



WELCOME! ...TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER OF THE HERA-PROJECT: GOVERNING THE NARCOTIC CITY.

With this newsletter, we will inform you approximately twice a year about new developments and future events of the joint research project “Governing the Narcotic City: Imaginaries, Practices, and Discourses of Public Drug Cultures in European Cities from 1970 until Today” In each newsletter we will introduce one of the project’s Associated

Partners as well as deliver snippets and insights into the research process.

More info about the joint research project “*Governing the Narcotic City*” can be found on our website: <https://www.narcotic.city>. You can also Follow our project on Twitter @Narcotic_City

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KICK-OFF-WORKSHOP JULY 2019, BERLIN-KREUZBERG

In July 2019, we officially started our project with a first meeting in Berlin-Kreuzberg. The three-day kick-off workshop made for a successful and productive congregation of all the project members as well as our Associated Partners from Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Bordeaux and Berlin. We discussed the basic objectives and workflows necessary to get our project started as a collective research and communication process.

Long hours went by discussing, planning, and sharing the HERA Administration tasks, workflow management of this fairly complex project as well as plans for research designs, methodologies, publications, and dissemination. Of extreme importance to our project was the discussion related to privacy issues and compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulation. What was intellectually more challenging and also good fun was the main part of the workshop: the conceptualization and planning of the Narcotic City Archive, what will be the first open-access collection of materials related to public drug cultures in Europe.

The end of the workshop was celebrated with three field trips around the Kottbusser Tor und the Görlitzer Bahnhof (both located in Kreuzberg) and a public lecture, held by Gemma Blok of the Amsterdam Research Group. In her talk, *“Fight Along with the Junkie Union. Heroin Users’ Activism in Rotterdam 1980-2000”*, Gemma Blok examined archival material from the Rotterdam Junkie

Union to analyze the rise and fall of Perron Nul (Platform Zero) as an arena for contestation of the »Junkies« marginalized citizenship. In 1980, a group of heroin users in Rotterdam founded the “Junkie Union,” a protest organization against police raids and the over-emphasis on abstinence-oriented therapies in addiction treatment. Along with Protestant Paulus Church, the union opened an experimental site, the Perron Nul, which offered a space where users could access methadone maintenance, clean needles, and basic care (toilets, showers, coffee, etc.). This controversial facility ran for nearly a decade before being shut down (1987-1994).

Ella Bordai presenting
the work of Université
Populaire de Bordeaux at
the kick-off workshop.





Some workshop participants in front of a mural at Aquarium, Berlin-Kreuzberg.

DR. JENNY KÜNDEL JOINS GONACI

Also, we are happy to announce that we have a new project member on board: Dr. Jenny Künkel joined the French team shortly after the workshop. Dr. Künkel is a critical geographer and activist whose research has focused on marginalized neighborhoods, sex work,

policing of public spaces, precarious labor migration, social movements and neoliberal urban governance. She joins the French team where she will conduct postdoctoral work on the (self-)governance of feminist party spaces and drug consumption.

NEW LECTURE SERIES: “INTOXICATION, GOVERNANCE AND THE CITY: DRUG POLICIES IN BERLIN AND ELSEWHERE”

In cooperation with our Associated Partner, the “Bildungswerk der Heinrich Böll-Stiftung” and the European Dialogue on “Shared Spaces” in Berlin, Governing the Narcotic City is organizing a lecture series, Intoxication, Governance and the City: Drug Policies in Berlin and Elsewhere, which will be held in German and run from November 2019 to April 2020.

Over the next few months, we will start a conversation with key actors and experts on Berlin’s drug politics, including public health, and social work. We will hear from voices from those reporting on pharmacological and drug-related everyday experiences based e.g. on club and party cultures. In doing so, we will examine different topics: We ask about the political and moral economics of consumption and intoxication, examine the practices of supplying or punishing consumers, and analyze the discourses of prohibition and hedonism in the context of local drug policies.

FRAGMENTS OF A DRUG HISTORY OF BERLIN

The first event – “*Fragments of a Drug History of Berlin*” – took place in Berlin-Kreuzberg on November 12th. The historians Sina Fabian, Thomas Bürk (who due to illness replaced Jan-Henrik Friedrichs), and Ned Richardson-Little as well as the cultural anthropologist Lora Nikolova all held presentations on the topic in Kreuzberg’s Aquarium der Gaststätte Südblock. The presentations covering a wide range of narcot-

ic places and spatial practices in 20th century Berlin: liquor salons in Weimar Germany, East German drug policies during the cold war, 1980s heroin cultures, and post-reunification rave-cultures.

STADT – RAUSCH – REGIERUNG

Fragmente einer Drogengeschichte Berlins



Berlin, Rauschgiftspürhund im Einsatz
(Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-1989-1128-013 /
Uhlemann, Thomas / CC-BY-SA 3.0)

Von den Likörstuben der Weimarer Republik über die experimentellen Drogenkulturen im Kalten Krieg bis zum Rave- und Feierboom der Nachwendzeit: Der Konsum von psychoaktiven Substanzen ist integraler Bestandteil der Alltagsgeschichte Berlins.

In einer Art historischen Revue wollen wir fünf Momente in der turbulenten Geschichte Berliner Drogenkulturen des 20. und 21. Jahrhunderts schlaglichtartig vorstellen. Dies soll ein Gespräch über Kontinuitäten und Zäsuren städtischer Rauschregime sowie ihren Stigmatisierungen und Romantisierungen eröffnen.

Mit:

Sina Fabian (Historikerin, HU Berlin)
Jan-Henrik Friedrichs (Historiker, Uni Hildesheim)
Lora Nikolova (Kulturanthropologin, Berlin)
Ned Richardson-Little (Historiker, Universität Erfurt)
und anderen.

Moderation: Stefan Höhne (Kulturwissenschaftler, KWI Essen)

The historian **Sina Fabian** analysed the stigmatization and moral panic discourse surrounding the historically and spatially unique phenomenon of liqueur salons, found in mostly bourgeois areas of the former post-war Berlin. Shortly after the end of World War I, these locations emerged as hiding places from the harsh postwar reality. Popular discourse framed these locales as centers of decadent consumption—as meeting places for hedonistic, morally questionable lifestyles and “loose women.” As owners “spoiled” rare goods such as potatoes and sugar by transforming them to alcohol, visitors of the Likoerstuben were targeted as non-patriotic and irresponsible alcoholics.

In sharp contrast to the debate about Likoerstuben, the heroin discourses in the late 1970s and early 1980 in West-Berlin centered on the addicted, fallen youth, mostly from the West German provinces and peripheries who came to Berlin and became “victims” of a “drug infested metropolis in social decline.” **Thomas Bürk** discussed how heroin also became an issue for social movements torn between a subcultural tolerance of illegalized drug use and the experiences of suffering and dying of friends who became “junkies”. The sharp forms of exclusion of drug addicts and political denunciations of counter insurgency methods (“Heroin to the ghettos”) in squatted houses and community organizations are only parts of the long-lasting effects of the drug scene. Only since the HIV/Aids crisis did heroin users become recipients for social work and prevention programs who handed out clean syringes and offered minimal medical and legal support.

A totally different narrative from the 1970s and 1980s was presented by **Ned Richardson-Little** who focused on the situation in East-Berlin, Capital of GDR as a transitory station of the interna-

tional drug trafficking that moved from Afghanistan and Iran through parts of the former Soviet Union to Berlin, with their ultimate destination being West-Berlin. The GDR border police was in ill-prepared unwilling to handle the transfer of heroin and hashish to the West. Even more, the state officially maintained that drugs were not problem for the population of the GDR: only the victims of the capitalist-bourgeois Western societies were affiliated with drug consumption.

The anthropologist and committed raver **Lora Nicolova** presented images from the early years of the new millennium on within Berlin’s still thriving subcultural techno culture. She discussed different spaces of rave cultures, modes of consumption, and forms of communication and group bonding that took place in these scenes. “Following the substance” as a ethnographic fieldwork method was also discussed, as the author highlighted means of governing the hedonistic lifestyle through body politics of care and awareness that took place through an ongoing juxtaposition of caution, (self)-control, and romanticism.

More than 100 people attended the event. We were happy to see an extremely diverse crowd including students, old party veterans, social workers, local intellectuals, activists, and neighboring residents. After the presentations, everyone took part in a lively roundtable discussion that collectively addressed themes across historical periods.

For more information on the lecture series, please visit the website of the Heinrich-Böll Foundation’s Bildungswerk: <https://www.bildungswerk-boell.de/de/stadt-rausch-regierung> (in German)

An overview of the upcoming lectures can also be found below in the section Upcoming Events.

ASSOCIATED PARTNER: BILDUNGSWERK BERLIN OF THE HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION

Our research project works closely together with a number of associated partners from the non-profit sector. In each newsletter we will briefly introduce one of them.

The **Bildungswerk Berlin of the Heinrich Böll Foundation** has been the state foundation of the Green Party in Berlin since 1983. It is an independent educational organization that organizes around 200 events or projects on different topics related to political education per year. It discusses questions of democracy and human rights, self-determination and justice, ecology and economics and debates about everyday racism and its structural and institutional foundation in German society. This includes questioning one's own privileges and analyzing and changing social power structures with an intersectional

view. The Bildungswerk Berlin of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, as a recognized party foundation, receives public funds for its work, especially from the Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin. The project partnership is embedded in the project "Shared Spaces - European dialogues on public spaces" of the Heinrich Böll Foundation Network, which deals with strategies for public spaces in various formats.

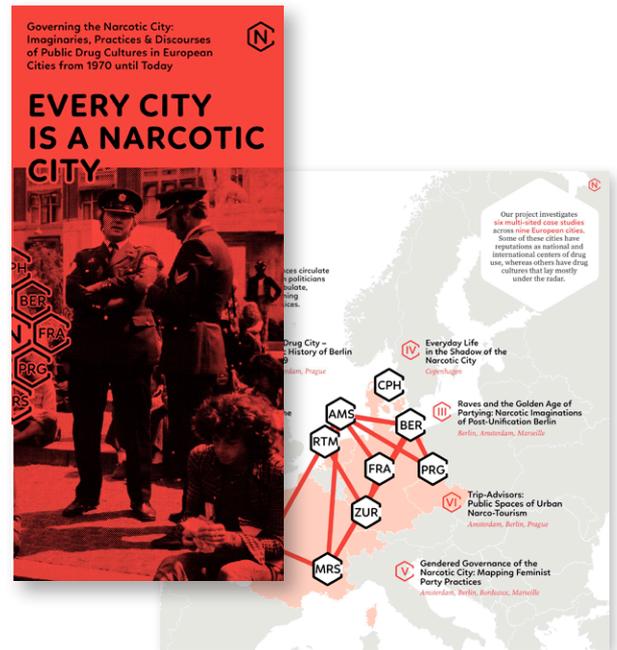
For more information, please see: <https://www.bildungswerk-boell.de/de>

BROCHURE

We just published a small brochure that gives a nice overview of the project. Unfolded, it can also be used as a poster!

The brochure can be downloaded here: <https://narcotic.city/docs/GONACI2019.pdf>

We can also send it to you via mail.



THE NARCOTIC CITY ARCHIVE

One of the outcomes of “Governing the Narcotic City”, the Narcotic City Archive, will become an extensive collaborative open-access archive to document, provide, and coproduce knowledge on European drug cultures for diverse audiences and purposes.

A collaborative and participatory database provides a resource for fostering dialogue, visibility, and engagement through collaborative knowledge production between researchers, partners, stakeholders, and a wider public. The archive will contain a vast array of material that will be collected and produced in close cooperation with a variety of local partners. At our kick-off meeting we invited our project members and partners to bring first artifacts and ideas. Those ranged from historical policy papers by city governments, leaflets by radical drug-activists in Christiania, awareness patches by queer activists in Bordeaux,

drug paraphernalia such as the first vending machine for consumption kits in Berlin, artists’ renderings of the first methadone bus in Rotterdam, and many more.

Our aim is to provide a first glance at the archive in March 2020 when we meet in Amsterdam. Once the archive is launched, we will invite all of our partners as well as all others to participate and contribute material, narratives, and insights into the archive. We are also planning to organize a number of public archive events where we will introduce our work and the archive collections.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 14th, 2020: Münster, Germany:

Colloquium of the Geography Institute of Münster University: Lecture by Jenny Künkel „The Gendered Narcotic City: (Self-)Governing Feminist Party Spaces“(check for updates: www.uni-muenster.de/Geographie)

January 2020 (exact date TBA), Berlin, Germany:

The Berlin Intoxication, Governance, and the City: Lecture #2 will focus on issues of Social Work and their socio-spatial relationships to places of drug circulation and consumption (e.g. along the U8 metro line in Berlin)

March 2020 (exact date TBA), Berlin, Germany:

The Berlin Intoxication, Governance, and the City: Lecture #3 in will discuss different logics, procedures and practices of drug screening and testing of human breath, urine or samples of hair from the BAC alcohol controls, athletic anti-doping testing to drug content analyses of initiatives like drug scouts or eclipse.

April 6th - 10th 2020: Denver, USA: Annual Meeting of the AAG:

“Governing Urban Drug Cultures”.

Session organized by Stefan Höhne and Boris Michel

Sept. 2nd -5th 2020, Antwerp, Belgium:

European Association of Urban History Conference: “Narcotic Cities: Discourses, Strategies and Imaginaries around Urban Drug Use after 1945”. Session organized by Stefan Höhne, Gemma Blok, Boris Michel

All lectures and forthcoming events will be announced via the newsletter mailing list.

COPENHAGEN: OPEN CALL CHRISTIANIA RESEARCHER IN RESIDENCE (CRIR) 2019/20

The 'free city' Christiania in Copenhagen will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The area is a vibrant, important, and highly contested piece of urban commons in the very center of Denmark's capital city. 'The right to the city', 'use value' vs. 'exchange value', 'the right to nature', 'the right to be different', 'social justice' and much more are important elements in the struggle over space.

Not long ago, Christiania signed an agreement with the Danish state after more than forty years of struggle and negotiations, and the so-called 'Christiania Foundation' was eventually enabled to buy a part of the area off the Danish state. Christiania has therefore changed status from a squatter community to an area that is partly owned by an independent 'land trust'. This has many implications for the community.

Christiania Researcher in Residence (CRIR) offers residency for artists and academic researchers with a specific interest in Christiania as an important field of study. The duration of stay is typically 1-4 weeks, depending on the project. The objective of the Christiania Researcher in Residence project is to involve artists, researchers, and academics in an open, critical, and

reflective dialog around the free town Christiania, and to feed new creative and critical thinking back to the community and into the public realm. Christiania's experience and insight into local organization, alternative architecture, lifestyle, culture, sustainable environments, quality of life, democracy, and innovation is unique in the world and could generate important knowledge that may inspire alternative urban thinking.

The house is run on a non-profit basis. CRIR receives some funding from the community of Christiania and support from the local community. Researchers must cover expenses for water, electricity, heat, and laundry and pay a basic expense of 500 DKK weekly for the use of the house. Researchers with paid jobs or research/arts funding are expected to pay 1000 DKK per week.

CHRISTIANIA RESEARCHER IN RESIDENCE HOW TO APPLY?

HOW TO APPLY?

To apply you should write a short application.

You need to:

- Describe your project.
- Explain your project's expected audience and method of distribution in Denmark and/or abroad.
- Explain how your project will be communicated internally in Christiania.
- Indicate your preferred period of stay (typically 1-4 weeks).
- Ethical considerations.

(This is important. There are many guidelines for conducting ethical sound research and artistic interactions with community partners. Here is an example: https://www.livingknowledge.org/fileadmin/Dateien-Living-Knowledge/Dokumente_Dateien/Toolbox/LK_A_CBPR_Guide_ethical_principles.pdf)

Send your application to:

idajuu@gmail.com

Applications are dealt with on a continuous basis but the sooner we receive it, the better the chances for finding a free time slot. The steering group will evaluate your application and we will get in touch with you as soon as possible. For further information please visit www.crir.net.

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