

ESSD

European Society for Social Drug Research
31st Annual Conference Online
24 – 25 September 2020

CALL FOR PAPERS

The ESSD was founded in 1990 to promote social science approaches to drugs research, with special reference to the situation in Europe (www.essd-research.eu/). The society holds an annual conference providing scope for collaboration and co-operation among researchers working in the drugs field.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we will hold the 31st Annual Conference of the ESSD **online**. The conference will take place from Thursday, 24 September to Friday, 25 September, 2020, and include various 45-minute live video sessions. Each online presentation will last for 10-15 minutes, followed by ample time for the presenters and the audience to jointly discuss the presentations of each session. In addition, informal networking opportunities online will complement the programme. All relevant information, including technical details of how you can participate, will be made accessible on the conference website (<https://essd2020.univie.ac.at>). The conference language is English.

Abstracts (see themes and details below) should be sent as a Word file to essd2020.powi@univie.ac.at
Deadline for submissions: Friday, July 10, 2020

Participants are welcome to present papers or to attend only.

Presentations should preferably include a **European dimension** (such as reporting on research or issues from more than one European country, comparisons between data from European studies), and/or theoretical analysis that draws inferences from the local to the global. Presentations restricted to the description of interventions or (local) policies will not be accepted. **Qualitative** studies are particularly welcome.

The accepted abstracts need to conform to one or more of the following **themes**:

1. DRUG RELATED IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19

Drug market dynamics in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic • Implications for different groups of users • Drug research methodologies in the COVID-19 era • Changes in patterns of drug use due to the COVID-19 pandemic • Drug services challenges due to COVID-19

2. NEW TRENDS IN DRUG USE

Preferably qualitative research on new trends in use and users (incl. transnational dimension, not only prevalence rates) • Social norms and context surrounding legal drugs and how these might be relevant to illegal drugs • The illegal use of legal drugs • Poly-drug use • NPS use • Performance-enhancing drugs • Patterns of use and using careers among diverse population groups

3. DIGITISATION OF DRUG MARKETS

Organisation, maintenance and structure of drug markets: demand and supply • Online drug distribution and cultures on illicit drug markets • Impacts of supply control and law enforcement measures • Governance by and of online drug markets • Coordination practices in digital drug markets • Development and comparison of drug prices online/offline • Role of digital technologies in influencing drug trends and drug policies • Traditional drug markets in the digitalised era

4. DRUG POLICY: THEORIES, CONCEPTS AND RESEARCH

Innovative theories or concepts for drug policy • Evaluation of drug policy approaches • Comparative drug policy analysis • Legislative/policy changes affecting availability and/or use • Critical reflections on drug demand and supply, interventions, and stigmatisation of users • Innovative or controversial interventions in drug policy

5. METHODS AND ETHICS

Innovative and mixed methods • Reflexivity in drug research • Sampling, representativeness and bias • Non-representational methods in drug research • Online vs. offline methods • Researching vulnerable populations • Ethical challenges in drug research

ABSTRACT LAYOUT

1. Title of the paper
2. Author(s): name(s), qualification(s), affiliation(s)
3. Theme (from the list on the previous page)
4. Contact details: full postal address, telephone, email address(es)
5. Abstract (max. 400 words), including objectives, methodology, significant results and conclusions
6. Word format

ABSTRACT REVIEW

Abstracts will be reviewed by the ESSD Board and the 2020 conference organisers using the following criteria:

- Overall quality
- Relevance to the conference themes
- European dimension
- Theoretical reflections
- Added value with respect to earlier contributions at ESSD conferences

In general, not more than two presentations from members of the same institute or affiliation will be accepted.

The outcome of the reviews will be announced via e-mail by 31 July 2020.

NO CONFERENCE FEE

In contrast to previous years, participation in the 31st Annual Conference of the ESSD 2020 Online will be free of charge.

ONLINE CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

The 31st Annual Conference of the ESSD 2020 Online is organised by Dr. Meropi Tzanetakis (Department of Political Science, University of Vienna, meropi.tzanetakis@univie.ac.at) and Dr. Alfred Uhl (Psychotherapy Science, Sigmund Freud Private University, and Austrian Public Health Institute, alfred.uhl@sfu.ac.at).

Going virtual will definitely mean all of us will have to learn and there will be a bit of extra work for the session moderators. However, we very much hope you all will stay with us on board this year's experiment to recreate our conference and community online. To keep the ethos of the ESSD, we would also like to invite everyone to participate in as many sessions as they possibly can. We believe the new format, however forced upon us, will allow those with restricted access to funding to attend as well as be a more eco- and climate-friendly way of scholarly exchange. The next face-to-face Annual Conference of the ESSD is planned to take place in Vienna in 2021 and we hope to see you there too.