



THE BECKLEY FOUNDATION

THE BECKLEY FOUNDATION/IDPC SEMINAR

THE UNITED NATIONS DRUG POLICY REVIEW
ASSESSING INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

HOUSE OF LORDS, PALACE OF WESTMINSTER, LONDON
FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER, 2008

ABSTRACTS & BIOGRAPHIES

HOSTS

AMANDA, LADY NEIDPATH
Director, The Beckley Foundation

BIOGRAPHY

Amanda Neidpath founder and director of the Beckley Foundation, has long advocated an evidence-based approach to drug policy that seeks to minimise the harms associated with drug use. She has hosted 7 seminars on International Drug Policy issues, entitled '*Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective*'. These meetings bring together leading academics, experts and policymakers from around the world and have helped broaden the debate, which, among other outcomes, led to the call in 2007 in the UK for a drug classification system based on a scientifically-evaluated scale of harms. In 2006, it was her awareness of the lack of attention paid to cannabis in international drug policy discussions, despite cannabis being the most widely used illegal substance and the mainstay of the war on drugs, that led her to convene the Global Cannabis Commission Report. The Foundation has produced over 30 much-cited academic reports, proceedings documents and briefing papers on key drug policy questions.

THE LORD MANCROFT

BIOGRAPHY

Lord Mancroft is a British peer, businessman, and politician. He is one of the 92 hereditary peers elected to remain in the House of Lords after the House of Lords Act 1999. He has been chair of the Addiction Recovery Foundation since 1989 and chair of the Drug and Alcohol Foundation since 1994.

MIKE TRACE
Chairman, International Drug Policy Consortium

BIOGRAPHY

Mike Trace has extensive experience in both drug policy and treatment. In his role as Deputy Anti-Drugs Coordinator, he authored the UK National Drugs Strategy and oversaw its early implementation. He has worked in senior international policy posts at organizations including the European Centre for Monitoring Drugs and Drug Addiction and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Mike is currently CEO at RAPT, which provides drug treatment services in UK prisons. In addition, he is coordinator of the International Drug Policy Consortium, a group of NGOs working toward the dissemination of effective and humane drug policy and the evidence base that underpins it.

SESSION CHAIR
THE RT. HON. CHRIS MULLIN, MP

BIOGRAPHY

Chris Mullin is currently labour MP for Sunderland South, though he recently announced that he would stand down at the next election. He has been the sitting MP in Sunderland since 1987. Prior to his parliamentary career, he was a journalist and author. On the left of the labour party, he is a trenchant critic of the inequalities which mark our society.

Chris has worked at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development. In 2002, he chaired the Home Affairs Select Committee on "The Government's Drug Policy: Is It Working?", which called on the government to undertake a root-and-branch rethinking of its existing drug policies.

TENSIONS BETWEEN SCIENCE AND POLITICS IN DRUG POLICY

PROF. DAVID NUTT
University of Bristol

BIOGRAPHY

David Nutt (DM, FRCP, FRCPsych, FMedSci) has recently been appointed Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), as well as Professor of Psychopharmacology and Head of the Department of Community Based Medicine at the University of Bristol.

He received his undergraduate training in medicine at Cambridge and Guy's Hospital, and continued training in neurology to MRCP. After completing his psychiatric training in Oxford, he continued there as a lecturer and then later as a Wellcome Senior Fellow in psychiatry. He then spent two years as Chief of the Section of Clinical Science in the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism in NIH, Bethesda, USA. On returning to England in 1988 he set up the

Psychopharmacology Unit in Bristol, an interdisciplinary research grouping spanning the departments of Psychiatry and Pharmacology. Their main research interests are in the brain mechanisms underlying anxiety, depression and addiction and the mode of action of therapeutic drugs.

Prof. Nutt is President-Elect of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), and a Director of the 'European Certificate in Anxiety and Mood Disorders' and the 'Masters in Affective Disorders' Courses jointly administered by the Universities of Maastricht, Bristol and Florence. In addition, he is the Editor of the Journal of Psychopharmacology, advisor to the British National Formulary and a Past-President of the British Association of Psychopharmacology (BAP).

ABSTRACT

Drugs have always posed a challenge to legislators and over the centuries different cultures have allowed some and outlawed others with little apparent rationale other than a subjective sense of dangers and harms. In recent years I and other experts have attempted to produce a more transparent and systematic approach to this question by deconvoluting drug related harms into their subcomponents and then using a Delphic process with a group of experts to achieve the best possible estimates of absolute harm which can then be used to produce a harm ranking. Intrinsic to this process was the inclusion of drugs that are currently legal in the UK - alcohol, tobacco, khat and nitrites to provide some calibration of the illicit drugs. These findings were published in the Lancet and provoked a good deal of public and media interest especially as alcohol was found to be higher up the list than several class A drugs. Cannabis fell in the lower third of the scale which supported the decision of the government to reclassify it from classes A and B to C in 2004. Since then there has been a continued political and media challenge to this decision that has resulted in a further review in 2008 and the UK government choosing to ignore the experts advice on class, voting to return it to class B. the reasons for this are opaque and complex but are likely typical of future attempts to alter [downwards] drug classes.

SUMMARY OF THE BECKLEY FOUNDATION'S GLOBAL CANNABIS COMMISSION: CANNABIS AS A CASE STUDY FOR WIDER REFORM?

PROF. ROBIN ROOM

University of Melbourne and Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre

BIOGRAPHY

Robin Room is a sociologist who is a Professor at the School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, and the director of the AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre, Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia. He is also a professor at and was the founding director of the Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs at Stockholm University. He had previously directed research at the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario (1991-1998) and the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley, California (1977-1991). Room has studied effects of alcohol, drug and gambling policies. He is a coauthor of a number of books on alcohol policy,

including *Young Men and Drugs* (NIDA, 1975), *Alcohol in Developing Societies* (Finnish Foundation for Alcohol Studies, 2002), and *Alcohol – No Ordinary Commodity* (Oxford UP, 2003). His research interests include historical, cultural and social epidemiological studies of alcohol and other drugs, including comparative research across psychoactive substances.

HOW SHOULD THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL SYSTEM BE EVALUATED?

DR. DAVID BEWLEY-TAYLOR

Senior Lecturer, Department of American Studies, University of Wales

BIOGRAPHY

With an undergraduate degree in American Studies and Geography, David received his doctorate on “The United States and International Drug Control” in 1996. He was appointed as a lecturer in the Department in 2000 and has been a visiting lecturer at a number of Universities in the US, including the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. In the Spring of 2006 he was a Visiting Scholar at the Australian Health Policy Institute at the University of Sydney.

Dr. Bewley-Taylor is currently on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Drug Policy. He was awarded a twelve-month Leverhulme Research Fellowship in October 2005 and a twelve-month J. Paul Getty Jr. Charitable Trust Research Grant in September 2007. In 2004 David was the recipient of a Swansea University Distinguished Teaching Award. David is currently completing a monograph provisionally entitled *Towards a New International Drug Policy: A Paradigm Shift for the Twenty-First Century?*

ABSTRACT

Beginning with an overview of the core objectives of the international drug control system, this presentation approaches the issue of evaluation from a number of perspectives. Within the context of International Relations theory, the twin concepts of regime robustness and regime effectiveness are proposed as methods by which to evaluate the condition of the current system. Discussion of the latter introduces concrete policy dilemmas concerning the scale of the contemporary global illicit drugs market and raises important questions regarding not only the accuracy of data but also the appropriateness of current evaluative metrics. The presentation concludes that future evaluation of the international system would benefit from a more rigorous objective setting and review process and a significant re-adjustment of focus towards the consequences of current policy.

SESSION CHAIR

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Co-ordinator of the Situation Analysis Department at the
European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

BIOGRAPHY

Paul Griffiths is the co-ordinator of the Situation Analysis Department at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). In this role, he is responsible for monitoring patterns, trends and the magnitude of the European drug situation and is involved in drafting the Annual Report on the European Drug situation and various policy and technical papers. Paul has worked for over 20 years in research on drug problems, including as the Senior Epidemiologist for the Demand Reduction Section, United Nations Organisation on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); Programme manager for the Global Assessment Programme (GAP), which aims to establish drug epidemiological networks and to assist member states develop the capacity to monitor and analyse the drug situation; Senior Researcher at the UK's National Addiction Centre; Project Manager at the Institute of Psychiatry, London; and Research Officer at the Maudsley Hospital, London. Paul has published extensively, including scientific papers, technical reports and policy briefing papers. He has acted as a consultant for European governmental offices, European bodies and International agencies.

THE VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE 'BEYOND 2008' INITIATIVE

DAVID TURNER

Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs / CeIS Roma

ABSTRACT

The Beyond 2008 project was designed to provide NGO input to the review of achievement since the 1998 UNGASS. It sought the views and experience of a representative sample of NGOs from around the world and culminated in a Forum where a Declaration and three Resolutions were debated, amended and adopted by consensus. The aim was to concentrate on areas of agreement rather than division. The presentation will give a brief description of Beyond 2008 and key elements of the consensus. It will also discuss the results to date, areas of continuing difficulty and the next steps in progressing the documents.

THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY CONSORTIUM PROGRAMME

MARTIN JELSMA

Drug and Democracy Programme Coordinator,
Trans-National Institute, The Netherlands

BIOGRAPHY

Martin Jelsma is a political scientist specialised in Latin America and international drugs policy and a fellow of the Trans-National Institute (TNI). Joining TNI in 1990, Martin worked initially on a Central American peasant movements project and on

the "New Thinking" project looking at transitions of former liberation movements to progressive political parties. In 1995 he initiated, and has since co-ordinated, TNI's Drugs & Democracy Programme. The programme has two main areas of work: (1) drugs and conflict studies with a focus on the Andean/Amazon region, Burma/Myanmar and Afghanistan, and (2) drug policy dialogue initiatives, with analysis of international drug policy making processes (with a special focus on the UN drug control system), facilitation of informal policy dialogues and the production of policy-oriented materials on the key dilemmas emerging. Martin is a regular speaker at international policy conferences and advises various NGOs and government officials on developments in the drugs field. He is co-editor of the TNI Drugs & Conflict debate papers and the Drug Policy Briefing series. His research interests include illicit drugs trafficking and the 'war on drugs' in Latin America as well as alternative harm reduction policies.

DAVID WOLFE

Director, International Harm Reduction Development Programme
Open Society Institute, New York

BIOGRAPHY

Daniel Wolfe is Deputy Director of the International Harm Reduction Development program at the Open Society Institute and an advocate whose work has included community organizing and public media campaigns to repeal discriminatory legislation, boost AIDS funding, and raise the public profile of people with HIV. From 2002-2005, Wolfe was community scholar at the Center for History and Ethics of Public Health at Columbia University's Joseph P. Mailman School of Public Health; from 2001-2002, he was a Revson Fellow at Columbia University in recognition of his "substantial contribution to the city of New York."

Formerly the director of communications at GMHC, the largest and oldest AIDS nongovernmental organization in the U.S., Wolfe has written widely on the intersection between drug policy and HIV prevention. He co-authored a working paper commissioned by the HIV/AIDS Task Force of the Millennium Project of the United Nations to examine the effects of UN and national illicit drug policies on the spread of HIV in countries with injection-driven epidemics, and a survey by the Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network on the state of HIV and primary care for injection drug users in the former Soviet Union. He is the author of several books, book chapters, and articles in publications including the *New York Times Book Review*, *The Guardian*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The Nation*, and the *International Journal of Drug Policy*.

THE LATIN AMERICAN 'BLUE RIBBON' COMMISSION

RUBEM CESAR FERNANDEZ

Viva Rio and Secretariat of Latin American Commission
on Drugs and Democracy

AFTERNOON CHAIR

MIKE TRACE

THE UN REVIEW - HOW IS THE EUROPEAN UNION PREPARING?

CAREL EDWARDS

Head of the European Commission's Drug Policy Coordination Unit

BIOGRAPHY

Carel Edwards is the head of the European Commission's Drug Policy Coordination Unit. This unit is involved in the different aspects of the fight against drugs, notably prevention, education, research, training, precursors control, money laundering, police, customs and judicial co-operation and international co-operation. It is responsible for coordinating the implementation by the Commission's services of the EU Action Plan on Drugs and is responsible for the drafting and follow-up of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2005-2008, which is part of the Multiannual Programme on Justice Freedom and Security. It also contributes to the coherence of the Commission's positions in the different EU and international fora where drugs issues are addressed. For all these purposes, the unit runs a Commission's interservice group on drugs.

The unit also coordinates the relations of the Commission services with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) based in Lisbon. The unit is the Commission's focal point of the REITOX system which is the overall drugs information system of the EMCDDA.

ABSTRACT

The EU has been involved in the preparation of the UNGASS review from an early stage and has worked towards a more thorough debate on the outcomes of the Political Declaration and its Action Plans. In 2006 the EU called upon the UNODC to engage with national, regional, and international experts in the field of drug control, on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise. In 2007 the EU called upon the UNODC to prepare its UNGASS assessment report, to start a debate on progress made with the UNGASS Political Declaration in 2008 and to finalise the review process in 2009. Early in 2009 the Commission is expected to publish its study on a 'detailed analysis of the operations of the world illicit drugs market and the policies to curtail it'. The outcomes of the study will provide additional insights in how the global drugs problem has developed over the past decade and aims to provide greater insight in how to address the drug problem more effectively.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT WITH THE UN REVIEW

MIKE TRACE

Chairman, International Drug Policy Consortium

CLOSING COMMENTS

PROF. ROBIN ROOM,

PROF. AMBROS UCHTENHAGEN,

MARTIN JELSMA