on countercultural medicine and women's health, is under contract with Oxford University Press. She just recently published an article on countercultural midwives in *Groovy Science: Knowledge, Innovation, and American Counterculture* with University of Chicago Press.

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The Temple of the Way of Light is a pioneering plant spirit medicine healing centre located in the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest offering intensive ayahuasca retreats with female and male Shipibo healers.



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## SPONSORS

The **Chaikuni Institute** is a non-profit organization and grassroots collective based in the Peruvian Amazon.

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PROTECT THE AMAZON**  
Empowering a life-affirming movement



OUR NAME INVOKES THE AMAZONIAN LEGEND THAT TELLS OF INVISIBLE PROTECTOR SPIRITS OF THE FOREST, CALLED THE “CHAIKUNI” BY THE INDIGENOUS SHIPIBO PEOPLE.



The Chaikuni Institute is dedicated to growing an alternative and sustainable movement at large by advancing indigenous peoples & nature's rights, promoting intercultural education and permaculture.



We work in the Loreto region of Peru's Amazon River basin, which contains over 55% of Peru's forests.



We partner with local and indigenous organizations to investigate, promote and protect equitable, inclusive, interrelated and abundant living systems.

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MAPS is a research and education NGO that develops medical, legal, and cultural contexts for people to benefit from the careful uses of psychedelics and marijuana.

Donate at [maps.org](https://maps.org)





## SPONSORS

Dr. Bronner's is proud to support Breaking Convention in its efforts to promote and support multi-disciplinary research on psychedelic medicines.

**Awaken Compassion!** Responsibly integrate psychedelic medicines into American and global culture. Make it readily available to those who most need it!

**Catalyze Social Change!** Use psychedelic medicines to help us open our hearts and minds to one another and the wonderful, living world we are all a part of.

**Heal the Soul!** Psychedelic medicines, when used responsibly in therapeutic settings, are effective tools for awakening compassion, healing trauma and catalyzing progressive social change!



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To find out more about studying on these degrees or others, contact Dr Oliver Robinson on [o.c.robinson@gre.ac.uk](mailto:o.c.robinson@gre.ac.uk)

About a third of the Breaking Convention audience are involved in the running of the conference, either on the extended organising committee, as speakers, as artists, as contributors, as workshop leaders or as volunteers. This enormous collaborative effort is what makes Breaking Convention such a special event. With the exception of a few generous sponsorships, the conference is funded entirely by ticket sales (about 95%), so we thank each and every one of you for helping make this happen. Any profit is dispensed to psychedelic research organisations or channelled back into Breaking Convention projects such as our biennial anthology of psychedelic essays, research awards and student essay competition. You will all find a copy of our latest book, *Psychedelic Pharmacology* for the 21st Century, free in your welcome pack.

The core team of directors volunteer thousands of hours between them over a 12-month period of conference planning. This year, the central crew have been assisted by an incredibly enthusiastic and hardworking extended committee, to whom we are eternally grateful. In particular, we thank Ashleigh Murphy and Alexander Beiner for their skills and efforts managing sponsorships; Stephen Reid for acting as our press officer; Stuart Griggs for taking command of our Visionary Art Gallery; Adam Malone for heading up our Entertainments programme; Paul Bloom for convening the Film Festival; Nikki Wyrdd and Julian Wayne for directing our small army of volunteers; Andy Roberts for designing and managing our merchandise; Rob Dickins for his tremendous work with PsyPress UK, including his editorial management of the Breaking Convention poetry anthology, *Return of the Tripping Spriggin*; Hattie Wells for her involvement in social media and speaker liaising; Mark Lewis for his computing wizardry; and Cara Lavan and Mel Dasan for the gargantuan task of arranging the filming and editing of almost 150 presentations.

Sponsors of the event include Amanda Feilding and the Beckley Foundation, the leading UK psychedelic research organisation; Rick Doblin and the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies without whom we would not have this renaissance of psychedelic science; Storz & Bickel the leading manufacturers of medical marijuana equipment; the Temple of the Way of Light a trusted Shipibo shamanic healing centre in Peru; Dr. Bronner's who's 'Cosmic Principles' include 'funding and fighting for what's right'; Divine Arts who 'celebrate the sacred in everyday life' by publishing diverse and interesting psychedelic research; The Chaikini Institute who work hard to defend human rights and environmental justice in the Amazon; and Paul "Monkey" Guest at BlotterArt.com, who has been very generous in his support of the conference since 2011 (you can thank him for your blotter art name badge).

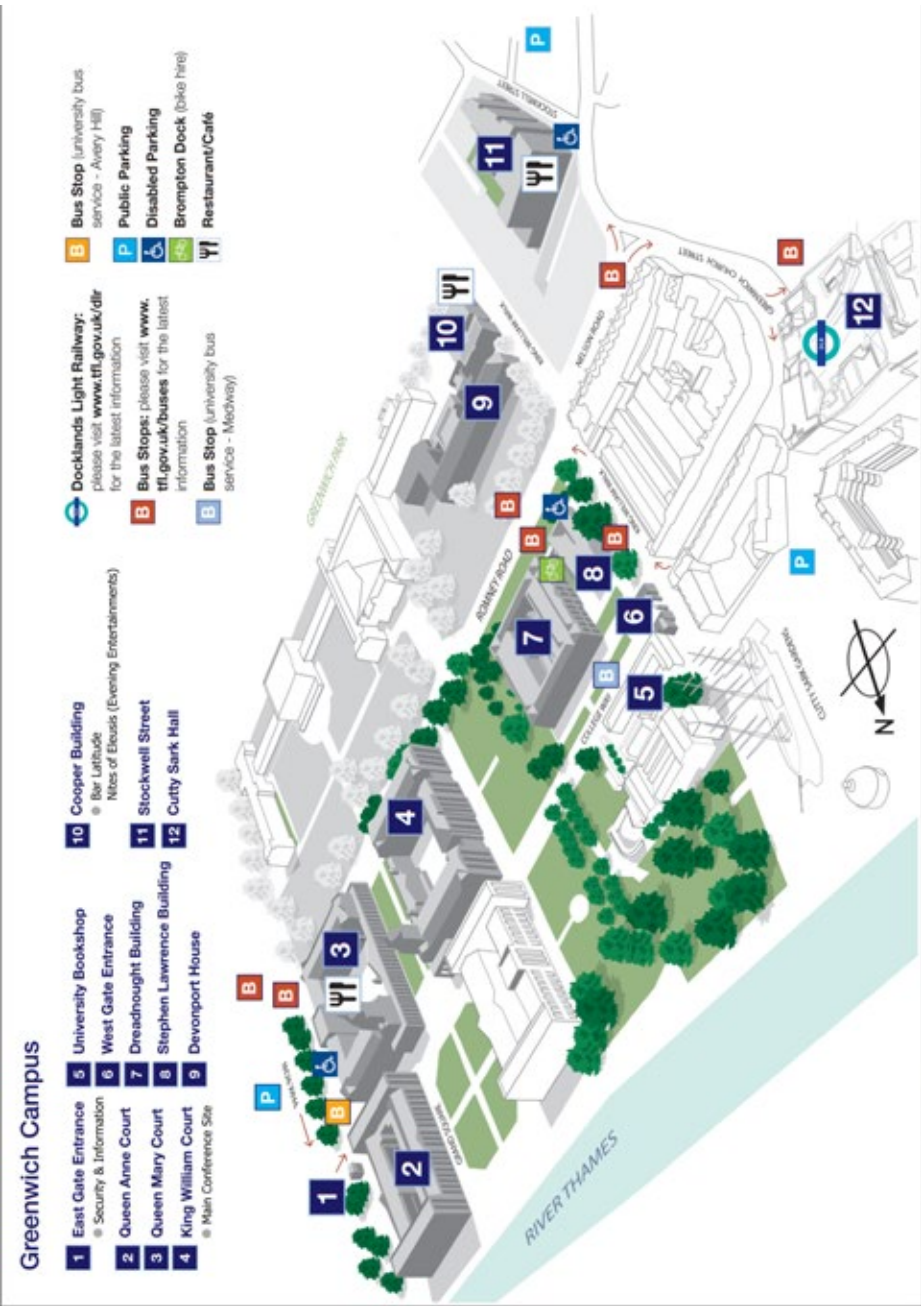
We are indebted to the University of Greenwich for hosting Breaking Convention, and their help in arranging onsite accommodation. We would also like to thank, ESPD 50, Cosmic Trigger the Play (Hail, Eris!), Ancient Futures, Hackstock, MIND: The European Foundation for Psychedelic Science, the UKC Psychedelics Society, the Ecology, Cosmos & Consciousness series, and all other organisations who have helped us in our media campaigns. Other invaluable contributors to Breaking Convention include the independent review committee who helped us with selecting the cream of the many excellent submissions to speak at the conference, Giorgos Mitropapas for designing this programme booklet; Jonny Greet for his stellar photography at the event; Mark Pilkington and Emerald Moseley for their work on *Psychedelic Pharmacology* for the 21st Century; and Miranda Pitcher for her help arranging cartloads of flowers for the group photo. Special mention goes to all our performers and installation operators, various musicians, workshop leaders, artists and film crew who give Breaking Convention the spice that transcends mere psychedelic comfort food. Finally, we are enormously thankful for the great band of volunteers who give up their time throughout the weekend and without whom BC17 could not run smoothly. Further thanks goes to our film crew. See you all again in two years at Breaking Convention 2019. Remember there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. We thank you so much for coming along and being here to witness it all. Without the support and interest of the psychedelic community, there is no Breaking Convention.

Yours,

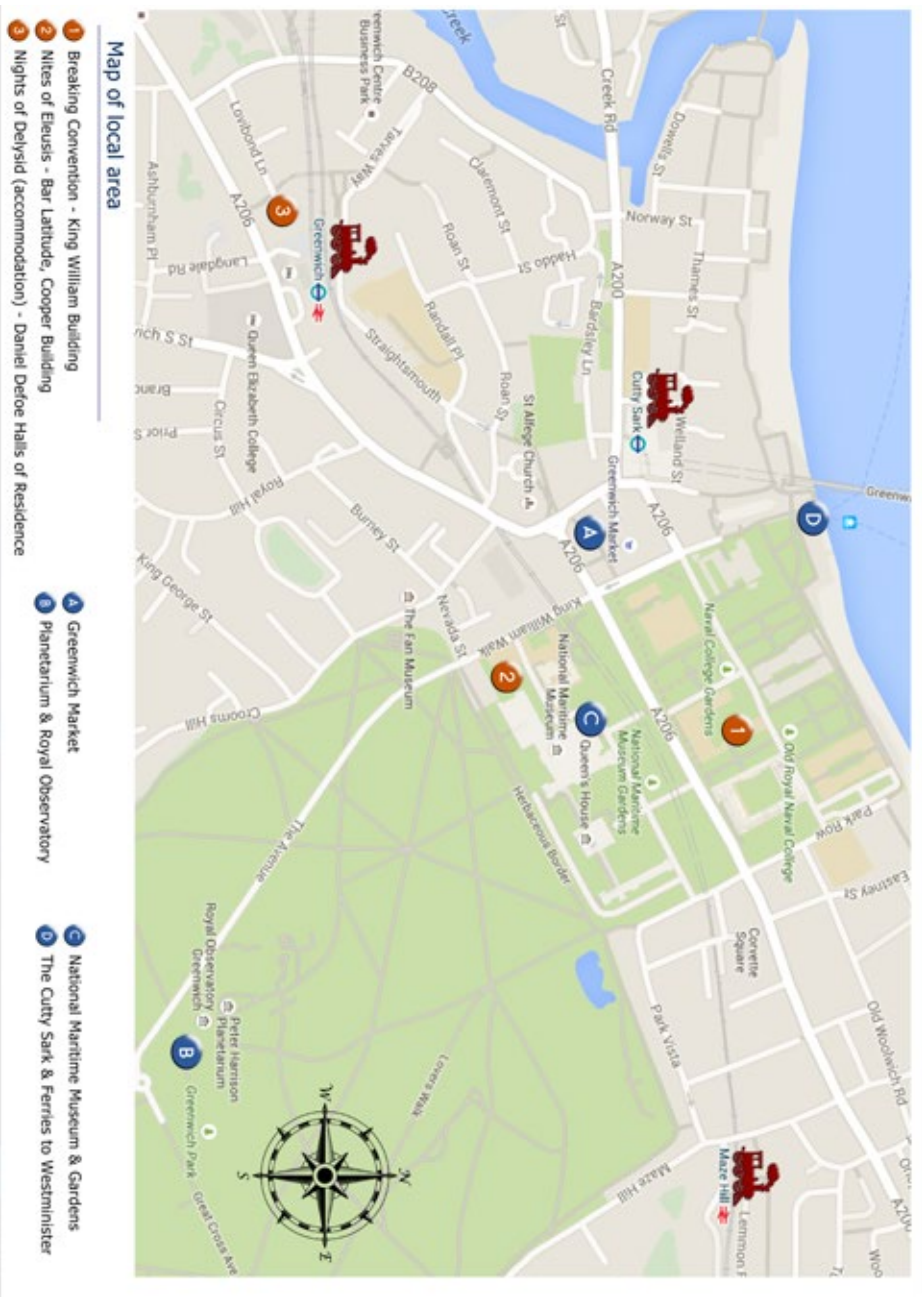
Cameron Adams, Dave King, David Luke, Ben Sessa, Aimee Tollan & Nikki Wyrdd



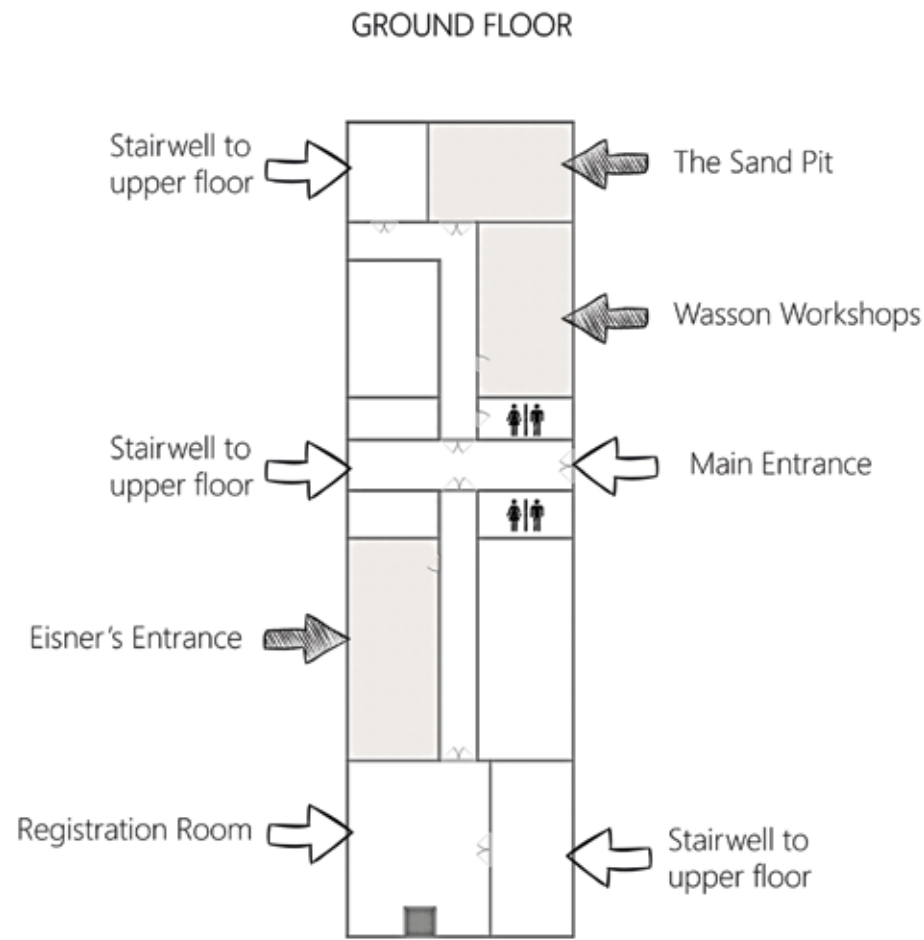
UNIVERSITY MAP



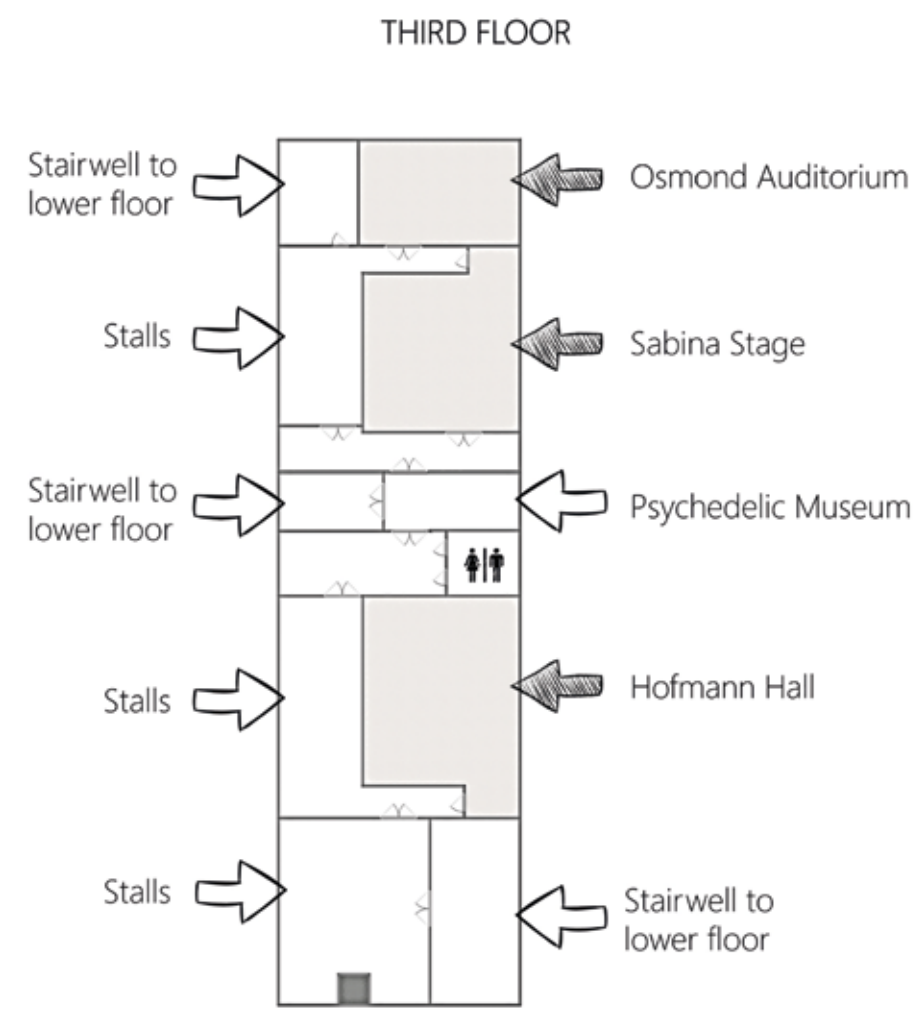
AREA MAP



VENUE MAP GROUND FLOOR



VENUE MAP THIRD FLOOR





## GENERAL INFO

### Transport

There is transport information available on the website: (<http://www.breakingconvention.co.uk/location/>). Further information is available from ([www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)).

### On-Site Accommodation

Those of you who have purchased accommodation will be staying in the brand new Daniel Defoe Hall, location a short walk from the conference site (1/2 mile). The address is 10 Lovibond Lane, London SE10 9FY (located near the corner of Waller Way and Greenwich High Road next to the Greenwich DLR station – if searching for the location online, you may wish to use SE10 8JA which is next to the hall as the actual postcode is new and may not register in searches).

The 177 bus towards Peckham Bus Station departs every 12 minutes from Romney Road (National Maritime Museum, Stop G). The third stop (Greenwich Station, Stop P) will drop you off about 100m from Daniel Defoe Hall.

### Catering

Regrettably, there are no refreshments available in the conference centre during the weekend, but you are welcome to bring your own and there are numerous cafes around outside the University within easy walking distance. Many good places to eat locally are listed here: ([www.visitgreenwich.org.uk/eating-and-drinking-in-greenwich](http://www.visitgreenwich.org.uk/eating-and-drinking-in-greenwich)).

If you are a tea or coffee addict, like several of us on the committee, you might consider bringing a flask of the black stuff to keep your blood-caffeine levels high, or be prepared for a short stroll to get your fix.

For vegans and vegetarians, try: Greenlands Wholefoods Unit, 3A, Greenwich Market, SE10 9HZ, or Royal Teas Cafe, 76 Royal Hill, Greenwich, SE10, 8RT.

### Workshops

If you are doing one of the workshops, please consider bringing a blanket or yoga mat as the carpeted floor is not so comfortable.

### Etiquette

Please enter lecture halls on time or silently from the back if you are coming in late. Police yourselves and remember that there are lots of journalists at the event, so you are representing the psychedelic research community.

### Things to do

Take a ferry down the Thames for lunch (bring your sandwiches) on Saturday lunchtime. Ferries leave regularly and you can get to Westminster and back in two hours for about £15.

Head for the centre of time at the Observatory & Planetarium up the hill, visit the Queen's House, the Cutty Sark ship, or the Maritime Museum ([www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk)).

## THE TEAM

**Directors:** Cameron Adams, Dave King, David Luke, Ben Sessa, Aimee Tollan, Nikki Wyrd

**Press:** Stephen Reid

**Sponsorship:** Alexander Beiner, Ashleigh Murphy

**Merchandise:** Andy Roberts

**Film Festival:** Nikki Wyrd

**Film Production:** Cara Lavan

**Art:** Stuart Griggs

**Entertainments:** Adam Malone

**Volunteers:** Julian Vayne, Nikki Wyrd

**Psychedelic Museum:** Julian Vayne

**Publishing & Social Media:** Rob Dickins

**Hospitality:** Hattie Wells

**IT:** Mark Lewis

**Therapy and Research on Integrating Psychedelic Practices (TRIPP) network:** Maria Papaspyrou

**Qualitative Research:** Trevor Wren



## SAFER SPACES POLICY

### Introduction

This document aims to: (1) ensure that Breaking Convention's (BC) spaces are inclusive and able to address the needs of various people; and (2) to highlight various privileges and oppressions for attendees to consider during the weekend. As a community, we aim to work to improve social inclusion, and equality locally, as well as on a larger scale.

Breaking Convention **does not** accept discrimination on any grounds. This includes transphobia, racism, sexism, ableism, classism, oppression on the grounds of religion, and any other forms of oppression.

We all experience varying and multiple privileges and oppressions, and have been the receivers and exporters of discrimination and/or oppressions at varying degrees. Acknowledging this, we believe, helps us to see often invisible power dynamics, learn from mistakes and conduct ourselves more honourably day-to-day.

Spiritual & psychedelic communities offer potential spaces for healing and can attract vulnerable people. The belief that psychedelics can help people is fundamental to many in the BC community. We must ensure that healing communities are as inclusive as possible – it is ironic and problematic to only 'heal' the most privileged. It is our responsibility during BC and as a community to respect vulnerability and to collectively address any problems that may arise in relation to the below areas:

### Cultural Appropriation

Cultural appropriation often "refers to a particular power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systematically oppressed by that dominant group". (Johnson, 2015).

The BC community encourages us to value and respect indigenous knowledge and culture. Colonialism and neo-colonialism has completely changed the world, with certain systemic inequalities and power relationships manifesting as a result, and it is important to recognise and remember this. Psychedelics are a transnational phenomenon. Diverse psychedelic communities, with differing cultures and worldviews, exist across the globe. However, at psychedelic conferences and in much of the academic literature, the white Anglo-American-European communities are over-represented. Perspectives from other cultures receive less attention, including indigenous communities for whom plant medicines have historic cultural significance. Many of the psychedelic plants that are now ubiquitous around the world were, not so long ago, sacred and secret medicines. The globalisation of psychedelics has had damaging outcomes for many of these indigenous communities, including the cultural and ecological effects of drug tourism.

We at BC make efforts not to culturally appropriate in ways damaging to other cultures. By acknowledging colonial and neo-colonial histories, white privilege, racism, and/or coloniality we can better avoid cultural appropriation, racism and begin to decolonise spaces.

### Mental Health

BC consists of people with differing mental health experiences, and who inhabit different mental landscapes. Mental health difficulties may be accompanied by other disadvantages (e.g. trauma, immigration, socioeconomic disadvantage) and may equate to multiple experiences of oppression.

**Neurodivergent:** "means having a brain that functions in ways that diverge significantly from the dominant societal standards of 'normal'." Walker 2016

There is a privilege attached to people who have never had mental health difficulties and there exists a potential for blindness as how this might affect others. Mindfulness and sensitivity of the above is expected.

## SAFER SPACES POLICY

### Physical Disability

As far as possible, BC is a space for people of all abilities. There is lift access to the upper floor of the conference. Anyone with mobility issues is welcome to sit at the front of the lecture theatres where there is space for wheelchairs. Please ask an usher if you have any issue which affects your mobility and/or perceptual abilities.

If you have concerns, we may be able to provide advice or practical help to a greater degree; do get in touch in advance of the conference if possible.

We have not yet reached a position where we can supply more resources for those with differing ability needs. We are somewhat limited by the practical design and facilities of the venue we use at present. In time, we hope to build upon our willingness to improve accessibility, with better practical assistance. Do let us know if there are any materials or practices you think we can add, or change. Please feel free to leave comments in the suggestion box in our reception area, or talk with any of our receptionists so that they can make a note of your ideas. Thank you.

### Physical Disability

Often, conferences are tailored towards the middle classes. BC makes efforts to include people from all backgrounds, and has varying prices / volunteering opportunities for those who cannot afford the full price tickets. We aim to present the conference as a welcoming, friendly space where formal qualifications are not a requirement of attending.

We use names on the printed badge without titles (Ms, Dr, etc), as this helps remove hierarchical impressions, and emphasises the presence of each and every delegate as a person first and foremost.

Elitist language can make people feel isolated, as this might be used by those who have had a university education for example, an experience attached to a lot of privilege. Explaining and defining certain concepts, theories and words in presentations and in general helps to encourage inclusive information-sharing. If practical, we suggest you challenge people to define potentially unfamiliar terms they might be using; if not for yourself, then for others who may not have encountered them before. Although the BC programme contains a variety of material from different schools of thought, it should be remembered that there will be some scientific lectures with technical language that may be inaccessible for some attendees.

### Consent

Sex positivity is often a part of spiritual spaces and psychedelic communities. However, historically, these spaces have often had problems with sexism, and have sometimes been damaging to vulnerable people. They are not absent from patriarchal and systemic inequality, and this is common in counter-cultural groups (Conway, 2011). All the more reason to stress that sex positivity means making safe spaces for people who do not want to have to engage with sexualised behaviours, conversations and so forth.

At BC (including during the evening entertainments), we consider awareness of the following and their influence on consent: substances (including alcohol), social capital & status, assumptions around relationship styles such as polyamory and different identities such as race, gender, disability etc.

**Bullying / harassing behaviour includes** "unwelcome sexual advances – touching, standing too close, the display of offensive materials, making decisions on the basis of sexual advances being accepted or rejected"

If an incident around consent happens, please inform one of the organisers and the appropriate next steps will be taken.

We hope to have a quiet area where any delegate who is in need of refuge can recover from any incidents which may have caused them distress. Please ask at the Reception desk.

## Psychedelics

Consent is also important with regards to substances. It's important not to assume someone's drug history. Many of our BC delegates do not have any personal experience of drug use

## Trans and Queer Inclusivity

BC is inclusive of all identities and is a queer- and trans-friendly space. We do not accept transphobia and/or homophobia. If you are not sure about someone's pronoun and you can't check with them, it is best to refer to them as 'they' as it is neutral. If someone has made their preferred pronoun known, stick to it. If you accidentally misgender someone, it is best to apologise, correct yourself and move on.

## Crediting

Please give credit to other people's work wherever possible.

## Conclusion

Excluding people on the basis of social disadvantage—overtly or covertly—is discrimination and will not be tolerated at BC.

Be kind to one another.

## References

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**30 JUNE - 2 JULY 2017**  
University of Greenwich, London

## **BREAKING CONVENTION**

**A Multidisciplinary Meeting On Psychedelic Consciousness**

