

12th Social Research
Conference on HIV,
Hepatitis C and
Related Diseases

2012
12–13 April

silence & articulation

What can and can't be said
about HIV, hepatitis C, drug use
and sexual practices?

What is emphasised and what is
muted?

What is seen as acceptable and
unacceptable?

What do such silences and
articulations achieve and why?

Never
Stand Still

Faculty of Arts and
Social Sciences



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about the conference

How society understands and approaches stigmatised illnesses, sexualities and illicit drug use has evolved significantly over the past two decades towards a greater emphasis on human rights, non-discrimination and informed debate. One important reason for this shift has been the diversification of voices that contribute to the production of knowledge, such as medical scientists, social researchers, political activists, policy-makers, media, clinicians, public health advocates and affected communities. These voices have not only highlighted and challenged prejudices and ignorance, but have also given rise to discourses that define risks, priority populations, and prevention and treatment strategies in relation to blood-borne viruses, drug use and sexual health.

What counts as evidence, knowledge and facts in these discourses is not neutral, but depends on a range of social, political and institutional agendas, priorities, interests and

established practices. Like any knowledge system, certain ideas and meanings are emphasised and authorised, while others are excluded or sidelined because they are deemed objectionable, incorrect, unhelpful or dangerous.

We encourage delegates to address the following questions in relation to HIV, hepatitis C, drug use and sexual practices:

- How are sexual and drug use 'risks' defined by different stakeholders? To what extent do these definitions correspond or compete, and what are the implications for health promotion and prevention when certain definitions of risk are obscured or not talked about at all?
- What kinds of silences exist in research? What is missing from medical, epidemiological and social research? How do competing understandings in research advance (or not) our knowledge about HIV, hepatitis, drug use and sexual practices?

- How do particular forms of articulation, including silence, about sex and drugs affect people's lived experiences? How do these contribute to a sense of identity and belonging, to stigma and discrimination, understandings of risk, and decisions around disclosure or treatment?
- How are experiences of receiving treatment for HIV, hepatitis C or drug use, articulated (or not) by researchers, health care workers, affected communities, and policy makers? What is prioritised and why in different articulations, and what are the implications for these various stakeholders?
- What kind of silences and articulations are at play in health promotion, prevention and policy, and why?

We also invite speakers to address other significant social research issues in HIV, hepatitis C, sexuality and drug use.

keynote speakers

John Della Bosca

Former NSW Special Minister of State, 1999–2006
National Campaign Director,
National Disability Insurance Scheme

Professor Jane Ussher

Director
PsyHealth: Gender, Culture and Health Research Unit
School of Psychology,
University of Western Sydney

Professor Alison Ritter

Director
Drug Policy Modelling Program
Faculty of Medicine
The University of New South Wales

John Godwin

HIV, law and development Consultant
Member, Legal Working Group,
Ministerial Advisory Committee on
Blood-borne Viruses and STIs

abstracts

Abstracts can be submitted for oral presentations only; there will be no poster presentations or workshops.

Please contact the conference organisers if you wish to propose a conference symposium.

content

- Title of the presentation (up to 25 words)
- Names of authors and their affiliations
- Contact email address for the first author
- Up to 250 words describing the presentation, which should include aims, method or approach, description of arguments or results, and discussion, conclusion or recommendations.

submission

All abstracts are to be submitted online through our online submission system. Please see the conference website (<http://nchsconference2012.arts.unsw.edu.au/>) for specific instructions on abstract submission.



Information

Conference Organising Committee
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GROUP OF EIGHT
MEMBER



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Fees

Early-bird \$350

Student \$275

Day pass \$225

Full fee \$425

Dates

7 September Call for abstracts; registrations open
25 November Abstract closing date
15 December Abstract acceptance notification
13 February Early-bird registration closes
23 March Registrations close

Venue

Kensington campus
The University of
New South Wales
Sydney, Australia
12-13 April 2012